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Reports, Accounts & Papers,

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Folio Portions

of

Volumes 17. 18. 19 Part I. 22. 27. 30. 36.

Marriages (Ireland) Registrar's Report.
Reports of Charity Commissioners (E & W),
Tithe Commissioners, Charitable Donations (Irel.d),
Ecclesiastical & Education Commissioners (Ireland),
Children's Employment Commissioners, &c. &c.
Prisons (Scotland). Public Works (Ireland).
Royal Academy; National Portrait Gallery; &
Wall Paintings in the Palace of Westminster.
Army Manufacturing Departments &c. &c. &c.

Session 4 February — 29 July 1864

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1864

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THIRTEENTH REPORT

OF THE

REGISTRAR-GENERAL OF MARRIAGES

IN IRELAND,

UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE ACT 7 & 8 VIC., CHAP. 81.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

DUBLIN:
PRINTED BY ALEXANDER THOM, 87 & 88, ABBEY-STREET,
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1864.

[*Price 2d.*]

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REPORT.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY GEORGE WILLIAM FREDERICK, EARL OF CARLISLE, K.G.,

&c., &c., &c.,

LORD LIEUTENANT-GENERAL AND GENERAL GOVERNOR OF IRELAND.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

As directed by the 7 & 8 Vic., chap. 81, sec. 56, I have the honour to submit, in order to their being laid before Parliament, General Abstracts of the Marriages registered in Ireland during the year 1862.

The arrangement of the Tables in this Report is the same as in former years.

Marriages by the Roman Catholic clergy are specially exempted from the operation of this Act by sec. 3.

The number of Marriages registered in the last year amounted to 8,430, being 481 less than the number registered in the year 1861.

The increase or decrease in the number of Marriages registered in 1861 and 1862 is shown in the following Table, specifying the mode in which the Marriages were performed :—

Mode in which Marriages were performed.	Marriages.			
	1861.	1862.	Increase in 1862.	Decrease in 1862.
According to the rites of the Established Church,	4,779	4,564	—	215
In Registered Presbyterian Meeting-houses,	2,621	2,489	—	132
In Registered Buildings,	95	79	—	16
In Registrars' Offices,	1,403	1,287	—	116
Between Members of the Society of Friends,	11	8	—	3
Jews,	2	3	1	—
Total,	8,911	8,430	Net Decrease. 481	

The succeeding Table gives the total number of Marriages registered in each year, from the 1st of April, 1845 (the date upon which the Act came into operation), to the 31st of December, 1862 :—

Years ended 31st December,	MARRIAGES. According to the Rites of the Established Church.						Not according to the Rites of the Established Church.						TOTAL MARRIAGES.
	Special License.	License.	Banns.	Registrar's Certificate.	Not stated by which of the foregoing Forms.	Total.	In Registered Presbyterian Meeting-houses.	In Registered Buildings.	In the Registrars' Offices.	Society of Friends.	Jews.	Total.	
1845 (9 last months),*	4	2,630	732	40	712	4,118	1,586	39	358	11	2	1,996	6,114
1846,	5	3,910	992	74	779	5,760	2,712	67	797	8	–	3,584	9,344
1847,	6	2,897	925	66	427	4,321	1,777	62	772	10	1	2,622	6,943
1848,	8	3,529	1,257	118	401	5,313	2,313	87	1,320	14	1	3,735	9,048
1849,	2	3,572	1,384	108	258	5,324	2,440	67	1,647	13	2	4,169	9,493
1850,	1	3,710	1,431	108	137	5,387	2,504	85	1,789	16	–	4,394	9,781
1851,	4	3,719	1,341	64	73	5,201	2,517	80	1,527	13	1	4,138	9,339
1852,	4	3,946	1,312	39	64	5,365	2,547	92	1,475	8	–	4,122	9,487
1853,	6	4,173	1,260	47	76	5,562	2,890	100	1,626	19	–	4,635	10,197
1854,	8	4,095	1,015	25	45	5,188	2,701	77	1,447	11	2	4,238	9,426
1855,	6	3,867	1,002	20	27	4,922	2,435	79	1,316	12	1	3,843	8,765
1856,	11	4,224	1,025	23	36	5,319	2,551	83	1,580	12	2	4,228	9,547
1857,	7	4,271	1,019	16	30	5,343	2,847	75	1,660	15	–	4,597	9,940
1858,	12	3,887	1,009	9	24	4,941	2,477	86	1,444	11	1	4,019	8,960
1859,	7	3,974	972	13	13	4,979	2,686	90	1,498	7	1	4,282	9,261
1860,	4	3,942	967	13	30	4,956	2,680	109	1,427	11	2	4,229	9,185
1861,	6	3,749	990	14	20	4,779	2,621	95	1,403	11	2	4,132	8,911
1862,	12	3,551	967	17	17	4,564	2,489	79	1,287	8	3	3,866	8,430

* The 7 & 8 Vic., c. 81, came into operation 1st April, 1845.

The number of persons Married under twenty-one years of age, and of widowers and widows, and also of those who signed the Register Books with marks, is given in the following Table for each year since the Act came into operation. The proportion of those who signed the Registers with a mark to every 100 Marriages, was, men 24·10 per cent., women, 37·58 per cent., being somewhat lower than the per centage for the previous year.

Years ended 31st December,	Total Marriages.	Not of Age.				Re-married.				Signed with Marks.			
		Men.	Rate per Cent.	Women.	Rate per Cent.	Widowers.	Rate per Cent.	Widows.	Rate per Cent.	Men.	Rate per Cent.	Women.	Rate per Cent.
1845 (9 last months),	6,114	345	5·64	1,192	19·50	665	10·88	340	5·56	1,189	19·45	2,223	36·36
1846, . . .	9,344	474	5·07	1,870	20·01	1,038	11·11	571	6·11	1,688	18·07	3,387	36·25
1847, . . .	6,943	246	3·54	1,210	17·43	862	12·42	429	6·18	1,077	15·51	2,260	32·55
1848, . . .	9,048	391	4·32	1,584	17·50	1,274	14·08	703	7·77	1,797	19·86	3,387	37·43
1849, . . .	9,493	415	4·37	1,714	18·06	1,244	13·10	679	7·15	2,096	22·08	3,922	41·31
1850, . . .	9,781	489	5·00	1,776	18·15	1,329	13·58	754	7·71	2,427	24·81	4,384	44·82
1851, . . .	9,339	411	4·40	1,551	16·61	1,183	12·67	695	7·44	2,281	24·42	4,037	43·23
1852, . . .	9,487	429	4·52	1,629	17·17	1,199	12·63	664	6·99	2,493	26·27	4,235	44·64
1853, . . .	10,197	475	4·65	1,708	16·75	1,255	12·30	700	6·86	2,726	26·73	4,609	45·19
1854, . . .	9,426	473	5·02	1,647	17·47	1,148	12·18	601	6·37	2,457	26·06	4,105	43·55
1855, . . .	8,765	405	4·62	1,551	17·69	1,163	13·26	610	6·95	2,260	25·78	3,674	41·91
1856, . . .	9,547	487	5·10	1,736	18·18	1,171	12·26	666	6·97	2,589	27·11	4,199	43·98
1857, . . .	9,940	515	5·18	1,716	17·26	1,182	11·89	623	6·26	2,713	27·29	4,317	43·43
1858, . . .	8,960	408	4·55	1,507	16·81	1,097	12·24	586	6·54	2,439	27·22	3,802	42·43
1859, . . .	9,261	394	4·25	1,619	17·48	1,064	11·48	527	5·69	2,479	26·76	3,955	42·70
1860, . . .	9,185	359	3·91	1,547	16·84	1,065	11·59	561	6·12	2,386	25·97	3,753	40·86
1861, . . .	8,911	310	3·47	1,483	16·64	1,089	12·22	544	6·10	2,243	25·17	3,545	39·78
1862, . . .	8,430	301	3·57	1,386	16·44	1,008	11·95	506	6·00	2,033	24·11	3,168	37·58

In the last three months of 1862, the Marriages were more numerous than in the previous quarters, as will be observed in the following Table, from which it will also be seen that the decrease in the number of Marriages registered was spread over the whole year, the diminution in the first quarter being the greatest :—

MARRIAGES REGISTERED IN EACH QUARTER OF THE YEARS 1853 to 1862, BY PROVINCES.

Years.	ULSTER.				LEINSTER.				MUNSTER.				CONNAUGHT.				IRELAND.			
	Quarter ending				Quarter ending				Quarter ending				Quarter ending				Quarter ending			
	March 31.	June 30.	Sept. 30.	Dec. 31.	Mar. 31.	June 30.	Sept. 30.	Dec. 31.	Mar. 31.	June 30.	Sept. 30.	Dec. 31.	Mar. 31.	June 30.	Sept. 30.	Dec. 31.	March 31.	June 30.	Sept. 30.	Dec. 31.
1853, . .	1,760	1,595	1,772	2,116	444	444	425	429	227	232	218	190	97	81	78	89	2,528	2,352	2,493	2,824
1854, . .	1,743	1,570	1,576	1,966	344	396	375	393	230	190	161	192	89	65	68	68	2,406	2,221	2,180	2,619
1855, . .	1,647	1,407	1,237	1,822	353	380	414	395	203	211	193	178	90	88	69	78	2,293	2,086	1,913	2,473
1856, . .	1,710	1,471	1,460	2,047	373	404	434	458	219	200	206	205	96	93	85	86	2,398	2,168	2,185	2,796
1857, . .	1,764	1,633	1,707	2,001	417	404	464	404	244	175	180	175	123	79	93	77	2,548	2,291	2,444	2,657
1858, . .	1,510	1,472	1,306	1,932	350	401	457	453	216	192	179	188	95	65	74	70	2,171	2,130	2,016	2,643
1859, . .	1,629	1,511	1,494	1,898	382	384	452	436	201	158	206	199	100	78	62	71	2,312	2,131	2,214	2,604
1860, . .	1,637	1,544	1,558	1,740	381	402	430	388	233	168	198	181	89	80	75	81	2,340	2,194	2,261	2,390
1861, . .	1,609	1,314	1,433	1,725	406	455	446	422	201	190	219	196	82	82	77	54	2,298	2,041	2,175	2,397
1862, . .	1,426	1,360	1,391	1,580	387	370	413	433	226	190	194	175	84	80	61	60	2,123	2,000	2,059	2,248

The number of Marriages registered in each of the Provinces, annually, from 1853 to 1862, were as under, as also in those Counties and Districts to which the operation of the Marriages' Act is chiefly limited :—

PROVINCES.

Years,	1853.	1854.	1855.	1856.	1857.	1858.	1859.	1860.	1861.	1862.
Ulster,	7,243	6,855	6,113	6,688	7,105	6,220	6,532	6,479	6,081	5,757
Leinster,	1,742	1,508	1,542	1,669	1,689	1,661	1,654	1,601	1,729	1,603
Munster,	867	773	785	830	774	775	764	780	806	785
Connaught,	345	290	325	360	372	304	311	325	295	285

COUNTIES.

Years,	1853.	1854.	1855.	1856.	1857.	1858.	1859.	1860.	1861.	1862.
Antrim,	2,322	2,210	1,875	2,135	2,262	2,034	2,150	2,157	1,977	1,926
Down,	1,479	1,362	1,170	1,328	1,409	1,134	1,329	1,332	1,258	1,164
Armagh,	821	778	630	757	843	683	724	732	647	601
Tyrone,	789	783	729	734	721	662	690	647	623	595
Londonderry,	747	630	628	666	722	626	614	644	603	630
Dublin,	1,011	889	858	932	997	1,034	1,054	1,017	1,097	1,017
Cork,	438	399	386	416	414	415	465	461	493	445

DISTRICTS.

Years,	1853.	1854.	1855.	1856.	1857.	1858.	1859.	1860.	1861.	1862.
Belfast,	862	827	781	849	821	752	856	925	912	945
Antrim,	237	202	200	184	240	217	216	214	179	154
Armagh,	347	298	274	327	335	267	260	290	258	272
Ballymena,	503	471	361	441	502	436	440	407	375	310
Ballymoney,	221	193	146	178	199	164	181	192	154	158
Banbridge,	448	428	332	366	406	317	353	341	314	339
Coleraine,	232	237	221	226	258	214	228	193	204	199
Lisburn,	422	421	299	446	426	361	441	422	332	334
Lurgan,	460	448	286	388	451	381	417	406	342	280
Magherafelt,	263	196	189	224	224	174	156	191	169	162
Newry,	203	210	179	174	205	150	180	201	195	177
Newtownards,	420	328	296	338	378	265	316	355	306	272
Dublin, North,	330	324	294	313	334	330	332	304	359	361
Dublin, South,	579	477	492	534	568	576	615	624	620	549
Cork,	248	208	199	214	220	199	267	246	254	260

The number of Churches belonging to the Established Church (compiled from lists received annually from the several Diocesan Registrars), of Registered Presbyterian Meeting Houses, and of "Registered Buildings" in which Marriages might be lawfully solemnized, on the 31st day of December, 1862, is exhibited in the following Table :—

CHURCHES, CHAPELS, &c., in which MARRIAGES may lawfully be solemnized.

DISTRICTS.	Churches and Chapels of the Established Church.	Registered Presbyterian Meeting-houses. (Sec. 7.)	Registered Buildings. (Sec. 27.)	Total.	DISTRICTS.	Churches and Chapels of the Established Church.	Registered Presbyterian Meeting-houses. (Sec. 7.)	Registered Buildings. (Sec. 27.)	Total.
Abbeyleix,	10	–	–	10	Inishowen,	9	4	–	13
Antrim,	8	23	2	33	Irvinestown,	6	2	1	9
Ardee,	12	1	–	13	Kanturk,	9	–	–	9
Armagh,	21	21	4	46	Kells,	9	–	–	9
Athlone,	11	1	2	14	Kenmare,	4	–	–	4
Athy,	14	1	–	15	Kilkeel,	4	5	2	11
Bailieborough,	6	5	–	11	Kilkenny,	24	1	1	26
Ballina,	12	4	2	18	Killarney,	8	–	–	8
Ballinasloe,	13	1	–	14	Kilmallock,	12	–	–	12
Ballinrobe,	10	1	–	11	Kilrush,	5	–	–	5
Ballycastle,	8	6	1	15	Kinsale,	12	–	1	13
Ballymena,	9	20	4	33	Larne,	10	17	7	34
Ballymoney,	8	19	3	30	Letterkenny,	5	5	1	11
Ballyshannon,	8	1	1	10	Limerick,	22	1	2	25
Balrothery,	11	–	–	11	Lisburn,	16	23	5	44
Baltinglass,	11	–	–	11	Lismore,	7	1	–	8
Banbridge,	13	25	5	43	Lisnaskea,	7	2	–	9
Bandon,	20	2	2	24	Listowel,	10	–	–	10
Bantry,	4	–	–	4	Londonderry,	13	18	5	36
Belfast,	16	35	11	61	Longford,	17	2	–	19
Boyle,	8	2	–	10	Loughrea,	7	–	–	7
Cahersiveen,	2	–	–	2	Lurgan,	12	8	4	24
Callan,	10	–	–	10	Macroom,	13	–	–	13
Carlow,	23	1	–	24	Magherafelt,	14	14	2	30
Carrickmacross,	4	1	–	5	Mallow,	11	–	–	11
Carrick-on-Shannon,	10	–	1	11	Manorhamilton,	8	1	–	9
Carrick-on-Suir,	8	1	–	9	Middleton,	22	–	1	23
Cashel,	10	1	–	11	Milford,	6	8	2	16
Castlebar,	4	1	1	6	Mohill,	9	1	–	10
Castleblayney,	6	14	–	20	Monaghan,	11	9	–	20
Castlederg,	4	3	1	8	Mountmellick,	12	1	1	14
Castlerea,	7	–	–	7	Mullingar,	22	3	–	25
Cavan,	20	4	–	24	Naas,	18	1	1	20
Celbridge,	12	–	1	13	Navan,	13	–	–	13
Clifden,	6	1	2	9	Nenagh,	20	–	2	22
Clogheen,	8	–	–	8	Newcastle,	7	–	–	7
Clogher,	6	5	1	12	New Ross,	17	1	1	19
Clones,	6	4	1	11	Newry,	16	21	4	41
Clonmel,	7	1	–	8	Newtownards,	11	32	8	51
Coleraine,	14	19	5	38	Newtownlimavady,	9	14	1	24
Cookstown,	8	11	1	20	Oldcastle,	10	2	–	12
Cootehill,	12	7	3	22	Omagh,	11	13	1	25
Cork,	24	4	3	31	Parsonstown,	17	1	1	19
Donegal,	8	2	4	14	Rathdown,	9	2	2	13
Downpatrick,	23	22	3	48	Rathdrum,	12	–	3	15
Drogheda,	12	1	1	14	Rathkeale,	14	–	–	14
Dublin, North,	17	5	4	26	Roscommon,	8	–	–	8
Dublin, South,	23	4	3	30	Roscrea,	13	–	–	13
Dundalk,	12	1	1	14	Scarriff,	6	–	–	6
Dunfanaghy,	5	1	–	6	Shillelagh,	13	–	2	15
Dungannon,	13	13	3	29	Skibbereen,	19	–	1	20
Dungarvan,	8	–	–	8	Sligo,	16	2	2	20
Dunmanway,	5	–	1	6	Strabane,	9	21	3	33
Dunshaughlin,	11	–	–	11	Stranorlar,	4	4	1	9
Edenderry,	9	–	–	9	Swineford,	4	–	–	4
Ennis,	8	1	1	10	Thurles,	12	–	–	12
Enniscorthy,	17	–	1	18	Tipperary,	12	1	–	13
Enniskillen,	15	3	1	19	Tralee,	15	2	1	18
Eunistymon,	5	–	–	5	Trim,	10	1	–	11
Fermoy,	19	1	–	20	Tuam,	5	–	–	5
Galway,	6	1	1	8	Tullamore,	11	1	2	14
Glenties,	8	–	1	9	Waterford,	17	2	2	21
Gorey,	12	–	–	12	Westport,	11	2	1	14
Gort,	5	–	–	5	Wexford,	16	1	1	18
Gortin,	2	5	–	7					
Granard,	9	1	–	10	Total,	1,437	558	157	2,152

During the year 1862 there was an addition of seventeen to the places of Worship in which Marriages may be solemnized; of these four belong to the Established Church, seven were Presbyterian Meeting Houses, and six belong to other denominations.

The Registered Buildings belong to the following denominations:—

Wesleyan Methodists,	87
Reformed Presbyterians,	24
Baptists,	10
Independents,	15
Moravians or United Brethren,	5
Not expressly stated,	16
Total,	157

The number of Licenses for Marriage issued by the Licensing Ministers of the several Presbyteries during the year 1862, was as follows:—

Presbytery, or Synod.	Number of Licensing Ministers on 31st December, 1862.	Number of Registered Meeting-houses on 31st December, 1862.	Number of Licenses issued.
1. General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland,	111	518	2,422
2. Remonstrant Synod of Ulster,	8	23	60
3. Presbytery of Antrim,	3	9	15
4. United Presbytery or Synod of Munster,	4	4	–
5. Northern Presbytery of Antrim,	1	4	14
Totals,	127	558	2,511

738 Licenses for Marriage were granted by District Registrars in 1862.

With the exception of the year 1847, the number of Marriages registered in 1862, under the provisions of the Act 7th and 8th Vic., cap. 81, was less than in any year since 1845.

I have the honour to be, my Lord,

Your Excellency's very faithful Servant,

WILLIAM DONNELLY,

Registrar-General.

The General Register Office, Dublin,
August 20th, 1863.

GENERAL ABSTRACTS.

1862.

ABSTRACT of MARRIAGES Registered in Ireland, under the Provisions of the Act 7 and 8 Vic., c. 81, during the Year 1862.

DISTRICTS	MARRIAGES. According to the Rites of the Established Church. Special License.	License.	Banns.	Registrar's Certificate.	Not stated by which of the foregoing forms.	TOTAL.	MARRIAGES. Not according to the Rites of the Established Church. In Registered Presbyterian Meeting-houses.	In Registered Buildings.	In the Registrar's Office.	Society of Friends.	Jews.	TOTAL.	TOTAL MARRIAGES.	Not of Age. Men.	Not of Age. Women.	Re-married. Widowers.	Re-married. Widows.	Signed with Marks. Men.	Signed with Marks. Women.
1. Abbeyleix,	1	3	2	–	–	6	–	–	–	–	–	–	6	–	2	1	–	1	1
2. Antrim,	–	16	2	–	–	18	111	2	23	–	–	136	154	9	28	18	4	41	56
3. Ardee,	–	8	1	–	–	9	2	–	1	–	–	3	12	1	1	2	1	2	–
4. Armagh,	–	168	3	–	–	171	78	2	21	–	–	101	272	9	35	33	15	80	113
5. Athlone,	–	13	24	–	–	37	2	–	4	–	–	6	43	4	16	2	3	12	26
6. Athy,	–	14	3	–	–	17	–	–	1	1	–	2	19	–	–	4	2	2	1
7. Bailieborough,	–	14	1	1	–	16	12	–	1	–	–	13	29	1	13	2	1	5	9
8. Ballina,	–	16	1	–	–	17	3	–	–	–	–	3	20	1	2	1	1	2	8
9. Ballinasloe,	–	15	4	–	1	20	2	–	1	–	–	3	23	1	5	2	1	3	4
10. Ballinrobe,	–	6	1	–	–	7	2	–	–	–	–	2	9	–	2	–	2	–	1
11. Ballycastle,	–	19	1	–	–	20	30	–	4	–	–	34	54	1	7	9	1	13	18
12. Ballymena,	–	24	6	–	–	30	199	3	78	–	–	280	310	13	43	46	12	89	171
13. Ballymoney,	–	17	2	–	–	19	106	3	30	–	–	139	158	6	19	15	6	54	69
14. Ballyshannon	–	25	2	–	–	27	3	–	4	–	–	7	34	–	4	5	1	10	14
15. Balrothery,	1	5	1	–	–	7	–	–	1	–	–	1	8	–	2	–	1	–	–
16. Baltinglass,	–	14	1	–	–	15	–	–	–	–	–	–	15	–	1	1	1	1	1
17. Banbridge,	–	118	2	–	–	120	151	3	65	–	–	219	339	19	66	36	10	109	198
18. Bandon,	–	17	2	3	–	22	2	2	2	–	–	6	28	–	6	2	2	3	4
19. Bantry,	–	4	2	–	–	6	–	–	–	–	–	–	6	–	1	–	–	1	–
20. Belfast,	–	289	172	–	–	461	326	15	143	–	–	484	945	47	165	111	67	323	488
21. Boyle,	–	9	1	–	–	10	1	–	1	–	–	2	12	–	1	3	–	1	3
22. Cahersiveen,	–	1	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
23. Callan,	–	10	–	–	–	10	–	–	–	–	–	–	10	–	1	2	–	–	1
24. Carlow,	–	18	7	7	1	33	1	–	5	–	–	6	39	1	5	1	3	9	8
25. Carrickmacross,	–	5	–	–	–	5	2	–	2	–	–	4	9	–	3	2	1	1	3
26. Carrick-on-Shannon,	–	12	–	–	–	12	–	2	–	–	–	2	14	–	2	2	1	1	2
27. Carrick-on-Suir,	–	2	–	–	1	3	1	–	–	–	–	1	4	–	–	–	–	–	–
28. Cashel,	–	8	1	–	–	9	–	–	–	–	–	–	9	–	–	–	1	1	1
29. Castlebar,	–	–	2	–	–	2	3	–	1	–	–	4	6	–	3	1	1	2	3
30. Castleblayney,	–	30	1	–	–	31	39	–	3	–	–	42	73	1	17	7	–	15	25
31. Castlederg,	–	20	1	–	–	21	18	–	–	–	–	18	39	4	4	5	2	15	15
32. Castlerea,	–	10	1	–	–	11	–	–	–	–	–	–	11	–	4	2	–	3	2
33. Cavan,	–	59	7	–	–	66	4	–	8	–	–	12	78	3	14	11	8	16	31
34. Celbridge,	–	4	2	–	–	6	–	–	1	–	–	1	7	–	1	1	1	2	1
35. Clifden,	–	3	6	–	–	9	–	–	–	–	–	–	9	–	2	2	1	3	5
36. Clogheen,	–	4	4	–	–	8	–	–	–	–	–	–	8	–	–	1	1	2	–
37. Clogher,	–	42	–	–	–	42	23	–	–	–	–	23	65	–	4	5	1	20	32
38. Clones,	–	31	–	–	–	31	7	–	11	–	–	18	49	1	7	9	7	12	17
39. Clonmel,	–	4	2	–	–	6	3	–	8	2	–	13	19	1	4	–	–	3	7
40. Coleraine,	–	40	2	–	–	42	92	6	59	–	–	157	199	5	19	20	4	51	77
41. Cookstown,	–	42	3	–	–	45	49	–	5	–	–	54	99	7	22	11	9	35	52
42. Cootehill,	–	42	6	–	–	48	9	1	11	–	–	21	69	1	19	11	4	18	29
43. Cork,	–	105	84	–	–	189	7	–	64	–	–	71	260	3	48	28	23	46	75
44. Donegal,	–	40	–	–	–	40	1	2	4	–	–	7	47	1	11	3	2	14	18
45. Downpatrick,	2	58	3	–	–	63	90	–	29	–	–	119	182	7	33	20	7	42	63
46. Drogheda,	–	8	1	–	–	9	1	–	2	–	–	3	12	–	1	4	1	1	3
47. Dublin, North,	2	135	87	1	–	225	37	5	94	–	–	136	361	6	39	49	39	13	31
48. Dublin, South,	3	247	159	1	–	410	9	8	119	–	3	139	549	10	57	75	47	39	82
49. Dundalk,	–	17	2	–	–	19	7	–	4	–	–	11	30	3	6	1	5	3	8
50. Dunfanaghy,	–	11	–	–	–	11	1	–	–	–	–	1	12	1	4	1	–	3	4
51. Dungannon,	–	90	1	1	–	92	53	–	5	1	–	59	151	11	38	11	6	53	80
52. Dungarvan,	–	3	1	–	–	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	–	–	1	1	1	2
53. Dunmanway,	–	8	2	–	–	10	–	–	–	–	–	–	10	–	2	–	–	1	2
54. Dunshaughlin,	–	–	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	1	–	–	–	–
55. Edenderry,	–	6	1	–	–	7	–	–	3	–	–	3	10	–	3	–	–	1	3
56. Ennis,	–	5	–	–	–	5	–	–	2	–	–	2	7	1	1	2	–	–	1
57. Enniscorthy,	–	8	3	–	–	11	–	–	4	2	–	6	17	–	–	3	–	2	2
58. Enniskillen,	–	57	7	–	–	64	6	1	53	–	–	60	124	3	14	20	8	36	53
59. Ennistymon,	–	5	1	–	2	8	–	–	–	–	–	–	8	–	4	–	–	1	1
60. Fermoy,	–	15	33	–	–	48	7	–	–	–	–	7	55	1	12	10	5	8	23
61. Galway,	–	8	3	–	1	12	1	–	1	–	–	2	14	–	4	1	–	2	2
62. Glenties,	–	4	1	–	–	5	–	1	1	–	–	2	7	1	2	–	–	5	5
63. Gorey,	–	14	1	1	–	16	–	–	5	–	–	5	21	–	4	3	2	5	7
64. Gort,	–	3	–	–	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	–	2	–	–	–	–
65. Gortin,	–	5	–	–	–	5	16	–	–	–	–	16	21	2	5	4	1	7	9
66. Granard,	–	11	3	–	–	15	1	–	–	–	–	1	16	–	5	–	1	2	4

[continued.

ABSTRACT of MARRIAGES Registered in Ireland, under the Provisions of the Act 7 and 8 Vic., c. 81, during the Year 1862—*continued.*

DISTRICTS.	MARRIAGES. According to the Rites of the Established Church. Special License.	License.	Banns.	Registrar's Certificate.	Not stated by which of the foregoing forms.	TOTAL.	Not according to the Rites of the Established Church. In Registered Presbyterian Meeting-houses.	In Registered Buildings.	In the Registrar's Office.	Society of Friends.	Jews.	TOTAL.	TOTAL MARRIAGES.	Not of Age. Men.	Not of Age. Women.	Re-married. Widowers.	Re-married. Widows.	Signed with Marks. Men.	Signed with Marks. Women.
67. Inishowen,	–	16	–	–	–	16	11	–	1	–	–	12	28	–	4	5	4	6	6
68. Irvinestown,	–	22	2	–	–	24	4	–	10	–	–	14	38	2	5	4	2	19	21
69. Kanturk,	–	3	–	–	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	–
70. Kells,	–	3	–	–	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	–	1	–	1	1	–
71. Kenmare,	–	2	3	–	–	5	–	–	–	–	–	–	5	–	1	2	2	2	2
72. Kilkeel,	–	19	–	–	–	19	26	–	1	–	–	27	46	–	2	5	2	6	20
73. Kilkenny,	–	17	12	–	–	29	1	–	3	–	–	4	33	–	1	5	5	7	8
74. Killarney,	–	1	–	–	–	1	–	–	4	–	–	4	5	–	1	–	1	3	3
75. Kilmallock,	–	6	2	–	–	8	–	–	–	–	–	–	8	–	1	–	1	1	1
76. Kilrush,	–	7	1	–	–	8	–	–	–	–	–	–	8	–	2	–	–	1	1
77. Kinsale,	–	10	4	–	–	14	–	–	2	–	–	2	16	–	4	2	–	1	3
78. Larne,	–	15	5	–	–	20	115	4	9	–	–	128	148	6	21	19	8	39	47
79. Letterkenny,	–	8	–	–	–	8	16	–	–	–	–	16	24	–	4	5	–	6	8
80. Limerick,	–	38	30	–	1	69	2	–	4	–	–	6	75	1	10	9	7	11	21
81. Lisburn,	–	104	48	–	–	152	80	1	101	–	–	182	334	14	59	34	15	99	150
82. Lismore,	–	5	1	–	–	6	1	–	–	–	–	1	7	–	2	1	–	–	–
83. Lisnaskea,	–	48	3	–	–	51	4	–	3	–	–	7	58	3	3	8	3	11	26
84. Listowel,	–	4	–	–	–	4	–	–	2	–	–	2	6	1	3	–	–	1	2
85. Londonderry,	–	68	5	–	–	73	94	5	25	–	–	124	197	9	36	24	8	60	89
86. Longford,	–	23	8	1	–	32	6	–	5	–	–	11	43	1	8	6	3	11	17
87. Loughrea,	–	7	–	–	–	7	–	–	1	–	–	1	8	–	1	2	–	1	2
88. Lurgan,	–	183	10	–	–	193	47	–	40	–	–	87	280	11	43	36	14	112	176
89. Macroom,	–	2	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	1	–	–	–	–
90. Maghcrafelt,	–	88	–	–	–	88	62	–	12	–	–	74	162	12	30	20	4	47	68
91. Mallow,	–	2	15	–	–	17	–	–	2	–	–	2	19	2	8	2	2	4	9
92. Manorhamilton,	–	16	2	–	–	18	–	–	–	–	–	–	18	1	3	2	2	2	6
93. Middleton,	–	10	1	–	–	11	–	–	3	–	–	3	14	–	2	–	1	1	3
94. Milford,	–	10	–	–	–	10	27	1	–	–	–	28	38	1	9	5	1	10	16
95. Mohill,	–	19	3	–	–	22	3	–	1	–	–	4	26	–	5	2	1	4	4
96. Monaghan,	–	32	1	–	–	33	28	–	3	–	–	31	64	3	11	6	4	10	23
97. Mountmellick,	1	22	4	–	1	28	1	–	1	1	–	3	31	–	6	2	1	2	3
98. Mullingar,	–	14	–	–	1	15	2	–	1	–	–	3	18	1	2	6	2	1	2
99. Naas,	–	16	30	–	–	46	1	–	3	–	–	4	50	1	7	3	3	7	11
100. Navan,	–	5	–	–	2	7	–	–	–	–	–	–	7	–	–	–	1	1	–
101. Nenagh,	–	11	1	–	–	12	–	1	–	–	–	1	13	1	3	2	1	–	2
102. Newcastle,	–	3	2	–	–	5	–	–	–	–	–	–	5	1	2	1	–	–	–
103. New Ross,	–	9	3	–	1	13	2	–	1	–	–	3	16	–	2	1	3	3	2
104. Newry,	–	76	–	–	–	76	69	2	30	–	–	101	177	8	27	14	5	34	54
105. Newtownards,	–	38	8	–	–	46	158	1	67	–	–	226	272	8	37	35	21	91	128
106. Newtownlimavady,	–	31	4	–	–	35	64	–	3	–	–	67	102	4	13	15	4	28	33
107. Oldcastle,	–	8	2	–	–	10	2	–	3	–	–	5	15	1	5	4	1	1	8
108. Omagh,	–	61	3	–	3	67	36	1	–	–	–	37	104	4	22	14	5	35	46
109. Parsonstown,	–	15	7	–	–	22	5	–	1	–	–	6	28	3	6	5	4	3	4
110. Rathdown,	2	72	14	–	–	88	4	1	25	–	–	30	118	1	17	12	8	9	10
111. Rathdrum,	–	28	3	–	2	33	–	–	8	–	–	8	41	1	14	7	3	12	9
112. Rathkeale,	–	13	1	–	–	14	–	–	1	–	–	1	15	1	2	2	1	3	2
113. Roscommon,	–	1	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
114. Roscrea,	–	17	2	–	–	19	–	–	3	–	–	3	22	2	6	5	3	6	7
115. Scarriff,	–	5	–	–	–	5	–	–	–	–	–	–	5	–	–	1	1	1	1
116. Shillelagh,	–	9	4	–	–	13	–	–	3	–	–	3	16	–	–	1	1	1	1
117. Skibbereen,	–	22	8	–	–	30	–	1	1	–	–	2	32	3	11	3	1	5	8
118. Sligo,	–	58	3	–	–	61	2	1	2	–	–	5	66	2	14	5	5	12	15
119. Strabane,	–	45	3	–	–	48	71	2	6	–	–	79	127	2	27	19	6	48	62
120. Stranorlar,	–	13	–	–	–	13	17	–	1	–	–	18	31	–	6	5	–	2	13
121. Swineford,	–	3	–	–	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	–
122. Thurles,	–	12	12	1	–	25	–	–	1	–	–	1	26	–	6	3	3	3	8
123. Tipperary,	–	10	1	–	–	11	1	–	–	–	–	1	12	–	2	1	1	–	–
124. Tralee,	–	17	3	–	–	20	2	–	2	–	–	4	24	–	5	1	–	3	4
125. Trim,	–	4	–	–	–	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	–	–	–	–	–	–
126. Tuam,	–	3	1	–	–	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	–	1	1	–	1	1
127. Tullamore,	–	13	2	–	–	15	1	–	2	–	–	3	18	1	4	3	2	3	7
128. Waterford,	–	25	12	–	–	37	5	1	6	1	–	13	50	2	10	7	2	5	14
129. Westport,	–	5	2	–	–	7	1	1	–	–	–	2	9	–	1	3	2	3	5
130. Wexford,	–	15	2	–	–	17	–	–	–	–	–	–	17	–	1	1	2	2	2
Ireland,	12	3,551	967	17	17	4,564	2,489	79	1,287	8	3	3,866	8,430	301	1,386	1,008	506	2,033	3,168

ABSTRACT of MARRIAGES Registered in Ireland during each Quarter of the Year 1862.

DISTRICTS.	Counties in which Situate.	Quarter ended March 31.	Quarter ended June 30.	Quarter ended Sept. 30.	Quarter ended Dec. 31.	TOTAL.
1. Abbeyleix,	Queen's County,	3	–	3	–	6
2. Antrim,	Antrim,	35	33	31	55	154
3. Ardee,	Louth, Meath,	3	4	3	2	12
4. Armagh,	Armagh, Tyrone,	74	65	59	74	272
5. Athlone,	Roscommon, Westmeath,	12	12	9	10	43
6. Athy,	Kildare, Queen's County, King's County,	4	4	7	4	19
7. Bailieborough,	Cavan, Meath,	5	6	12	6	29
8. Ballina,	Mayo, Sligo,	10	2	1	4	20
9. Ballinasloe,	Galway, Roscommon,	5	8	6	4	23
10. Ballinrobe,	Mayo, Galway,	1	4	3	1	9
11. Ballycastle,	Antrim,	9	14	12	19	54
12. Ballymena,	Antrim,	78	71	66	95	310
13. Ballymoney,	Antrim, Londonderry,	40	45	35	38	158
14. Ballyshannon,	Donegal, Fermanagh, Leitrim,	5	10	11	8	34
15. Balrothery,	Dublin,	3	1	–	4	8
16. Baltinglass,	Wicklow, Dublin, Kildare, Carlow,	5	5	3	2	15
17. Banbridge,	Down, Armagh,	97	65	69	108	339
18. Bandon,	Cork,	11	7	8	2	28
19. Bantry,	Cork,	2	2	1	1	6
20. Belfast,	Antrim, Down,	205	238	246	256	945
21. Boyle,	Roscommon, Sligo, Mayo,	4	3	3	2	12
22. Cahersiveen,	Kerry,	–	–	–	1	1
23. Callan,	Kilkenny, Tipperary,	2	3	5	–	10
24. Carlow,	Carlow, Queen's County, Kildare,	11	7	13	8	39
25. Carrickmacross,	Monaghan,	3	2	2	2	9
26. Carrick-on-Shannon,	Leitrim, Roscommon,	5	4	3	2	14
27. Carrick-on-Suir,	Tipperary, Kilkenny, Waterford,	–	–	3	1	4
28. Cashel,	Tipperary,	3	2	3	1	9
29. Castlebar,	Mayo,	2	–	2	2	6
30. Castleblayney,	Monaghan, Armagh,	18	13	27	15	73
31. Castlederg,	Tyrone,	13	9	7	10	39
32. Castlerea,	Roscommon, Mayo, Galway,	5	4	1	1	11
33. Cavan,	Cavan,	23	20	23	12	78
34. Celbridge,	Kildare, Dublin, Meath,	2	2	2	1	7
35. Clifden,	Galway,	1	3	–	5	9
36. Clogheen,	Tipperary, Limerick,	2	4	2	–	8
37. Clogher,	Tyrone, Monaghan,	18	17	13	17	65
38. Clones,	Monaghan, Fermanagh,	17	11	13	8	49
39. Clonmel,	Tipperary, Waterford,	8	4	2	5	19
40. Coleraine,	Londonderry, Antrim,	47	49	50	53	199
41. Cookstown,	Tyrone,	27	20	18	34	99
42. Cootehill,	Cavan, Monaghan,	18	14	20	17	69
43. Cork,	Cork County and City,	63	70	67	60	260
44. Donegal,	Donegal,	22	9	4	12	47
45. Downpatrick,	Down,	47	43	51	41	182
46. Drogheda,	Louth, Meath,	5	1	3	3	12
47. Dublin, North,	Dublin County and City,	84	83	98	96	361
48. Dublin, South,	Dublin County and City,	138	133	142	136	549
49. Dundalk,	Louth, Armagh, Monaghan,	6	8	9	7	30
50. Dunfanaghy,	Donegal,	5	–	2	5	12
51. Dungannon,	Tyrone,	40	27	42	42	151
52. Dungarvan,	Waterford,	–	–	2	2	4
53. Dunmanway,	Cork,	6	1	1	2	10
54. Dunshaughlin,	Meath, Dublin,	–	–	1	–	1
55. Edenderry,	King's County, Kildare, Meath,	3	1	5	1	10
56. Ennis,	Clare,	3	2	2	–	7
57. Enniscorthy,	Wexford, Carlow,	4	5	3	5	17
58. Enniskillen,	Fermanagh, Cavan, Tyrone,	33	35	27	29	124
59. Ennistymon,	Clare,	3	1	2	2	8
60. Fermoy,	Cork,	19	13	10	13	55
61. Galway,	Galway,	1	7	4	2	14
62. Glenties,	Donegal,	3	1	1	2	7
63. Gorey,	Wexford,	4	7	3	7	21
64. Gort,	Galway, Clare,	–	3	–	–	3
65. Gortin,	Tyrone,	2	8	4	7	21
66. Granard,	Longford, Westmeath, Cavan,	4	2	5	5	16

[*continued.*

ABSTRACT of MARRIAGES Registered in Ireland during each Quarter of the Year 1862—*continued.*

DISTRICTS.	Counties in which Situate.	Quarter ended				TOTAL.
		March 31.	June 30.	Sept. 30.	Dec. 31.	
67. Inishowen,	Donegal,	8	8	10	2	28
68. Irvinestown,	Fermanagh, Tyrone,	10	13	5	10	38
69. Kanturk,	Cork, Kerry,	1	1	1	–	3
70. Kells,	Meath, Westmeath, Cavan,	2	1	–	–	3
71. Kenmare,	Kerry,	3	2	–	–	5
72. Kilkeel,	Down,	14	7	7	18	46
73. Kilkenny,	Kilkenny,	10	6	7	10	33
74. Killarney,	Kerry,	–	3	–	2	5
75. Kilmallock,	Limerick, Cork,	2	2	3	1	8
76. Kilrush,	Clare,	1	1	4	2	8
77. Kinsale,	Cork,	6	2	3	5	16
78. Larne,	Antrim,	33	35	37	43	148
79. Letterkenny,	Donegal,	7	4	5	8	24
80. Limerick,	Limerick, Clare,	18	18	21	18	75
81. Lisburn,	Antrim, Down,	72	76	91	95	334
82. Lismore,	Waterford, Cork,	2	1	2	2	7
83. Lisnaskea,	Fermanagh,	19	7	13	19	58
84. Listowel,	Kerry,	3	–	2	1	6
85. Londonderry,	Londonderry, Donegal,	43	52	42	60	197
86. Longford,	Longford, Roscommon,	10	12	6	15	43
87. Loughrea,	Galway,	3	2	2	1	8
88. Lurgan,	Armagh, Down, Antrim,	71	60	75	74	280
89. Macroom,	Cork,	–	1	–	1	2
90. Magherafelt,	Londonderry,	35	54	31	42	162
91. Mallow,	Cork,	3	5	10	1	19
92. Manorhamilton,	Leitrim,	7	5	4	2	18
93. Middleton,	Cork,	5	2	3	4	14
94. Milford,	Donegal,	16	5	6	11	38
95. Mohill,	Leitrim,	9	3	5	9	26
96. Monaghan,	Monaghan,	17	18	16	13	64
97. Mountmellick,	Queen's County, King's County,	10	4	10	7	31
98. Mullingar,	Westmeath,	1	5	4	8	18
99. Naas,	Kildare, Dublin, Wicklow,	12	8	14	16	50
100. Navan,	Meath,	–	1	2	4	7
101. Nenagh,	Tipperary, Galway,	3	2	1	7	13
102. Newcastle,	Limerick,	–	3	2	–	5
103. New Ross,	Wexford, Kilkenny, Carlow,	4	4	5	3	16
104. Newry,	Down, Armagh,	41	43	49	44	177
105. Newtownards,	Down,	51	71	75	75	272
106. Newtownlimavady,	Londonderry,	32	26	19	25	102
107. Oldcastle,	Meath, Westmeath, Cavan,	4	3	6	2	15
108. Omagh,	Tyrone,	20	23	33	28	104
109. Parsonstown,	King's County, Tipperary,	5	5	6	12	28
110. Rathdown,	Dublin, Wicklow,	26	26	27	39	118
111. Rathdrum,	Wicklow,	11	9	10	11	41
112. Rathkeale,	Limerick,	4	6	1	4	15
113. Roscommon,	Roscommon, Galway,	–	1	–	–	1
114. Roscrea,	Tipperary, King's County, Queen's County,	3	5	4	10	22
115. Scarriff,	Clare, Galway,	1	3	–	1	5
116. Shillelagh,	Wicklow, Carlow,	5	4	4	3	16
117. Skibbereen,	Cork,	13	9	9	1	32
118. Sligo,	Sligo,	19	17	12	18	66
119. Strabane,	Tyrone, Donegal,	42	26	21	38	127
120. Stranorlar,	Donegal,	7	7	6	11	31
121. Swineford,	Mayo, Sligo,	1	1	–	1	3
122. Thurles,	Tipperary,	7	7	3	9	26
123. Tipperary,	Tipperary, Limerick,	4	4	3	1	12
124. Tralee,	Kerry,	10	4	4	6	24
125. Trim,	Meath,	2	1	1	–	4
126. Tuam,	Galway,	1	1	2	–	4
127. Tullamore,	King's County, Westmeath,	4	6	4	4	18
128. Waterford,	Waterford, Kilkenny,	16	6	14	14	50
129. Westport,	Mayo,	1	3	3	2	9
130. Wexford,	Wexford,	2	3	6	6	17
	IRELAND,	2,123	2,000	2,059	2,248	8,430

ABSTRACT of MARRIAGES Registered in each County and Province in Ireland during the Year 1862.

COUNTIES AND PROVINCES, INCLUDING CITIES.	MARRIAGES. According to the Rites of the Established Church.						MARRIAGES. Not according to the Rites of the Established Church.						TOTAL MARRIAGES.	Not of Age.		Re-married.		Signed with Marks.	
	Special License.	License.	Banns.	Registrar's Certificate.	Not stated by which of the foregoing forms.	TOTAL.	In Registered Presbyterian Meeting-houses.	In Registered Buildings.	In the Registrar's Office.	Society of Friends.	Jews.	TOTAL.		Men.	Women.	Widowers.	Widows.	Men.	Women.
COUNTIES.																			
Antrim,	–	451	190	–	–	641	870	27	388	–	–	1,285	1,926	90	301	240	107	624	960
Armagh,	–	355	15	–	–	370	138	2	91	–	–	231	601	24	90	76	29	201	302
Cavan,	–	108	13	1	–	122	22	1	20	–	–	43	165	7	49	17	12	32	66
Donegal,	–	135	2	–	–	137	118	4	11	–	–	133	270	5	55	34	9	79	109
Down,	2	344	58	–	–	404	591	7	162	–	–	760	1,164	44	195	118	50	298	490
Fermanagh,	–	135	13	–	–	148	14	1	66	–	–	81	229	8	20	34	14	66	96
Londonderry,	–	216	10	–	–	226	294	11	99	–	–	404	630	31	99	75	20	181	258
Monaghan,	–	92	4	–	–	96	62	–	19	–	–	81	177	3	31	25	11	37	64
Tyrone,	–	312	11	1	3	327	248	3	16	1	–	268	595	29	119	68	31	214	292
Province of ULSTER,	2	2,148	316	2	3	2,471	2,357	56	872	1	–	3,286	5,757	241	959	687	283	1,732	2,637
COUNTIES.																			
Clare,	–	28	3	–	2	33	–	–	2	–	–	2	35	1	9	4	2	2	5
Cork,	–	198	151	3	–	352	16	3	74	–	–	93	445	9	95	47	34	64	127
Kerry,	–	25	6	–	–	31	2	–	8	–	–	10	41	1	10	3	3	9	11
Limerick,	–	58	35	–	1	94	2	–	5	–	–	7	101	3	15	12	9	15	23
Tipperary,	–	57	22	1	–	80	4	1	12	3	–	20	100	3	16	10	8	13	25
Waterford,	–	33	14	–	1	48	7	1	6	1	–	15	63	2	12	9	3	6	16
Province of MUNSTER,	–	399	231	4	4	638	31	5	107	4	–	147	785	19	157	85	59	109	207
COUNTIES.																			
Carlow,	–	15	9	4	1	29	1	–	5	–	–	6	35	1	4	1	3	9	7
Dublin,	6	442	262	2	–	712	49	14	239	–	3	305	1,017	17	112	136	94	52	124
Kildare,	–	32	31	–	–	63	1	–	5	1	–	7	70	1	8	7	5	9	13
Kilkenny,	–	26	12	–	–	38	1	–	3	–	–	4	42	–	2	7	5	7	9
King's County,	–	34	8	–	–	42	6	–	6	–	–	12	54	4	14	9	6	8	13
Longford,	–	30	9	1	–	40	7	–	5	–	–	12	52	1	11	6	3	12	19
Louth,	–	27	4	–	–	31	10	–	7	–	–	17	48	4	8	5	6	5	10
Meath,	–	20	2	–	2	24	–	–	3	–	–	3	27	1	3	6	4	3	7
Queen's County,	2	36	7	3	1	49	1	–	1	–	–	2	51	1	10	3	2	5	6
Westmeath,	–	28	7	–	1	36	2	–	5	–	–	7	43	3	10	6	4	4	10
Wexford,	–	45	9	1	1	56	2	–	10	2	–	14	70	–	7	8	7	12	13
Wicklow,	2	68	10	–	2	82	1	–	11	–	–	12	94	1	19	10	6	15	10
Province of LEINSTER,	10	803	370	11	8	1,202	81	14	300	3	3	401	1,603	34	208	204	145	141	241
COUNTIES.																			
Galway,	–	39	13	–	2	54	3	–	3	–	–	6	60	1	13	8	2	11	13
Leitrim,	–	45	5	–	–	50	3	2	1	–	–	6	56	1	9	6	3	6	11
Mayo,	–	17	6	–	–	23	7	1	1	–	–	9	32	–	7	4	5	6	12
Roscommon,	–	27	23	–	–	50	3	–	1	–	–	4	54	2	18	8	3	15	27
Sligo,	–	73	3	–	–	76	4	1	2	–	–	7	83	3	15	6	6	13	20
Province of CONNAUGHT,	–	201	50	–	2	253	20	4	8	–	–	32	285	7	62	32	19	51	83
TOTAL OF IRELAND,	12	3,551	967	17	17	4,564	2,489	79	1,287	8	3	3,866	8,430	301	1,386	1,008	506	2,033	3,168

ABSTRACT of MARRIAGES Registered in every County and Province in Ireland, during each Quarter of the Year 1862.

COUNTIES AND PROVINCES, INCLUDING CITIES.	Quarter ended				TOTAL.
	March 31.	June 30.	September 30.	December 31.	
COUNTIES.					
Antrim,	437	468	472	549	1,926
Armagh,	147	127	153	174	601
Cavan,	48	34	56	27	165
Donegal,	89	57	51	73	270
Down,	282	274	289	319	1,164
Fermanagh,	63	57	49	60	229
Londonderry,	150	170	139	171	630
Monaghan,	52	45	45	35	177
Tyrone,	158	128	137	172	595
Province of ULSTER,	1,426	1,360	1,391	1,580	5,757
COUNTIES.					
Clare,	8	10	10	7	35
Cork,	129	113	113	90	445
Kerry,	16	9	6	10	41
Limerick,	25	29	26	21	101
Tipperary,	30	22	20	28	100
Waterford,	18	7	19	19	63
Province of MUNSTER,	226	190	194	175	785
COUNTIES.					
Carlow,	9	6	12	8	35
Dublin,	248	237	265	267	1,017
Kildare,	18	10	23	19	70
Kilkenny,	12	8	12	10	42
King's County,	11	13	12	18	54
Longford,	11	14	10	17	52
Louth,	11	13	14	10	48
Meath,	7	5	7	8	27
Queen's County,	17	8	15	11	51
Westmeath,	7	10	7	19	43
Wexford,	13	19	17	21	70
Wicklow,	23	27	19	25	94
Province of LEINSTER,	387	370	413	433	1,603
COUNTIES.					
Galway,	11	24	14	11	60
Leitrim,	21	11	11	13	56
Mayo,	9	7	10	6	32
Roscommon,	18	17	11	8	54
Sligo,	25	21	15	22	83
Province of CONNAUGHT,	84	80	61	60	285
TOTAL OF IRELAND,	2,123	2,000	2,059	2,248	8,430

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FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

REPORTS

FROM

COMMISSIONERS:

SIXTEEN VOLUMES.

—(3.)—

CHARITY; CHURCH ESTATES;
ECCLESIASTICAL; TITHE;
CHARITABLE DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS (IRELAND);
ECCLESIASTICAL (IRELAND).

Session

4 *February* —— 29 *July* 1864.

VOL. XVIII.

1864.

REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

1864.

SIXTEEN VOLUMES:—CONTENTS OF THE

THIRD VOLUME.

N.B.—*THE* Figures *at the* beginning of the line, *correspond with the* N° *at the foot of each* Report; *and the* Figures *at the* end of the line, *refer to the* MS. Paging *of the Volumes arranged for The House of Commons.*

CHARITY COMMISSION:

[3320.] ELEVENTH REPORT of the CHARITY COMMISSIONERS for *England* and *Wales*, with an APPENDIX, 1863 - - - p. 1

CHURCH ESTATES COMMISSION:

[3281.] THIRTEENTH REPORT of the CHURCH ESTATES COMMISSIONERS, with an APPENDIX, for the Year preceding 1st March 1864 - - - - - - - - - - - 19

ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSION:

[3273.] SIXTEENTH REPORT from the ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSIONERS for *England*, with an APPENDIX - - - - - - 29

TITHE COMMISSION:

[3263.] REPORT of the TITHE COMMISSIONERS to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department, dated 29th January 1864, for the Year 1863 - - - - - - - 639

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334. ANNUAL REPORT and ACCOUNT of the ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSIONERS for *Ireland*, for the Year ended the 1st day of August 1863 - - - - - - - - - 659

CHARITY COMMISSION.

ELEVENTH REPORT

OF

THE CHARITY COMMISSIONERS

FOR

ENGLAND AND WALES;

WITH

AN APPENDIX.

1863.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY GEORGE EDWARD EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
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ELEVENTH REPORT

OF

THE CHARITY COMMISSIONERS FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,

WE, the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales, humbly submit to Your Majesty the following Report of our proceedings during the year 1863.

There has been a continued increase in the number of special applications for the assistance or intervention of our Board with reference to particular charities, 1,303 such applications having been received during the past year. The numbers received in the three preceding years respectively were 1,094, 1,179, and 1,234.

We subjoin as in former years a statement of the number and principal objects of the formal orders which we have had occasion to make during the year, in cases not concluded by correspondence only, or in the presence of the parties. The numbers of like orders made during the preceding year are added for the purpose of comparison.

Objects of Orders.	Number.	
	During the year 1863.	During the year 1862.
Authorizing applications to the Court of Chancery	30	18
„ „ the County Courts	1	1
„ „ the Courts of Common Law	6	2
Appointing and removing trustees, and establishing schemes, or for some of those purposes	351	280
Certifying cases to the Attorney-General, with a view to the institution by him of ex-officio proceedings	2	8
Conveying advice to trustees for their protection and indemnity in the discharge of their official duties	57	59
Authorizing sales of charity estates	151	137
„ exchanges of such estates*	6	9
„ building, mining, or other special leases of charity estates	165	87
„ improvements of such estates, and the raising or appropriation of the necessary funds	41	35
„ the compromise of disputed claims	27	6
„ transfers of funds to the "Official Trustees of Charitable Funds"	610	616
For various purposes not comprised under any of the foregoing heads	165	182
	1,612	1,440

A large number of cases is still subject to the inquiries and consideration which must necessarily precede their final determination.

The further experience which has been acquired of the operation of the Charitable Trusts Act, 1860, which for the first time extended to our Board certain important powers over endowed charities previously exerciseable only by the judicial Courts, particularly for the discharge and appointment of trustees, and the establishment of schemes for their government, fully confirms the anticipations of the beneficial effect of that measure. The following statement of the comparative numbers of applications authorized to be made to the Court of Chancery and the County Courts for the stated objects in the year 1859, which immediately preceded the passing of that Act, and in the three last years, during which it has been in force, and of the number of definitive orders made under it by our Board during the latter period will show how large a measure of beneficial relief is already afforded by it to charitable institutions, and to how great an

* The powers of the Inclosure Commissioners to make exchanges of charity lands being more summary and beneficial than the powers vested in our Board for the same purpose, such transactions are most generally referred to their cognizance.

extent the functions of the judicial Courts for the administration of such relief have been practically transferred to this Board.

	In the year 1859.	In the year 1861.	In the year 1862.	In the year 1863.
Number of authorized applications to the Court of Chancery	86	18	32	30
" " " " County Courts	146	7	1	1
Number of Orders made by the Board under the direct jurisdiction created by the Act 1860, for the appointment or removal of Trustees, and establishment of Schemes, or for some of those purposes	—	207	280	351

If so simple and inexpensive a jurisdiction has been also safely and judiciously exercised, this past experience and the future prospect of its operation must be considered very satisfactory. We venture to state only, that the publicity which must precede all our Orders appears to us to be very effectual for the anticipation and exclusion of objections to which they might otherwise be subject, and that although the law has provided a great facility of appeal from such orders, and those definitively made by us before the close of the past year have amounted to no less than 838 in number, yet no instance has occurred of the exercise of that right of appeal.

The restraint on this jurisdiction arising from the provision of the law which prohibits its exercise, except upon the invitation only of prescribed parties (whose interests may sometimes be even opposed to those of the charities) has been referred to in our previous Reports. The inconvenience of this restriction is proportionate to the salutary character of the jurisdiction which is excluded.

The entire amount of various stocks transferred to The Official Trustees of Charitable Funds during the year 1863, has been 269,488*l.* 18*s.* 11*d.*; the amount re-transferred by them during the same period principally for effecting re-investments in land, has been 14,670*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.* The total amount standing in the name of the official trustees at the end of the year was 1,634,045*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.* on 3,116 separate accounts, to which the dividends are credited, and are then regularly remitted to the proper recipients.

The following statement in continuation of those made by our former Reports will show the amounts of various stocks transferred to the Official Trustees, and re-transferred by them in each year since 1854 inclusively.

	Amount of Stock transferred.	Amount re-transferred.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
In the year 1854	6,360 16 11	—
" 1855	21,158 17 3	—
" 1856	118,115 4 2	32 2 6
" 1857	159,735 11 1	4,023 11 8
" 1858	110,417 12 1	5,650 16 8
" 1859	189,084 10 10	1,436 1 9
" 1860	202,816 17 2	1,780 17 7
" 1861	293,786 17 0	7,530 9 6
" 1862	330,131 10 2	31,926 16 11
" 1863	269,488 18 11	14,670 1 4
Total	£1,701,096 15 7	67,050 17 11
Deduct amount re-transferred	67,050 17 11	
Total amount of stocks standing in name of "The Official Trustees of Charitable Funds," 31st December 1863	£1,634,045 17 8	

NOTE.—The sums re-transferred represent principally the proceeds of the sale of real estate re-invested in the purchase of other real estate under orders of our Board.

We have inserted in an Appendix the particulars of the stocks transferred to the Official Trustees during the past year, distinguishing the amounts belonging to each of the charities interested therein.

Our Inspectors have been actively engaged under our direction in investigating the circumstances of various charitable foundations, particularly of several of the more important charities in and near the Metropolis.

The only scheme which we have thought it desirable to prepare during the past year, with a view to its being submitted to the consideration of Parliament, is for the Grammar School at Coventry.

This Scheme, promoted by the trustees of the school, with the approval of the Bishop of the Diocese and the principal Inhabitants of Coventry, has for its object the permanent separation of the offices of Rector of the parish of St. John Coventry and Master of the Grammar School, which were united by an Act of Parliament passed in the year 1734. The objections to the continued union of these two offices, very imperfectly compatible in the same person, are apparent. The scheme for their severance, provisionally approved and certified by our Board in conformity with the provisions of "The Charitable Trusts Act, 1853," is set forth in the Appendix to this Report, together with an explanatory statement of the circumstances.

During the past year the particulars of 473 charitable foundations either newly created or not previously noticed in any public record have been ascertained and are in a course of registration in our office.

The number of returns which we have received during the year of the accounts of the receipts and expenditure of charities has been 14,822.

We have had occasion to notice in our former Reports the difficulty of obtaining the regular delivery of these accounts in the absence of any summary means of enforcing them, and of any penalties attached to their omission.

Considerable progress has been made in the compilation of the General Digest of Endowed Charities referred to in our former Reports.

It already comprises, so far as it has been practicable to extend it by laborious inquiry, all the local or parochial endowments of a considerable number of counties, with the objects to which their incomes are distributively applicable; and the collection of the same particulars in the remaining counties, and of the general charities of which the application is not confined to particular parishes or limited districts, is also in regular progress. Although such records can be made only approximately complete, and some particulars as of the endowments of various religious denominations separated from the Established Church, can be very imperfectly stated, we still hope that this disgest will be found of much practical utility as well as interest. It contains all the information obtainable for its purposes from the Reports of the former Commissioners of Inquiry; from the returns of account made to our office, from all special applications and communications made to our Board, from the Reports of our Inspectors, and from the local knowledge of Incumbents of parishes to whom extracts from it have been most generally submitted for any necessary extension or correction, and from accidental sources.

We insert in the Appendix a Summary of the Digest of the Parochial or Local Charities of Ten Counties and of the Cities of London and Westminster, showing their gross incomes and the objects to which they are applicable.

The total gross yearly income of the charities which it comprises amounts to 430,720*l.* 11*s.* 1*d.*, which exceeds the income assigned by the Reports of the former Commissioners of Inquiry to the same class of endowments in the same localities by somewhat more than 150,000*l.*, the former amount having been 280,699*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.*

It is proper to make some observation on the constitution of this large excess.

An income of upwards of 31,000*l.* which enters into it is derived from charities not included in the Reports of the former Commissioners although of prior foundation.

A considerable addition to the former income of many charities comprised in those Reports has resulted from legal proceedings instituted since their date for the restitution of charitable rights which had been in suspense, and a yearly income of 22,420*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.* is derived from new charities founded since the former Reports in the proportions of 11,780*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.*, arising from foundations made by will, and 10,639*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.* from charities founded by deed or other acts, inter vivos.

The remainder of the increase is due in a very principal degree to the improved productiveness of the endowments, the value of which, especially in the Metropolis and its vicinity, has been very largely augmented, resulting in some instances, especially of charities applicable within the City of London, in a disproportion of the endowments to the purposes or objects of the foundations, which may well deserve at no distant period the interposition of the legislature to regulate their application.

All which we humbly report to Your Majesty.

In witness whereof we have directed our official seal to be hereto affixed, this twenty-seventh day of February one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four.

(L.S.)

APPENDIX.

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PART I.

THE CASE of THE FREE GRAMMAR SCHOOL in the City of COVENTRY.

This School was founded in or about the year 1512 by John Hales, who endowed it with certain estates which were vested in the mayor and corporation of the city of Coventry, upon trust for maintaining a Free School within the city of Coventry, with a schoolmaster, usher, and singing master.

The mayor and corporation of Coventry were also the owners of the church at Bablack in that city, by virtue of Letters Patent of King Edward VI.

By an Act of Parliament of 7th Geo. II., 1734, the said church of Bablack was constituted a parish church by the name of St. John the Baptist, and it was enacted, that there should be a rector and lecturer in the said church, and that the mayor, bailiffs, and commonalty of the city of Coventry should be patrons of the said parish church, and that the person to be appointed master of the said school should be a person in priest's orders and should be rector of the said parish, and should, upon his nomination to be master of the school, receive from the mayor, bailiffs, and commonalty a presentation to the said rectory, and that the said rector and his successors should hold the same as long as they should continue masters of the school, and no longer. And it was further enacted, that the usher of the school should be a person in holy orders and be called lecturer of the parish church, and receive from the rector one-third of the rents of the pews and of the revenues of the lands, tithes, &c., and one-third of the surplice fees.

The advowson of St. John's Church and the right of appointing the rector and lecturer remained vested in the mayor and corporation of Coventry, who also continued to act in the administration of the Grammar School and its estates, and to appoint the head and second masters until the passing of the Municipal Corporation Act (5 & 6 Wm. IV. c. 76), when the trusteeship of the school and its endowments, and the ownership of the advowson attached thereto, were transferred to the Trustees appointed by the Lord Chancellor under the provisions of that Act for the portion of the municipal charities of Coventry known as the Church Charities.

In the year 1857 the Reverend Thomas Sheepshanks, being the then head master of the said school and rector of St John's, entered into a provisional agreement with the Trustees, in pursuance of which he resigned the duties and office of head master of the school, retaining the Rectory of St. John's.

Under the provisions of this agreement Mr. Sheepshanks became entitled to receive a yearly payment of 420*l.* out of the income of the school estates, and to retain, in addition, the separate endowments belonging to the rectory, which may be estimated as amounting from all sources to about 178*l.* per annum. The endowment of the school produces a yearly income somewhat exceeding 1,000*l.*, which has since been applied in payment, first, of the agreed annual sum to Mr. Sheepshanks, and then of the salaries of the head and other masters, and the other expenses of the school.

No usher or lecturer has been appointed since 25th February 1857, when the Reverend William Drake, the then holder of both offices, resigned.

The Trustees, being sensible of the importance of effecting a complete and permanent separation of the school from the parochial benefice of St. John, have applied to our Board for its assistance in establishing a scheme with that object, which may receive the sanction of Parliament.

The subjoined scheme embodies and gives effect to the arrangement which has been proposed for that purpose by the Trustees. Its provisions have been approved by the Bishop of the diocese, and have also met with the general assent of the inhabitants of Coventry. It confirms the provisional agreement made by the Trustees with the Reverend Thomas Sheepshanks, for the relinquishment by him of the mastership of the school, and provides for the permanent severance of that office from the Rectory of St. John, and for the payment of the annual sum of 200*l.* out of the income of the school estate to the future rectors of that parish, after the avoidance of the benefice by the Reverend T. Sheepshanks. The joint offices of lecturer of St. John and usher of the school are also abolished, and a further provision is made for the sale of the advowson of the living of St. John, and the appropriation of the proceeds of such sale in augmentation of the endowment of the school.

The scheme, which has been provisionally approved by our Board, in conformity with the provisions of the Charitable Trusts Act, 1853, is as follows :—

In the matter of the Charity called the Free Grammar School in the city of Coventry.

SCHEME.

1. From and after the establishment of this scheme the rectory of the parish church of St. John in the city of Coventry shall be severed and held separately from the office of head master of the above-mentioned free grammar school, and the respective offices of usher of the said school and lecturer of St. John's Church shall be abolished.

2. The provisional agreement, made on or about the 22nd day of December 1856 by the then Trustees of the said school with the Reverend Thomas Sheepshanks, clerk, the present rector of the said parish church of St. John, for the relinquishment by him, the said Thomas Sheepshanks, of the office of head master of the said school, then held by him jointly with the said rectory, upon the terms following, namely,—

That the said rectory, with the emoluments and profits

exclusively attached or belonging thereto, should thenceforth be retained and held separately by him subject to the obligation of performing the whole of the parochial and other duties incidental to the tenure of such rectory, and that he the said Thomas Sheepshanks should also receive out of the income of the said school estate, in addition to the said emoluments and profits, the annual stipend or sum of 420*l.*, to be paid to him by the said trustees during his tenure of the said rectory by equal half-yearly payments on the 24th day of June and the 25th day of December in every year,—

shall from and after the establishment of this scheme be confirmed, and held to have taken effect from the execution of such agreement, and the trustees of the said charity are hereby authorized, with the sanction and approval of the Charity Commissioners, to do any acts and to make and execute any deeds or assurances which may be necessary or proper for carrying the aforesaid terms of the said agreement into more complete effect.

3. The Trustees of the said charity shall pay out of the yearly income thereof to every future rector of the said parish of St. John the Baptist, from and after the avoidance of such rectory by the said Thomas Sheepshanks, the yearly stipend or sum of 200*l.* by equal half-yearly payments in full discharge and satisfaction of all right and claim on the part of such rector to or for any payment, remuneration, or other benefit from or out of the endowment of the said school.

4. The advowson or right of patronage and presentation of and to the said rectory of the said parish of St. John shall, as soon as conveniently may be after the establishment of this scheme, be sold by the Trustees of the said charity, with the approbation of the Charity Commissioners, and the clear amount of the proceeds of such sale shall be invested in the purchase of consolidated 3*l.* per cent. annuities in the name of the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds in augmentation of the principal endowments of the said charity.

5. If any doubt or question shall arise among the Trustees of the said charity or any of them as to the construction or proper application of any of the provisions of this scheme or the mode of giving effect to the same, application may be made by the said Trustees or the majority of them to the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales for their opinion and advice thereon, which opinion or advice, if given, shall be binding on the Trustees, and other persons interested in the matter.

APPENDIX, PART II.

Particulars of Stocks transferred to "The Official Trustees of Charitable Funds," during the year ending 31st December 1863.

ABBREVIATIONS.

Cons. - Consolidated £3 per Cent. Annuities.
Red. - Reduced £3 per Cent. Annuities.
New - New £3 per Cent. Annuities.
N. 2½. - New £2 10s. per Cent. Annuities.
E. I. Stk. East India £5 per Cent.
Bk. S. - Bank Stock.

Locality or Designation of Charity.	Amount of Stock. £ s. d.	Description.
Abingdon (St. Helen) - Berks :		
James Cole's Bequest - -	193 5 9	Cons.
Martha King's Bequest (Nurse) -	214 15 3	Cons.
Do. (National School)	193 5 9	Cons.
Acton - - - Middlesex :		
Thomas Church's Charity -	375 0 0	Cons.
William Henry Church's Charity	110 0 0	Cons.
Mary Tubb's Gift - -	200 0 0	Red.
Albury - - - Herts :		
Thomas Mott's Charity - -	150 6 10	Cons.
Altrincham, St. George in Bowden - - Chester :		
Charity of Elizabeth and Sarah Cooke - - -	210 0 0	New.
Ampton - - - Suffolk :		
Dorothy Calthorpe's Charity -	765 0 6	Cons.
Ancaster - - - Lincoln :		
Shelley Pilkington Pennel's Charity	48 19 9	Cons.
Poor's Land - - -	42 11 9	Cons.
Andover - - Southampton :		
Rev. Wm. Stanley Goddard's Charity, for repairs of Parish Church - - -	170 13 4	Cons.
Appleby - - Westmorland :		
Grammar School - -	749 15 2	Cons.
Hospital of St. Anne - -	294 3 11	Cons.
Appleford in Sutton Courtney - Berks :		
Thomas Justice's Charity -	15 19 8	Cons.
Aspul in Wigan - Lancashire :		
Sir Robert Holt Leigh's Bequest	101 0 2	Red.
Astley in Leigh - Lancashire :		
Adam Mort's Charities - -	882 18 2	Cons.
Aston by Budworth - Chester :		
Thomas Anderton's Charity -	53 16 7	Cons.
Gleave's Charity - - -	53 16 7	Cons.
Dorothy Glover's Charity -	538 7 2	Cons.
Aylesbury - - Bucks :		
John Bedford's Charity - -	226 2 2	Cons.
Babraham - - Cambridge :		
Bush and Bennett's Charities -	2,194 13 4	Red.
Basingstoke - - Southampton :		
Robert Cottle's Bequest to Queen's Free Grammar School -	212 1 2	Cons.
Bath (City).		
Magdalen Hospital - -	124 13 3	Cons.
Bayford - - - - Herts :		
Sir George Knighton's Charity -	33 6 8	Cons.
Bearstead - - - Kent :		
The Coal Club Charity - -	205 5 4	New.

Locality or Designation of Charity.	Amount of Stock. £ s. d.	Description.
Beddington cum Wallington Surrey :		
Charity of Augusta Brown to the National Schools - -	107 1 11	Cons.
Bedwas. *See* Eglwysilan.		
Benhall - - - Suffolk :		
Edward Hollond's Charity -	455 13 1	Cons.
Berkhampstead, St. Peter - Hertford :		
Balshaw's Charity - -	3,225 16 2	Cons.
Bethnal Green. *See* London.		
Beverley, St. Mary - - York :		
Church Estate - - -	978 9 10	Cons.
Bigg's (George) Bequest to the Printers Almshouse Charity -	11,594 7 2	Cons.
Bilston - - - Stafford :		
Ambrose Tibbatt's Charities -	122 17 4	Cons.
Bingley - - - - York :		
Thomas Busfield's Charity -	107 13 5	Cons.
School and Charity Estates -	2,783 9 9	Cons.
Bishop Auckland - - Durham :		
Charity for Benefit of Master of Free Grammar School -	887 5 10	Cons.
Bisley - - - Gloucester :		
Samuel Allen's Charity - -	167 0 7	Cons.
Taylors Charity or Blue Coat School - - - -	2,755 7 2	Cons.
Bladon - - - Oxford :		
James Nixon's Charity - -	11 18 3	Cons.
Blandford Forum - - Dorset :		
Church Almshouse Charity -	349 9 3	Cons.
Blofield - - - Norfolk :		
Rev. Thos. Smith Turnbull's Charity - - -	2,000 0 0	New.
Bloxwich (Great) - - Stafford :		
Robert Parker's Charity -	566 4 11	Cons.
Bolas Magna - - Salop ;		
Charities of Elizabeth Walker and John Whitfield - - -	32 0 1	Cons.
Bow Brickhill - - Bucks :		
Charles Purrett's otherwise Parrett's Charity - - -	533 6 8	Cons.
Brackley - - - - Northampton :		
Thos. Arnold's Charity -	249 10 4	Cons.
Brackley, (St. Peter) - Northampton :		
Rev. Littleton Burton's Charity -	53 18 0	Cons.
Bramcote - - - Notts :		
Frances Dixon's Charity -	323 9 0	New.

Locality or Designation of Charity.	Amount of Stock. £ s. d.	Description.
Bramdean - - Southampton :		
Hon. Honora Legge's Charity -	200 0 0	Cons.
James Turner's Charity- -	102 19 0	New.
Brecon - - - Town :		
Sir Joseph Bailey's Charity -	666 13 4	Cons.
Bredy (Long) - - Dorset :		
Charities of Hippolett Mockett, Dr. Ironside, and Robert Michel	228 18 0	Cons.
Brent Pelham - - - Herts :		
Catherine Floyers' Charity -	200 0 0	Cons.
Bretton (West) in Silkstone - York :		
The Poor's Land - -	297 6 0	Bk. S.
Bridgnorth St. Mary Magdalen - - - Salop :		
Alithea Jane Bate's Charity -	32 4 5	Cons.
G. J. Hussey's Charity - -	53 15 1	Cons.
Mary Izzard's Charity -	107 10 7	Cons.
Thomas Milner's Charity -	161 5 10	Cons.
Bridlington - - York :		
Ann Yates' Charity - -	107 16 4	Cons.
Bristol, St. Michael - - City :		
John Elbridge's Charity -	2,980 15 5	Red.
Broadhembury - - Devon :		
Caroline Drewe's Charity -	326 10 7	Red.
Bruton - - - Somerset :		
Hugh Sexey's Hospital -	350 0 0	Cons.
Buckland Monachorum - Devon :		
John Burrow's Charity -	126 10 9	Cons.
Mathew Elford's Charity -	214 15 4	Cons.
Catherine Ilbert's Charity -	207 9 6	Cons.
Buckland Newton - - Dorset :		
Charities of Mrs. Eliz. Maria Foy, and Miss Eliz. Maria Foy -	400 0 0	Cons.
Fitz Foy's Charity - -	93 1 4	Cons.
Bucknell - - - Oxford :		
Charity of Rev. Saml. Gauntlet, D.D. - - -	300 0 0	Red.
Budeaux, (St.) - - Devon :		
The Charity School - -	375 0 0	Cons.
Budworth, Great - - Chester :		
Clothing Charity - -	430 13 9	Cons.
Hannah Selby's Charity -	258 8 3	Cons.
Bugbrooke - - Northampton :		
Edward Johnson's Charity -	1,170 0 0	New.
Builth - - - Brecon :		
Sir Joseph Bailey's Charity -	333 6 8	Cons.
Bunbury - - - Chester :		
Unknown Donor's Charity -	20 3 4	Cons.
Buntingford - - Herts :		
Wm. Brigg's Charity - -	179 5 1	New.
Burford - - - Oxford :		
The Bridge Estate - -	37 10 7	Cons.
Poor's Fund and Common Poor Estate - - -	329 12 6	Cons.
School Estate Charity -	465 17 11	Cons.
The Widow's Fund - -	142 4 8	Cons.
Burton-on-Trent - Stafford :		
Town Lands Charity -	542 14 10	Cons.
Bury - - - Hunts :		
The Benefaction Fund -	54 0 11	Cons.
Charities of John Guest and Thos. Rothwell - - -	64 8 7	Cons.
St. Mary's Organ Fund -	479 12 2	New.
Buxton - - - Norfolk :		
Sir John Picto's Charity -	133 3 11	Cons.
Byton - - - Hereford :		
John Woodhouse's Charity -	250 0 0	New.

Locality or Designation of Charity.	Amount of Stock. £ s. d.	Description.
Cambridge (All Saints) :		
Susannah Forrester's Charity -	4,272 7 3	Cons.
Cartmel - Lancashire :		
Broughton Poor's Money -	194 16 8	New.
Castle Camps - Cambridge :		
William Martin Colliers Charity -	53 7 11	Cons.
Catcott - - Somerset :		
Charities of James Packer and Anne Ruscombe Field for the School - - -	22 13 0	Cons.
Cathedine and Llanvrynach Brecon :		
Rev. Thos. Williams' Charity -	58 6 0	Cons.
Caxton - - Cambridge :		
Robert Langwith's Charity -	1,308 16 3	Cons.
Chapel otherwise Pontesbright - Essex :		
John Leving's Charity - -	74 15 4	Cons.
Charterhouse Middlesex :	9 11 7	Cons.
Chastleton - - Oxford :		
Mrs. Williams' Charity - -	100 0 0	Red.
Chelsea - - Middlesex :		
Catherine Abbot's Charity -	272 4 3	Cons.
Charity of Washington Cornelius Winter Ashfield -	1,000 0 0	Cons.
Martha Burnsall's Charity -	315 0 0	New.
Judith Cale's Charity - -	230 0 0	Cons.
Edward Cheyney's Charity -	26 13 9	Cons.
Luke Thomas Flood's Charities	100 0 0	Cons.
	400 0 0	Cons.
	2,500 0 0	Red.
John Franklin's Charity - -	100 0 0	Cons.
William Gibbs' Charity -	630 0 0	Cons.
John Gregory's Charity - -	26 5 0	New.
Samuel Hunton's Charity -	176 0 0	Cons.
John Long's Charity - -	118 17 5	Red.
Mary Norman's Charity -	112 4 0	Cons.
Charles Rawling's Charity -	400 0 0	E. I. Stk.
Anne Sammon's Charity -	210 0 0	New.
Elizabeth Smith's Charity -	450 0 0	Cons.
Thomas Stewart's Charity -	100 0 0	Cons.
Chepstow - - Monmouth :		
John Bowsher's Charities -	372 13 4	Cons.
	3,466 13 4	Cons.
Chertsey - - Surrey :		
Ann Holden's Charity - -	5 8 1	Cons.
Cheshunt - - Herts :		
Mrs. Elderton's Charity - -	200 0 0	Cons.
Chetton - - Salop :		
The Parochial Charities - -	703 0 0	New.
Chetwynd - - Salop :		
Thomas Baddeley's Charity -	48 8 0	Cons.
Robert Pigott's Charity - -	54 17 3	Cons.
School Charities - -	10 12 10	Cons.
Chevening - - Kent :		
Charities of Rebecca Wyndham, Katherine Strode, and a Donor unknown - - -	369 13 0	Cons.
Childwall - - Lancaster :		
Campbell's Charity - -	100 0 0	4*l.* per cent. Perpetual Debenture Stock of London and North-Western Railway Co.
Chilton-super-Polden - Somerset :		
Jane Hole's Charity - -	148 14 0	Cons.
Chipping Lambourne - - Berks :		
William Choules' Charity - -	554 1 6	Cons.

Locality or Designation of Charity.	Amount of Stock. £ s. d.	Description.
Chipping Sodbury - Gloucester :		
Sarah Hewett's Charity - -	800 0 0	Cons.
Col. John Harvey Ollney's Charity	320 8 6	Cons.
Jas. Hardwicke's Charity (Minister)	40 10 11	Cons.
Do. (Poor)	162 3 9	Cons.
Richd. Blake's Charity - -	72 9 0	Cons.
Saml. Hardwicke's Charity -	57 19 0	Cons.
Saml. Isaac's Charity - -	32 16 6	Cons.
Jeremiah Isaac's Charity - -	133 6 8	Cons.
Thomas Brooke's Charity -	78 12 0	Cons.
George Hardwicke's Charity -	58 15 0	Cons.
William Harvey's Charity -	57 16 6	Cons.
Joseph Hiatt's Charity - -	300 0 0	New.
William Winstone's Charity -	31 7 4	New.
Chirk - - - Denbigh :		
Charities of Mary Bennett, Major Charles Myddleton, and an unknown Donor - -	48 8 9	Cons.
Chisleborough - - Somerset :		
Richd. Randall's Charity - -	106 19 1	Cons.
Church Stretton - - Salop :		
Old School Charity - -	119 2 5	Cons.
Clanfield - - - Oxford :		
James Clark's Charity - -	95 17 5	Cons.
Clee, St. Margaret - - Salop :		
John Minton's Charity - -	21 8 7	Cons.
Clehonger - - Hereford :		
Lucy Haggitt's Charity - -	1,000 0 0	Cons.
Cole (Charity of Miss Charlotte), for Governesses and Gentlewomen in reduced circumstances - -	370 17 7	Cons.
Collingbourne Ducis - - Wilts :		
George John Hooper's Charity -	100 0 0	Cons.
Colney, St. Peter - - Herts :		
John Jaques' Charity - -	200 0 0	Cons.
Colva - - - Radnor :		
Charities of John Lloyd and James Lloyd - - -	64 1 9	Cons.
James Chambers' Charity -	64 1 9	Cons.
Compton - - - Sussex :		
Thomas Penn's Charity - -	108 6 5	Red.
Harriet Phipps' Charity -	166 4 1	Cons.
Sarah Phipps' Charity - -	133 6 8	Red.
Thomas Peckham Phipps' Charity	105 0 0	New.
Cookham - - - Berks :		
Trust of Cockmarsh Common -	351 13 7	Cons.
Cottered - - Hertford :		
Anne Chauncey's Charity - -	337 1 6	Cons.
Coventry - - - (City) :		
Samuel Baker's Charity - -	730 10 2	Cons.
Sir Thos. White's Charity -	139 15 9	Cons.
Crich - - - Derby :		
John Cooper's Charity - -	43 3 3	Cons.
Crickheath - - - Salop :		
Mary Harwood's Charity -	53 16 7	Cons.
Crickhowell - - - Brecon :		
Sir Joseph Bailey's Charity -	333 6 8	Cons.
Croft with Southworth - Lancashire :		
The School - - -	109 8 9	Cons.
Crosby (Great) in Sefton - Lancaster :		
The Girls' or Mistress School -	949 1 6	Cons.
Crosby Garret - - Westmorland :		
Rev. William Bird's Charity -	54 5 6	Cons.
Thomas Wilson's Charity - -	86 16 9	Cons.
School and Poor's Stock -	411 1 7	Cons.
Crosthwaite - - Cumberland :		
Sir John Bank's Charity - -	955 16 3	Cons.

Locality or Designation of Charity.	Amount of Stock. £ s. d.	Description.
Croydon - - - Surrey :		
Elis David's Almshouse - -	134 9 4	Cons.
Cumnor. *See* Oxford.		
Dacre - - - Cumberland :		
Charities of Matthew Brown and others - - -	1,099 1 7	Red.
Dalby (Great) - - Leicester :		
Thomas Bunney's Charity - -	105 0 0	New.
Dalby (Old) - - Leicester :		
Frances Bowater's Charities -	80 12 11	Cons.
Dartford - - - Kent :		
Catherine Bamme's Charity -	33 6 8	Cons.
Darton - - - York :		
Thomas Beaumont's Charity -	124 13 3	Cons.
Davenham - - - Chester :		
Catherine Bradford's Charity -	139 19 6	Cons.
Robert Hoole's Charity - -	21 6 9	Cons.
Decuman's (St.) Charity - Somerset	481 18 7	Cons.
Didsbury - - - Lancashire :		
Sergeant Boardman's Charity -	117 16 9	Cons.
The School - - -	941 15 2	Cons.
Dishley with Thorpe Acre - Leicester :		
John Ransdale's Charity - -	150 0 0	Cons.
Dogmersfield - - Southampton :		
The Poor's Land - -	584 8 0	Cons.
Dover (St. Mary the Virgin) - Kent :		
Susanna Boothby's Charity -	474 5 5	Cons.
John Dekewer's Charity - -	468 19 2	Red.
John Hammond's Charity - -	100 0 0	Cons.
Edward Phillip's Charity -	755 11 9	Cons.
Rebecca Saure's Charity - -	359 18 7	Cons.
Down (St. Mary) - - Devon :		
Charities of Benjamin Tucker Radford and Mary Radford -	213 18 1	Cons.
Dudleston in Ellesmere - Salop :		
Ann Owen's Bequest for Frances Edward's School - -	27 3 8	ns.
Dudley - - Worcester :		
Free Grammar School - -	426 15 6	Cons.
John Taylor's Charity - -	147 2 3	Cons.
Wolverhampton Street Dissenting Meeting House - -	540 0 4	Cons.
Duffield - - - Derby :		
Endowed School - -	602 19 3	Cons.
Duloe - - - Cornwall :		
The School Fund - -	115 4 2	Cons.
Mrs. Scott's Charity - - -	100 0 0	Cons.
Dulverton - - - Somerset :		
Elizabeth Butler's Charity -	51 7 10	Cons.
Durdar in High Blackhall in St. Cuthbert, Carlisle - - } Cumberland :		
Grace Graham's Charity for Master of Stone Raise School -	149 10 0	Cons.
Earl's Barton and Islip - Northampton :		
Henry Medbury's Charity -	2,490 17 2	Cons.
Eaton Socon - - Bedford :		
Simon Oldham's Charity - -	16 13 4	Cons.
Eccleston - - Lancashire :		
Elizabeth Cooper's Charity -	53 18 0	Cons.
Hugh Dicconson's Charity -	53 18 0	Cons.
Edington - - Somerset :		
Mary Clarke's Charity - -	10 12 4	Cons.
Egham - - - Surrey :		
Virginia Water Christ Church National School - -	214 15 2	Cons.

Locality or Designation of Charity.	Amount of Stock. £ s. d.	Description.
Eglwysilan and Bedwas - Glamorgan:		
Sarah William's Charity -	74 17 4	Cons.
Anne Aldworth's Charity -	150 10 10	Cons.
Elland in Halifax - - York:		
Joseph Brooksbank the Elder's Charity - - -	193 6 8	Cons.
North Dean Wood Charity -	533 18 4	Cons.
Ellesmere - - - Salop:		
Countess of Bridgwater's Bequest - - -	214 9 6	Cons.
Richard Wynn's Charity -	96 10 4	Cons.
Enfield - - - Middlesex:		
The Aleconner's Fund - -	33 17 11	Cons.
Frederick Maurer's Charity -	100 0 0	Cons.
John Francis Mestura's Charity -	50 0 0	Red.
National School - -	312 9 9	Cons.
Mary Turpin's Charity - -	240 0 0	Cons.
Escrick. *See* Stillingfleet.		
Exeter - - - Devon:		
Heles or the Blue Maids' Hospital	703 7 2	Cons.
Fairford - - - Gloucester:		
James Tombe's Bequest -	200 0 0	Cons.
Fisherton Anger - - - Wilts:		
Francis Attwood's Charity -	2,700 0 0	E. I. Stk.
Folkestone - - - Kent:		
Sir Eliab Harvey's Charity -	37 7 9	Cons.
Foy - - - Hereford:		
Charities of Ann Freeman, George Abrahal, Robert Fummy, Wm. Morgan, and Unknown Donor	66 4 4	Cons.
Frilsham - - - Berks:		
Robert Hayward's Charity -	400 0 0	New.
Furneux Pelham - - Herts:		
Francis Caryl's Charity - -	259 16 0	New.
Gaddesby - - Leicester:		
George Williamson's Charity -	53 7 11	Cons.
Giggleswick - - - York:		
Free Grammar School of King Edward VI. - - - -	5,268 16 4	Cons.
Gillingham - - - Kent:		
Catherine Bamme's Charity -	66 13 4	Cons.
Gillingham, Rainham, and Hartlip - - } Kent:		
John Stunt's Charity - -	600 0 0	Cons.
Glastonbury (St. John Baptist) - - } Somerset:		
The Church Estate - -	87 15 10	Cons.
Glazedale in Danby - - York:		
"The Lord and Freeholder's Gift 1863," for the benefit of the School founded by John Prudom	53 8 1	Cons.
Gloucester:		
Sir Thos. Rich's Hospital -	108 7 5	Cons.
Grayrigg in Kendall - Westmoreland:		
Mary Winford Lambert's Bequest	548 13 11	Cons.
Gressenhall - - Norfolk:		
Daniel Wood's Charity - -	108 5 1	Cons.
Grimley. *See* Hallow.		
Guildford - - - Surrey:		
Joseph Nettle's Charity - -	8 3 11	Cons.
The Poyle Charity - -	248 1 4	Cons.
Guisborough - - - York:		
Hospital and School of Jesus -	323 9 0	Cons.
Habrough - - - Lincoln:		
Thomas Hicks Charity - -	8 10 0	Cons.
Hackney College - - - -	613 7 11	New.
Hallow Grimley and Madresfield - } Worcester:		
Anne Bull's Charity - -	2,842 12 2	Cons.
Halton - - - Chester:		
Charities of Mrs. Weston, Rev. Mr. Woodfall, and Mrs. Cheshyre - - -	108 2 2	Cons.
Halton. *See* Runcorn.		
Ham (High) - - Somerset:		
Arabella Morgan's Charity -	57 11 1	Cons.
Charities of Rev. Charles Morgan, Mary Clayfield, and Arabella Morgan - - -	100 0 0	Cons.
Hambledon - - Southampton:		
Binstead and Bettsworth Charity	162 7 8	Cons.
Hammersmith - - Middlesex:		
Robert Baron Ebury's Scholarship at the Godolphin School -	300 0 0	E. I. Stk.
Hampstead, St. John - Middlesex:		
The Wells Charity - - -	311 1 1	Cons.
Harmondsworth - - Middlesex:		
Elizabeth Countess Dowager of Uxbridge's Gift - -	105 0 0	New.
Hartlip. *See* Gillingham.		
Hartshead cum Clifton - York:		
John, Ann, and Rebecca Popplewell's Charities - -	82 2 0	Red.
Hawarden - - - Flint:		
Ann Minshull's Charity - -	213 12 4	Cons.
Hawkshead - - Lancashire:		
Rev. Wm. Wilson's Charity -	160 0 0	New.
Free Grammar School and other Charities - - -	1,137 14 3	Cons.
Wm. and Thos. Braithwaite's Charities to Sawrey School -	382 14 11	Cons.
Hay - - - Brecon:		
Sir Joseph Bailey's Charity -	333 6 8	Cons.
Elizabeth Gwynne's Almshouses	425 15 3	Cons.
Hayfield - - - Derby.		
Fanny Marriott's Charity - -	47 19 8	Cons.
Heaton with Oxcliffe - Lancashire:		
West's Charity - - -	54 5 4	Cons.
Heckfield - - - Southampton:		
Charity of George Lord Rivers -	100 0 0	Red.
Rev. John Taylor's Charity -	60 0 0	Cons.
Hellington - - Norfolk:		
John Barham's Charity - -	34 10 5	Cons.
Hereford - - - (City):		
Trinity Hospital - -	334 13 9	Cons.
Hertingfordbury - - Herts:		
Grace Ellis' Charity - -	66 13 4	Cons.
Hinton Ampner - Southampton:		
Wm. Blake's Charity - -	128 6 10	Cons.
Hon. Honora Legge's Charity -	100 0 0	Cons.
Holbeck - - - York:		
The Poor's Land - -	127 0 4	Cons.
Holsworthy - - - Devon:		
Rev. Thos. Meyrick's Charity -	100 0 0	New.
Hoole - - - Lancaster:		
Ralph Leyland's Charity -	21 11 5	Cons.
Marg. Walton's Charity - -	32 7 11	Cons.
Hopesay - - - Salop:		
Thos. Perk's Charity - - -	53 19 6	Cons.
Eliz. Newnham's Charity -	32 7 0	Cons.

Locality or Designation of Charity.	Amount of Stock. £ s. d.	Description.
Hornsea - - - York:		
Church Land's Charity - -	807 1 5	Cons.
Huntingdon - - - -		
John Bardolph's Charity -	544 2 10	New.
Mrs. Gimber's Charity - -	100 0 0	Cons.
Huntingdon - - (St John):		
Henry Sweeting's Charity -	101 11 4	New.
Huntley - - Gloucester:		
Samuel Hawkins' Charity -	281 16 0	Red.
Hurst. *See* Winnersh.		
Hutton in Penwortham - Lancashire:		
Charities of Edwd. Fleetwood, George Merry, Thos. Martin, and Mr. Forest - -	220 14 6	Cons.
Hutton (Old) in Kendall - - } Westmorland:		
Charities of Thomas Robinson, Joseph Dawson, and an unknown donor - - -	138 5 5	Cons.
Ightfield. *See* Whitchurch.		
Ippolyt's (St.) - - Herts:		
Thos. Bibsworth's Charity -	107 13 5	Cons.
Islip. *See* Earl's Barton.		
Jackfield in Broseley - - Salop:		
Anne Browne's Charity - -	214 9 6	Cons.
Kendal (St. George) - Westmorland:		
Mary Webster's Charity (Organist)	193 11 0	Cons.
Kexborough in Darton - - York:		
John Silvester's School Charity -	167 0 0	Red.
Unknown Donor's Charity -	100 0 0	Cons.
Kidderminster - - Worcester:		
Free Grammar School - -	15 5 6	Cons.
Kingham - - - Oxford:		
John Laskey's Charity - -	98 15 4	Cons.
Kingsbury - - Warwick:		
Coton's School - - -	166 13 4	Cons.
Kingswinford - - Stafford:		
Dancer's and Hodgett's Charities	124 14 10	Cons.
Kirby le Soken - - Essex:		
Rev. Joseph Avery's Charity, D.D.	110 0 0	N. 2½.
Lambeth (St. Mary the less) - - - } Surrey:		
Mary Anna Billington's Charity -	666 13 4	Cons.
„ (St. Peter, Vauxhall) - - } Surrey:		
Mary Anna Billington's Charity -	333 6 8	Cons.
Leeds, St John the Evangelist - - - } York:		
John Harrison's Charities -	1,117 12 3	Cons.
Leicester - - - (Boro'.):		
Aldn. Gabriel Newton's Charity -	100 0 0	New.
John Whatton's Charity - -	233 6 8	Cons.
„ (St. Margaret and St. Martin):		
John Nichol's Charity - -	250 0 0	New.
Lenham - - - Kent:		
Anthony Honeywood's Charity -	64 17 4	Cons.
Letcomb Regis - - Berks:		
Theodosia Fettiplace's Charity -	106 19 1	Cons.
Lichfield - - - - City:		
The Conduit Lands - -	1,511 9 6	Cons.
Lightcliffe in Halifax - - York:		
Anne Walkers' Charity - -	333 6 8	Red.
Liverpool - - Lancaster:		
James Pendleton's Charity -	1,147 11 1	Cons.

Locality or Designation of Charity.	Amount of Stock. £ s. d.	Description.
Llanblethian. *See* Llanharan.		
Llangattock - - Brecon:		
Sir Joseph Bailey's Charity -	333 6 8	Cons.
Llangeinon and Llanharan { Glamorgan:		
Charity of Joseph Hoare, D.D. -	280 3 0	Cons.
Llanbaran, Llanharry, Llantrissaint, and Llanblethian - } Glamorgan:		
Charity of Wm Gibbon - -	825 6 6	Cons.
Llanharry. *See* Llanharan.		
Llaniled - - Glamorgan:		
Charles Price's Charity - -	54 0 11	Cons.
Llannor - - - Carnarvon:		
John Evan's Charity - -	106 19 4	Cons.
Llanrhyddlad - - Anglesey:		
The Church Lands - -	966 10 8	New.
Llanrwst - - - Denbigh:		
Dame Mary Mostyn's Charity -	848 0 1	Cons
Consolidated Charities for the poor	107 13 5	Cons.
Llantilo Crossenny - Monmouth:		
Rev. Richd. Waring's Charity -	150 0 0	Cons.
Llantrissaint. *See* Llanharan.		
Llanvrynach. *See* Cathedine.		
London:		
St. Bartholomew's Hospital -	4,637 11 11	Cons.
„ (Allhallows the Less):		
Abraham Foster's Charity -	109 1 6	Red.
„ (St. Andrew Undershaft and St. Mary Axe):		
Mary Datchelor's Charity -	30,000 0 0	New.
„ (St. George in the East):		
Middlesex Society's National School - - -	300 0 0	New.
„ (St. Matthew Bethnal Green):		
George Fournier's Charity - {	2,228 8 3	Cons.
	2,219 2 9	Red.
„ (St. Peter upon Cornhill):		
William of Kingston's Charity -	534 0 11	Cons.
„ (St. Luke):		
Edmund Kane's Charity - {	495 0 0	N. 2½.
	1,023 15 2	
Longdon - - - Stafford:		
Mr. Newton's Charity - -	21 11 5	Cons.
Henry Smith's Charity -	10 10 0	New.
Ann Armstrong's Charity -	21 0 0	New.
Wm. Barnes' Charity - -	52 10 0	New.
Francis Cobb's Charity - -	105 0 0	New.
Mary Tyson's Charity - -	238 1 10	Cons.
Longton - - Lancaster:		
Robert Moss' Charity - -	534 0 11	Cons.
Loose - - - Kent:		
Peale's Charity - - -	200 0 0	Cons.
Lopham (South) - - Norfolk:		
Wm. Branch Elliott's Charity -	452 0 8	Cons.
Lucton - - - Hereford:		
Joanna Pierrepont's Charity -	43 6 8	Cons.
Lymm - - - Chester:		
Thomas Jackson's Charity -	3,111 18 3	Cons.
Madresfield. *See* Hallow.		
Maidstone - - - Kent:		
Alexander Fisher's Charity -	1,081 1 8	Cons.
Marlow (Great) - - Bucks.		
John Brinckhurst's Almshouses -	100 0 0	Cons.
Susanna Hone's Charity -	190 14 2	Cons.

Locality or Designation of Charity.	Amount of Stock. £ s. d.	Description.
Marshfield - - Gloucester: Dionysia Long's Charity -	19 6 0	Cons.
Marton, (Great and Little) Lancashire: Edward Jolly's Charity - -	64 17 3	Cons.
Matterdale in Graystock Cumberland: Jonathan Murray's Charity -	1,000 0 0	Cons.
Mawdesley in Croston - Lancashire: Margaret Blackburne's Charity -	54 6 10	New.
Measham - - - Derby: Charities of Hall and others, or the Poor's Land Charity -	1,702 16 3	Cons.
Melton Mowbray - Leicestershire: Mary Green's Charity - -	67 0 7	Cons.
Middleton - - Lancashire: Anne Buckley's Charity -	53 16 7	Cons.
Middleton Cheney - Northampton: The Horton Almshouses -	6,000 0 0	Cons.
Midhurst - - - Sussex: George Ognell's Charity -	150 0 0	New.
Midsomer Norton - - Somerset: Ann Harris' Charity - -	108 8 0	Cons.
Molton (North) - - Devon: Rt. Hon. Caroline Dowager Lady Poltimore's Charity - -	484 10 5	Cons.
Molton (South) - - Devon: Municipal Charities - -	523 12 4	Cons.
Moorfields Tabernacle - Middlesex: John Loveday's Charity - -	2,367 0 0	Cons.
Joseph Watt's Charity - -	120 0 0	Cons.
John Finnard's Charity - -	400 0 0	Cons.
Long's Bequest - -	100 0 0	Cons.
Poor's Account - - -	145 0 0	Cons.
Rose Finnard's Charity - -	800 0 0	Cons.
Tabernacle School Funds -	600 0 0	Cons.
Much Woolton (St. Peter) Lancaster: Campbell's Charity - -	20 0 0	£4 per cent. Perpetual Debenture Stock of the London and North Western Railway Co.
Myddfar otherwise Mothevey - Caermarthen: Charity founded by Morgan Owen Bishop of Llandaff - -	273 6 8	Red.
Naburn. *See* Stillingfleet.		
Netherbury - - - Dorset: Mary Serjeant's Charity - -	63 19 7	Cons.
Newark-upon-Trent - - Notts: Frances Dixon's Charity -	322 2 11	New.
Newbury - - - Berks: St. Mary's Charity - -	171 8 3	Red.
Newnton (Long) - - Wilts: Rev. Matthew Hale Estcourt's Bequest - - -	756 11 4	Cons.
Newport Pagnell - - Bucks: John Revis Charities - -	1,500 0 0	Cons.
Newton, (St. Cyres) - - Devon: Abraham Frank's Charity -	107 19 3	Cons.
Northleach - - Gloucester: Mary Harritts Allen's Charity -	216 10 2	Cons.
Norton - - - Hert's: John Izard Pryor's Charity -	108 11 0	New.
Norton Canes otherwise Norton under Cannock } Stafford: Sarah Knight's Charity - -	166 13 4	Cons.
Norton, St. Philip - Somerset: Abraham Elton's Charity -	702 18 8	Cons.
Norwich (St. John Maddermarket): Francis Gillian's Charity -	1,911 3 5	Cons.
Norwich (City) Great Hospital - - -	7,306 4 5	Cons.
Oldham and Royton - Lancashire: Poorsfield Charity - -	117 0 10	Cons.
Osgathorpe - - Leicester: Thos. Harley's School and Almshouses - - -	1,302 3 0	Cons.
Oxford and Cumnor - - Berks: William Slatter's Charity -	108 2 2	Cons.
Parbold in Eccleston - Lancashire: Charities of Jonathan Gillibrand, Thos. Lathom, and James Bradshaw - - -	107 1 11	Cons.
Pensax in Lindridge - Worcester: Lady Priscilla Child's Charity -	133 6 8	Cons.
Pentney - - - Norfolk: Charities of Sawer and others -	25 14 1	Cons.
Peterborough (St. John Baptist) - Northampton: Mary Sambrooke's Charity -	400 0 0	Red.
Petersfield - - - Hants: John Holland's Charity - -	166 13 4	Cons.
Petersfield and Sheet - Southampton: The Willow Almshouses -	2,000 0 0	New.
Pilton - - - Somerset: Martha Bethell's Charity -	108 16 11	New.
Plymouth - - - Devon: Hospital of Orphans Aid -	656 2 5	Cons.
	2,400 0 0	New.
Poltimore - - - Devon: Rt. Hon. Caroline Dowager Lady Poltimore's Charity - -	193 5 9	Cons.
Pontesbright. *See* Chapel.		
Pontypool - - Monmouth: Capel Hanbury Leigh's Bequest to the School - - -	1,078 3 4	Cons.
Portsmouth. *See* Stonhouse.		
Priors Marston - - Warwick: Josiah Kay's Charity - -	500 0 0	New.
Priscilla Peirce's Bequest to the General Baptist Assembly Fund	4,272 7 3	Cons.
Putley - - - Hereford: Thomas Holbrook's Bequest -	539 1 8	Cons.
Mary Whittingslow's Charity -	90 0 0	New.
Putney - - - Surrey: John French's Bequest for Inmates of Sir Abraham Dawe's Almshouses - - -	400 0 0	Cons.
Queenborough - - Kent: Charities of Joseph Shield, George Evan Baker, and Shipwrecked gentlemen - - -	1 18 11	Cons.
Rackenford. *See* Witheridge.		
Rainham. *See* Gillingham.		
Rawdon in Guiseley - - York: Francis Layton's Charity -	210 0 0	Cons.

Locality or Designation of Charity.	Amount of Stock. £	s.	d.	Description.
Redbourn - - - Herts:				
Sophia Baskerfield's Charity -	200	0	0	Cons.
Mary Peacock's Charity - -	100	0	0	Cons.
Redesdale's, (Lord,) Charity - -	327	17	5	Red.
Riccall - - - York:				
Robert Turie's Charity - -	43	0	11	Cons.
Susannah Wilke's Charity -	130	3	9	Cons.
Elizabeth Wilson's Charity -	544	4	4	New.
Riccall. *See* Stillingfleet.				
Ripon (City) - - York:				
Poor's Land Charity - -	1,549	17	4	Cons.
Rochdale - - Lancaster:				
Mrs. Grantham' Charity - -	107	16	4	Cons.
Rochester (City):				
Mrs. Susannah Kettle's Bequest for pensioners of St. Catherine's Hospital - - -	131	17	7	Red.
Rose Ash. *See* Witheridge.				
Royton. *See* Oldham.				
Runcorn and Halton - Chester:				
Rev. Thomas Alcock's Charities -	266	13	4	Cons.
Ruthin - - - Denbigh:				
Bishop Goodman's Charity -	610	6	4	Cons.
Ryton - - - Durham:				
Ralph Harrison's Charity -	119	4	0	Cons.
Robert Surtees' Charity - -	23	17	8	Cons.
Thomas Humble's Charity -	23	17	8	Cons.
Anthony Surtees' Charity -	59	12	0	Cons.
Sir John Clavering's Charity -	59	12	0	Cons.
Jane Grey's Charity - -	23	17	8	Cons.
Jane Forster's Charity - -	119	4	0	Cons.
Mrs. Simpson's Charity - -	35	16	8	Cons.
Walker Lawson's Charity -	160	0	0	Cons.
Sadberge in Haughton-le-Skerne - - - Durham:				
James Pallister's Charity - -	108	16	11	New.
Saffron Walden - - Essex:				
Sophia Richard's Bequest to King Edward VI. Almshouses -	180	17	4	Cons.
St. *See* next word.				
Sapcote - - - Leicester:				
John Frewen Turner's Charities -	1,600	0	0	Cons.
Sawrey School. *See* Hawkshead.				
Sevenoaks Weald - - Kent:				
Jane Austen's Infant School Charity - - -	215	6	10	Cons.
Shaftesbury - - Dorset:				
Free Grammar School - -	135	15	9	Cons.
Sheet. *See* Petersfield.				
Sherfield on Loddon - Southampton:				
Paynton Pigott Stainsby Conant's Charity - - -	666	13	4	Cons.
Skelton in Langbaurgh - York:				
Church Lands - - -	87	4	4	Cons.
Skipwith. *See* Stillingfleet.				
Smalley and Morley - Derby:				
School Charity - - -	423	19	1	Cons.
Somerton - - - Oxford:				
Thomas Fermor's School -	134	1	0	Cons.
Southgate in Edmonton - Middlesex:				
Elizabeth Cowling's Charity -	1,454	14	7	Cons.
Springthorpe - - Lincoln:				
Charities of Thomas West and Sarah Hill - - -	22	10	0	New.
Sproxton - - Leicester:				
Thomas Pick's Charity - -	13	10	8	Cons.

Locality or Designation of Charity.	Amount of Stock. £	s.	d.	Description.
Stalbridge - - Dorset:				
William Boucher's Charities -	563	9	7	Cons.
	262	9	0	Red.
Stamford (St. George) - Lincoln:				
The Conduit Charity - -	295	16	3	Cons.
Stanground - - Hunts:				
Rebecca Clarke's Charity -	101	11	10	Cons.
Stanmore (Great) - Middlesex:				
Catherine Elizabeth Martin's Bequest to Infant School - -	1,078	3	4	Cons.
Stanmore (Little) - Middlesex;				
Sir Lancelot Lake's Charity -	2,333	6	8	Cons.
Staveley in Cartmel - Lancashire:				
Charities of Mary Dixon - -	647	13	3	New.
Stillingfleet, Naburn, Wheldrake, Skipwith, Riccall, and Escrick - - - York:				
Frances Dowager Lady Howard's of Escrick Charity - -	549	17	10	Cons.
Stockton - - Warwick:				
The Church Charity - -	437	3	2	Cons.
Stokenham - - - Devon:				
Church Fund - - -	225	17	7	Cons.
Stonehouse (East) - - Devon:				
and Portsmouth - Southampton:				
Major Robert John Little's Charity - - -	200	0	0	Cons.
Stone Raise School. *See* Durdar.				
Stony Stratford - Bucks				
John Oliver's Charity - -	534	1	0	Cons.
Stourbridge - - Worcester:				
Free Grammar School of King Edward VI. - - -	139	14	8	Cons.
Stowey Nether - - Somerset:				
Mary Clutson's Charity - -	17	0	0	Cons.
Elizabeth Kiddell Syke's Charity	106	16	2	Cons.
Strickland Kettle and Strickland Roger - - Westmorland:				
Robert and Rowland Kichen's Charity - - - -	30	16	7	Cons.
Stroud - - - Gloucester:				
Thos. Webb's Charity - - -	200	0	0	Red.
Sunninghill - - - Berks:				
Ann Palmer's Charity - -	56	8	11	Cons.
Sutton at Hone - - Kent:				
Catherine Bammes's Charity -	33	6	8	Cons.
Sutton Coldfield - - Warwick:				
Free Grammar School - -	62	17	2	Cons.
Tamworth - Stafford and Warwick:				
Charities of Dame Ann Clobury and Rebecca Michell -	257	16	9	Cons.
Tanshelf in Pontefract - - York:				
Ward's Hospital - -	438	19	2	Cons.
Tetbury - - - Gloucester:				
Thomas Alexander's Charity -	235	0	0	New.
Mary Hone's Charity - -	188	4	2	New.
James Pickett's Charity - -	219	6	4	New.
Mary Summer's Charity -	100	0	0	New.
Thomas Talboy's Charity -	242	6	0	New.
John Wight's Charity - -	106	15	1	New.
Tewin - - - Herts:				
Margaret Sabine's Charity -	191	5	0	Red.
Thornham - - Norfolk:				
George Hogge's Charity -	400	0	0	Cons.
Thorpe Acre. *see* Dishley.				
Thundridge - - - Herts:				
James Wall's Charity - -	75	0	9	Cons.

Locality or Designation of Charity.	Amount of Stock. £ s. d.	Description.
Tidmarsh - - - Berks:		
Lady Anne Levingstone's Charity	200 0 0	Cons.
Tilstock - - - - Salop:		
Rev. Wm. Renton's Charity -	509 1 10	New.
Totteridge - - - Hertford:		
Sukey Richardson's Charity -	48 1 3	Cons.
William Sheppey's Charity -	2,100 0 0	Cons.
Tring (Little) - - Hertford:		
The Poor Houses - -	202 11 10	Cons.
Trusham - - - Devon:		
John Stooke's Almshouses -	64 17 3	Cons.
Turton - - - Lancaster:		
Humphrey Cheetham's Charity -	1,814 5 4	Cons.
Ulverstone (St. Mary) - Lancashire:		
Mary Webster's Charity for Organist -	193 11 0	Cons.
Uppingham - - - Rutland:		
The Langley Charity - -	400 0 0	E. I. Stk.
Upstreet in Chislet - - Kent:		
Mary Denne's Charity - -	200 0 0	Cons.
Wakefield - - - York:		
Town and Parish Charity -	177 8 5	Cons.
Walkern - - - Herts:		
John Izard Pryor's Charity -	108 11 0	New.
Wardington - - Oxford:		
George Watson's Charity -	133 6 11	Cons.
Weald in Bampton - - Oxford:		
Thos. Dewe's Charity - -	289 11 8	Cons.
Wellington - - - Salop:		
Churchyard Almshouses -	26 17 6	Cons.
Wem - - - Salop:		
Mary Hankey's Charities -	86 5 1	Cons.
Westby with Plumpton - Lancashire:		
Ann Moor's Charity - -	43 0 11	Cons.
Westminster (Christchurch):		
John Westbrook's Charity -	300 0 0	Cons.
Weston Zoyland - - Somerset:		
Jane Seymour's Charity - -	113 13 5	Red.
Wheelwright's Charities - -	1,677 1 11	Cons.
Wheldrake. *See* Stillingfleet.		
Whiston - - - York:		
Joseph Hammond's Charity -	110 2 2	Cons.
Whitchurch - - Salop:		
Elizabeth Langford's Almshouse Charity - - -	1,400 0 0	Cons.
Whitchurch and Ightfield - Salop:		
John Gregory's Charity - -	410 15 8	Cons.
Whitechapel - - Middlesex:		
Charities - - -	1,166 13 4	Cons.
Whitford - - - - Flint:		
John Davies' Bequest - -	300 0 0	Cons.
Whitstone - - - Devon:		
John Splatt's Gift - - -	74 15 4	Cons.
Whitwood in Featherstone - York:		
Charity for repair of Highways -	138 14 7	Cons.

Locality or Designation of Charity.	Amount of Stock. £ s. d.	Description.
Wigston (Great) - - Leicester:		
Charity of Wm. Law and others, otherwise the Poor's Charity - -	2,092 1 3	Cons.
Winchester (City):		
Thomas Ashton's Charity -	666 13 4	Cons.
Anthony Edmund's Charity -	530 11 4	Cons.
Magdalen Hospital - -	13 1 7	Cons.
Pemberton's Donation - -	133 6 8	Cons.
Margaret Yalden's Charity -	57 15 8	Cons.
Windlesham - - Surrey:		
Poor's Allotments - -	116 3 8	Cons.
Windsor (New) - - Berks:		
Thomas Aldem's Charity -	1,264 12 5	Cons.
Mary Field's Charity - -	219 6 9	New.
James Panton's Charity - -	56 1 3	New.
Windsor (Old) - Berks:		
Maria Hughes' Charity - -	100 0 0	New.
Wing - - Bucks:		
The Church Lands - -	475 0 8	Cons.
Winkfield - - Berks:		
The Cranbourn Schools - -	769 4 8	Red.
The Church Lands Charity and Vicar Pople's Charity -	214 15 4	Cons.
Poor's Fuel Allotment - -	3,852 13 6	Cons.
Winnersh and Hurst - Berks:		
The Fuel Allotment - -	438 19 2	Cons.
Wisbech - - Cambridge:		
William Raynor's Charity -	108 13 11	New.
Witheridge - - Devon:		
Charities of Lewis Melhuish and others - - - -	263 16 7	Cons.
Witheridge, Rose Ash, and Rackenford - - Devon:		
Mary Parkhouse's Charity -	301 3 7	Cons.
Wokingham - - Berks:		
Archbishop Laud's Charity -	200 0 0	Cons.
Wonston - - Southampton:		
Hon. Honora Legge's Charity -	100 0 0	Cons.
Wootton - - - Oxford:		
Rev. Lancelot Charles Lee's Charity - - -	750 0 0	Cons.
Rev. Charles Parrott's Charity -	2,711 3 1	Red.
Wootton - - - Lincoln:		
Charity of an unknown Donor -	67 0 0	Cons.
Worcester (St. Martin):		
St. Thomas' Day Charity -	2,230 13 11	Cons.
Wrockwardine - - Salop:		
Cluddes' Almshouses - -	318 8 9	Cons.
Jane Gilpin's Charity -	108 10 11	New.
Rev. Joshua Gilpin's Charity -	54 5 4	New.
Wymondley (Great and Little) - - Herts:		
James Lucas' Charity - -	150 0 0	Cons
Yarburgh - - - Lincoln:		
Rev. Henry Lloyd's Bequest -	107 10 7	Cons.
Yeovil - - - Somerset:		
Woborne's Almshouse - -	3,336 1 4	Cons.
Zeal Monachorum - - Devon:		
Weekes Hole's Charity - -	109 14 10	Cons.

Analytical Digest of the Endowed Local or Parochial Charities known to be subsisting in the under-mentioned Counties and Cities.

—	Gross Income.	Objects of Foundation or Purposes to which the Income is applicable.												
		Education.	Apprenticing of Children and Advancement.	Endowments of Clergy, Lecturers, and for Sermons.	Church Repairs and General Purposes.	Maintenance of Dissenting Places of Worship and their Ministers.	Education of Dissenters.	Public Parochial Uses.	Support of Almshouses and their Inmates, and of Pensioners.	Distribution of Articles in Kind.	Distribution of Money.	General Uses of the Poor.	Medical Relief.	On Grant of Loans.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Berkshire -	25,935 8 8	6,281 0 2	1,549 7 0	644 7 10	1,535 16 8	182 6 1	62 7 3	418 15 5	9,350 4 1	2,695 18 1	2,046 5 4	959 10 9	200 0 0	9 10 0
Cheshire -	14,261 12 2	5,127 17 9	752 5 1	261 17 0	236 10 4	82 1 8	46 1 8	557 16 9	2,103 5 8	1,379 9 6	3,450 13 8	255 0 4	8 12 9	—
Dorsetshire -	13,067 7 3	4,699 11 7	677 10 7	1,074 15 8	778 5 10	57 18 3	3 10 0	45 18 6	3,072 6 9	740 19 2	1,841 1 8	75 9 3	—	—
Essex - -	27,934 3 4	10,246 3 10	821 14 1	1,213 3 1	1,833 12 3	401 16 11	8 5 11	450 10 5	5,428 13 1	3,566 0 11	2,893 6 6	1,070 16 4	—	—
Hertfordshire -	18,332 14 11	6,696 1 9	742 1 6	655 7 2	1,068 19 0	276 16 11	- -	459 6 7	4,325 4 6	1,801 16 10	1,873 3 4	228 17 4	205 0 0	—
Kent - -	64,983 1 11	14,897 6 11	3,223 7 1	1,191 6 1	1,720 3 2	179 11 5	60 0 0	1,173 9 7	29,843 12 11	4,122 14 2	4,486 17 10	3,047 4 1	1,037 8 8	—
Leicestershire -	28,483 2 10	8,613 9 9	1,478 3 1	782 14 4	1,600 15 9	4 0 0	86 15 0	1,794 8 0	9,677 0 5	1,999 10 9	2,112 4 1	294 17 11	39 3 9	—
Middlesex -	51,793 4 0	17,023 16 9	2,728 9 6	660 15 7	2,313 7 9	544 12 2	2,611 16 2	1,588 14 6	12,130 5 0	6,215 2 5	5,161 6 9	793 18 4	20 19 1	—
Shropshire -	26,935 6 4	8,988 4 4	2,829 18 6	1,998 4 9	395 2 0	6 16 1	- -	524 11 4	6,807 10 11	1,752 9 3	2,523 18 3	1,108 10 11	—	—
Surrey - -	65,971 17 6	23,529 19 8	1,741 13 6	1,227 17 0	5,717 19 0	516 2 8	- -	821 1 9	18,079 19 3	6,847 15 6	5,734 19 10	887 5 4	867 4 0	—
City of London -	66,356 10 0	11,292 5 7	1,777 8 7	3,833 6 2	26,045 1 2	57 8 5	95 17 4	382 11 8	6,079 10 7	2,801 7 9	5,377 19 5	8,613 13 4	—	—
„ Westminster	26,666 2 2	7,070 1 10	2,299 6 8	1,232 17 8	265 19 0	- - -	- - -	- - -	11,562 4 3	134 9 7	1,659 11 11	459 13 7	1,200 16 7	781 1 1
	430,720 11 1	124,465 19 11	20,621 5 2	14,776 12 4	43,511 11 11	2,309 10 7	2,974 13 4	8,217 4 6	118,459 17 5	34,057 13 11	39,161 8 7	17,794 17 6	3,579 4 10	790 11 1

LONDON:
Printed by George E. Eyre and William Spottiswoode,
Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty.
For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

TITHE COMMISSION.

COPY of the REPORT of the TITHE COMMISSIONERS to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department, dated 29th January 1864.

[For the Year 1863.]

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

Copyhold, Inclosure, and Tithe Consolidated Commission,
29th January 1864.

SIR,

IT is our duty to forward to you the Report of our Proceedings in the Tithe Department of this Consolidated Commission to the close of the Year 1863.

We have received 7,070 Agreements and confirmed 6,778.

We have made 5,647 Drafts of compulsory Awards, and confirmed 5,449.

In 12,227 Districts, as will be seen from the above statement, the Tithes have been commuted by confirmed Agreements or confirmed Awards.

In 414 of these Districts the Rentcharges have been disposed of by Redemption or Merger.

We have received 11,786 Apportionments, and confirmed 11,780.

We have made 2,949 Altered Apportionments, and confirmed 2,552; and of these 171 have been received and 150 confirmed during the year 1863.

We have received 971 Applications for the Exchange of Glebe Lands, and confirmed 870 of such Exchanges; and of these 42 Applications were received and 47 Exchanges confirmed during the past year.

We have received 552 Applications for the Redemption of Rentcharge, and have completed 408 of such Redemptions; and of these 89 were received, and 89 completed during the year 1863.

We have received 8 Applications to convert variable Corn rents payable under local Acts of Parliament into Rentcharges to be henceforth payable in like manner as ordinary Tithe Rentcharges, and have completed Awards in 3 of these cases.

At the close of 1863 we had confirmed 14,640 distinct Mergers of Tithes or Rentcharges.

We annex an Abstract.

We have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your very obedient Servants,

G. DARBY.
G. RIDLEY.
G. W. COOKE.

To the Right Honourable
The Secretary of State for the Home Department,
&c. &c. &c.

ABSTRACT OF TITHE PROCEEDINGS.

Agreements received		7,070
Do. confirmed	6,778	
Do. superseded by awards	291	
		7,069
Do. in progress		1
Awards made		5,647
Do. confirmed	5,449	
Do. superseded by agreements	165	
		5,614
Do. in progress		33
Total number of agreements and awards confirmed		12,227
Tithe districts in which the rentcharges have been disposed of by merger or redemption	414	
Apportionments received	11,786	
		12,200
Tithe districts in which the rentcharges remain to be disposed of		27
Apportionments received		11,786
Do. confirmed		11,780
Do. in progress		6
Altered apportionments received		2,949
Do. confirmed	2,552	
Do. withdrawn	210	
		2,762
Do. in progress		187
Applications for the exchange of glebe lands received		971
Exchanges confirmed	870	
Do. withdrawn	65	
		935
Do. in progress		36
Applications for the redemption of rentcharge received		552
Redemptions confirmed		408
Do. in progress		144
Applications for the conversion of corn-rents received		8
Awards completed		3
Do. in progress		5
Mergers of tithe or rentcharge received		14,642
Do. confirmed		14,640
Do. in progress		2

31st December 1863.

TITHE COMMISSION.

COPY of the REPORT of the TITHE COMMISSIONERS to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department, dated 29th Jan. 1864.

[For the Year 1863.]

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

LONDON:
Printed by GEORGE E. EYRE and WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty.
For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

1864.

8925.

NINETEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONERS

OF

CHARITABLE DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS

FOR

IRELAND.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

DUBLIN:
PRINTED BY ALEXANDER THOM, 87 & 88, ABBEY-STREET,
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1864.

[*Price 2d.*]

[3287] Vol 18

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REPORT.

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR GRACIOUS MAJESTY,

1. We, the Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests for Ireland, appointed under an Act passed in the 7th and 8th years of your Majesty's Reign, entitled, "An Act for the more effectual Application of Charitable Donations and Bequests in Ireland," humbly beg leave to submit to your Majesty this our Nineteenth Annual Report.

2. In the First Schedule hereto annexed will be found the dates of the several meetings of our body, held since the 23rd January, 1863, together with the names of the members present thereat, respectively.

3. We annex to this our Report, in Schedule No. 2, a Copy of the Abstract of our Accounts in the several Charities under our administration, from 1st January, 1863, to 31st December last; the details of which have been lodged with Master Fitzgibbon for examination and audit.

4. That portion of our accounts, called our "Private Account," as distinguished from our "Charity Account," consisting of grants from the Treasury for the ordinary expenses of the Board, and the interest on a sum of £1,397 13*s.*, new 3 per cent. stock, called the "Embezzled Charity Recovery Fund," referred to more particularly in former Reports, is subject to the inspection of the Audit Office. We have, since our last Report, rendered to that Office Monthly Accounts, as required by the Commissioners of Audit, and we annex in Schedule No. 3, Copy of Certificate, showing that the balance returned up to 31st March last was correct. The above-mentioned sum of £1,397 13*s.*, new 3 per cent. stock, and a balance due upon our Monthly account to 1st February, of £56 0*s.* 7*d.*, are the only sums under our control not appropriated or belonging to any particular Charity Trust.

5. The total amount of the trust funds now under our care and control in cash, and vested in Government and other securities, is set forth in the 4th, 5th, and 6th Schedules annexed to this Report; the particulars of which, together with the objects of each trust fund, will be found in Schedule No. 7, also annexed.

6. The annual amount of rents and annuities under our guardianship, specifying the particular amount of each, with the name of the testator or donor by whom created, the source from whence each is derived, and the object of each trust, is given in Schedule No. 8, to this Report annexed; and in Schedule No. 9 will be found a Return of Charity Funds standing to the credit of causes or matters in the Court of Chancery, in which the title of the Charity has been established by decree or order.

7. All which we submit as our Report to Your Most Excellent Majesty, and in testimony thereof have caused our corporate seal to be hereunto affixed this 3rd day of March, 1864.

Present when seal affixed,

T. B. CUSACK SMITH, *Chairman*,
WILLIAM B. KIRKPATRICK, D.D.,
MOUNTIFORT LONGFIELD, LL.D.,
J. WEST, *Archdeacon*,
JONATHAN PIM,
} *Commissioners.*

SEAL.

HERCULES MACDONNELL,
WILLIAM GERNON,
} *Secretaries.*

APPENDIX

TO THE

NINETEENTH REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONERS OF CHARITABLE DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS FOR IRELAND.

SCHEDULES.

APPENDIX.

SCHEDULE No. 1.

Return of the Meetings of the Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests for Ireland, since the 23rd January, 1863.

RETURN of the Meetings of the Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests for Ireland, since the 23rd January, 1863, the dates thereof, and the Commissioners present at each Meeting up to the *present* time.

31*st January*, 1863.

The Right Honorable the Master of the Rolls in the Chair.
The Right Honorable John Hatchell.
The Right Honorable Mr. Justice Fitzgerald.
The Reverend W. B. Kirkpatrick, D.D.
The Honorable Judge Longfield.
The Venerable Archdeacon J. West.

5th February, 1863.

The Right Honorable the Master of the Rolls in the Chair.
The Honorable and Very Reverend the Dean of St. Patrick's.
The Right Honorable John Hatchell.
The Right Honorable Mr. Justice Fitzgerald.
The Honorable Judge Longfield.

12*th February*, 1863.

The Right Honorable the Master of the Rolls.
The Honorable and Very Reverend the Dean of St. Patrick's.
The Right Honorable John Hatchell.
The Right Honorable Mr. Justice Fitzgerald.
The Reverend W. B. Kirkpatrick, D.D.
The Honorable Judge Longfield.
The Venerable Archdeacon J. West.
Jonathan Pim, Esq.

19*th February*, 1863.

The Right Honorable the Master of the Rolls in the Chair.
The Honorable and Very Reverend the Dean of St. Patrick's.
The Right Honorable John Hatchell.
The Right Honorable Mr. Justice Fitzgerald.
The Venerable Archdeacon J. West.
Jonathan Pim, Esq.

5th March, 1863.

The Right Honorable the Master of the Rolls.
The Right Reverend Bishop Cornelius Denvir.
The Honorable and Very Reverend the Dean of St. Patrick's.
The Honorable Judge Longfield.

*** *And no other Commissioners having attended, no Board business could be transacted on this day.*

12*th March*, 1863.

The Right Honorable the Master of the Rolls in the Chair.
The Honorable and Very Reverend the Dean of St. Patrick's.
The Right Honorable John Hatchell.
The Honorable Judge Longfield.
The Venerable Archdeacon J. West.
Jonathan Pim, Esq.

19*th March*, 1863.

The Honorable and Very Reverend the Dean of St. Patrick's in the Chair.
The Right Honorable John Hatchell.
The Honorable Judge Longfield.
The Venerable Archdeacon J. West.
Jonathan Pim, Esq.

26*th March*, 1863.

The Right Honorable the Master of the Rolls in the Chair.
The Honorable and Very Reverend the Dean of St. Patrick's.
The Right Honorable John Hatchell.
The Reverend W. B. Kirkpatrick, D.D.
The Honorable Judge Longfield.
The Venerable Archdeacon J. West.
Jonathan Pim, Esq.

16*th April*, 1863.

The Right Honorable the Master of the Rolls in the Chair.
The Honorable and Very Reverend the Dean of St. Patrick's.
The Reverend W. B. Kirkpatrick, D.D.
The Honorable Judge Longfield.
The Venerable Archdeacon J. West.

23*rd April*, 1863.

The Right Honorable the Master of the Rolls in the Chair.
The Right Reverend Bishop Cornelius Denvir.
The Honorable and Very Reverend the Dean of St. Patrick's.
The Right Honorable John Hatchell.
The Reverend W. B. Kirkpatrick, D.D.
The Honorable Judge Longfield.
The Venerable Archdeacon J. West.

30*th April*, 1863.

The Right Honorable the Master of the Rolls in the Chair.
The Honorable and Very Reverend the Dean of St. Patrick's.
The Right Honorable John Hatchell.
The Reverend W. B. Kirkpatrick, D.D.
The Honorable Judge Longfield.

7*th May*, 1863.

The Right Honorable the Master of the Rolls in the Chair.
The Honorable and Very Reverend the Dean of St. Patrick's.
The Honorable Judge Longfield.
Jonathan Pim, Esq.

*** *And no other Commissioners having attended, no Board business could be transacted this day.*

16*th May*, 1863.

The Right Honorable the Master of the Rolls in the Chair.
The Very Reverend Dean Walter Meyler.
The Right Honorable Mr. Justice Fitzgerald.
The Reverend W. B. Kirkpatrick, D.D.
The Honorable Judge Longfield.
The Venerable Archdeacon John West.
Jonathan Pim, Esq.

21*st May*, 1863.

The Right Honorable the Master of the Rolls in the Chair.
The Right Honorable Mr. Justice Fitzgerald.
The Reverend W. B. Kirkpatrick, D.D.
The Honorable Judge Longfield.
Jonathan Pim, Esq.

APPENDIX.

SCHEDULE No. 1.

Return of the Meetings of the Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests for Ireland, since the 23rd January, 1863.

28th May, 1863.

The Right Honorable the Master of the Rolls in the Chair.
The Right Honorable Mr. Justice Fitzgerald.
The Reverend W. B. Kirkpatrick, D.D.
The Honorable Judge Longfield.
The Venerable Archdeacon J. West.
Jonathan Pim, Esq.

4th June, 1863.

The Right Honorable the Master of the Rolls.
The Right Honorable John Hatchell.
The Honorable Judge Longfield.

*** *And no other Commissioners having attended, no Board business could be transacted on this day.*

11th June, 1863.

The Right Honorable the Master of the Rolls.
The Honorable Judge Longfield.
The Venerable Archdeacon J. West.
Jonathan Pim, Esq.

*** *And no other Commissioners having attended, no Board business could be transacted on this day.*

18th June, 1863.

The Right Honorable the Master of the Rolls in the Chair.
The Right Honorable Mr. Justice Fitzgerald.
The Reverend W. B. Kirkpatrick, D.D.
The Honorable Judge Longfield.
Jonathan Pim, Esq.

25th June, 1863.

The Right Honorable the Master of the Rolls in the Chair.
The Right Reverend Bishop Cornelius Denvir.
The Right Honorable Mr. Justice Fitzgerald.
The Reverend W. B. Kirkpatrick, D.D.
The Honorable Judge Longfield.
Jonathan Pim, Esq.

2nd July, 1863.

The Right Honorable the Master of the Rolls in the Chair.
The Right Honorable John Hatchell.
The Honorable Baron Hughes.
The Reverend W. B. Kirkpatrick, D.D.
The Venerable Archdeacon J. West.
Jonathan Pim, Esq.

5th November, 1863.

The Right Honorable the Master of the Rolls in the Chair.
The Honorable and Very Reverend the Dean of St. Patrick's.
John Ennis, Esq., M.P.
The Right Honorable Mr. Justice Fitzgerald.
The Honorable Judge Longfield.
The Venerable Archdeacon J. West.
Jonathan Pim, Esq.

12th November, 1863.

The Right Honorable the Master of the Rolls in the Chair.
The Honorable and Very Reverend the Dean of St. Patrick's.
John Ennis, Esq., M.P.
The Right Honorable John Hatchell.
The Reverend W. B. Kirkpatrick, D.D.
The Honorable Judge Longfield.
The Venerable Archdeacon J. West.
Jonathan Pim, Esq.

19th November, 1863.

The Right Honorable the Master of the Rolls in the Chair.
The Honorable and Very Reverend the Dean of St. Patrick's.
The Right Honorable John Hatchell.
The Reverend W. B. Kirkpatrick, D.D.
The Right Honorable Mr. Justice Fitzgerald.
The Honorable Judge Longfield.
The Venerable Archdeacon J. West.
Jonathan Pim, Esq.

26th November, 1863.

The Right Honorable the Master of the Rolls in the Chair.
The Honorable and Very Reverend the Dean of St. Patrick's.
The Right Honorable Mr. Justice Fitzgerald.
The Honorable Judge Longfield.
The Venerable Archdeacon J. West.
Jonathan Pim, Esq.

3rd December, 1863.

The Right Honorable the Master of the Rolls in the Chair.
The Honorable and Very Reverend the Dean of St. Patrick's.
The Right Honorable John Hatchell.
The Reverend W. B. Kirkpatrick, D.D.
The Honorable Judge Longfield.
Jonathan Pim, Esq.

10th December, 1863.

The Right Honorable the Master of the Rolls in the Chair.
The Right Honorable John Hatchell.
The Right Honorable Mr. Justice Fitzgerald.
The Reverend W. B. Kirkpatrick, D.D.
The Honorable Judge Longfield.
The Venerable Archdeacon J. West.
Jonathan Pim, Esq.

17th December, 1863.

The Right Honorable the Master of the Rolls.
The Reverend W. B. Kirkpatrick, D.D.
The Honorable Judge Longfield.
Jonathan Pim, Esq.

*** *And no other Commissioners having attended, no Board business could be transacted on this day.*

14th January, 1864.

The Right Honorable the Master of the Rolls in the Chair.
The Right Honorable John Hatchell.
The Reverend W. B. Kirkpatrick, D.D.
The Honorable Judge Longfield.
The Venerable Archdeacon J. West.
Jonathan Pim, Esq.

21st January, 1864.

The Right Honorable the Master of the Rolls in the Chair.
The Right Honorable John Hatchell.
John Ennis, Esq., M.P.
The Right Honorable Mr. Justice Fitzgerald.
The Reverend W. B. Kirkpatrick, D.D.
The Honorable Judge Longfield.
The Venerable Archdeacon J. West.
Jonathan Pim, Esq.

28th January, 1864.

The Right Honorable the Master of the Rolls in the Chair.
The Right Honorable John Hatchell.
The Honorable Judge Longfield.
The Venerable Archdeacon J. West.
Jonathan Pim, Esq.

4th February, 1864.

The Right Honorable the Master of the Rolls.
The Right Honorable John Hatchell.
The Honorable Judge Longfield.
The Venerable Archdeacon J. West.

*** *And no other Commissioners having attended, no Board business could be transacted on this day.*

APPENDIX.

SCHEDULE No. 2.

Abstract of the Accounts of the Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests for Ireland, in the several Charities under their Administration for the year ended 31st December, 1863.

ABSTRACT OF THE ACCOUNTS OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF CHARITABLE DONATIONS AND

1st January to 31st

THE CHARGE.

GOVERNMENT STOCK

	£	s.	d.
To amount of Government Stock and Debentures to credit of the Commissioners on 1st day of January, 1863, as per last Account rendered, . . .	217,737	12	4
To amount of Government Stock received from 1st day of January to 31st December, 1863, per Schedules A. B., ...	1,937	5	11
	£219,674	18	3

CASH

		£	s.	d.
January 1, 1863.	To amount due to Charities, per last account audited and declared,	1,108	6	10
31st December.	To amount received from Rents and Annuities, Schedule C, .	979	12	7
„	To do. do. from Interest on Stock and Debentures, Schedule E, ...	6,591	17	1
„	To do. do. from Sale of Stock, Schedules A and B, .	1,610	9	4
„	To do. do. from other sources, Schedule D, . .	342	6	2
„	To do. do. advanced to Charities, Schedule G, .	83	3	1
		£10,715	15	1

STATE OF BALANCE.

		£	s.	d.
Advances, as above, ...		83	3	1
In Bank, per certificate, ...	£705 16 0			
Less outstanding Drafts of 1859, £1 11*s.* 3*d.*; and of 1860, No. 1767, 18*s.* 6*d.*, ...	2 9 9			
		703	6	3
Disallowances, as stated in last accounts, being embezzlements by late Accountant, E. W. Mathews, ...		387	9	8
Draft on General Account, charged in Charity Account, 13*s.*, Stamps, 1*s.* 3*d.*, .		0	14	3
		£1,174	13	3

Present when Seal affixed, this 11th day of February, 1864,

T. B. C. SMITH, *Chairman*,
J. D. FITZGERALD,
MOUNTIFORT LONGFIELD,
W. B. KIRKPATRICK,
JONATHAN PIM,
} *Commissioners.*

SEAL.

HERCULES MACDONNELL,
WILLIAM GERNON,
} *Secretaries.*

BEQUESTS FOR IRELAND, in the several Charities under their administration, from December, 1863.

THE DISCHARGE.

AND DEBENTURE ACCOUNT.

	£	s.	d.
By Government Consols, sold or transferred, per Schedules A, B, . . .	9,118	16	3
By New 3 per Cents. sold or transferred, per ditto, . . .	3,218	6	4
By balance standing to the credit of the Commissioners in the Bank of Ireland on the 31st December, 1863, ...	207,337	15	8

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
In Government Stock, ...	206,960	17	2			
In Debentures and Mortgage, . . .	376	18	6			
	£207,337	15	8	£219,674	18	3

ACCOUNT.

		£	s.	d.
31st December, 1863.	By amount paid under orders of Commissioners, the vouchers for which are numbered consecutively from No. 1 to No. 659, ...	8,780	8	8
„	By amount invested in (new) 3 per cent. Stock, Schedules A and B,	480	19	6
„	By do. do. 3 per cent. do., Schedules A and B,	198	8	5
„	By do. advanced to Charities in last year's account, .	81	5	3
„	By balance due to Charities, Schedule F, . . .	1,174	13	3
		£10,715	15	1

I, ROBERT MOLLOY, do solemnly and sincerely declare, that this, the Account of the Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests for Ireland, from 1st January to 31st December, 1863, rendered by me as their Accountant, is just and true, according to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I make this solemn declaration, conscientiously believing the same to be true.

ROBERT MOLLOY,
Accountant to said Commissioners.

Declared before me, at Dublin Castle,
this 2nd day of February 1864,
JOHN L. O'FERRALL.

APPENDIX.

SCHEDULE No. 3.

We, being Commissioners for Auditing the Public Accounts, hereby certify that the Account of the Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests, as rendered by Robert Molloy, Esq., their Accountant, from 1st April, 1862, to 31st March, 1863, was signed and passed under the 4th section of the Act 2 & 3 Will. 4th, chap. 99, on the 14th December, 1863; and that the following sums form the Charge and Discharge on the said Account:—

Charge, ...	£1,065 18 9
Discharge, ...	928 1 5

and that on the said Account the Accountants are indebted in the sum of £137 17*s.* 4*d.*

Given under our Hand at our Office, Somerset House, this 14th day of December, 1863.

HENRY ARBUTHNOT,
R. VAUGHAN DAVIS.

SCHEDULE No. 4.

Return of the Amount of Government Stock standing to the credit of the Commissioners.

RETURN of Amount of Government Stock standing to the credit of the Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests for Ireland, in the Books of the Bank of Ireland, on 31st December, 1862.

Bank of Ireland, 21st January, 1864.

I certify that it appears by the Books of the Bank of Ireland, there remained a Balance of £122,025 6*s.* 8*d.*, new 3 per cent. Government Stock, and £84,935 10*s.* 6*d.*, Government 3 per cent. Consols, to the credit of the Account of the Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests for Ireland, on the 31st day of December, 1862.

For the Governor and Company of the Bank of Ireland,

W. T. BRISCOE, *Stock Leger Keeper.* ROBERT ROBERTS, *Transfer Officer.*

SCHEDULE No. 5.

Return of Debentures, the Property of the Commissioners.

RETURN of Debentures deposited in the Bank of Ireland, the property of the Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests for Ireland.

Bank of Ireland, 19th January, 1864.

I certify that the following Debentures and Mortgage, the property of the Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests for Ireland, have been deposited in the Bank of Ireland since the 26th March, 1848:—

		£	*s.*	*d.*
One Ballast Office Debenture for		92	6	2
A Mortgage upon the county of Dublin Rates for £184 12*s.* 3*d.*, bearing interest at 3 per cent. in place of	One Kinnegad Turnpike Debenture for	46	3	1
	„ ditto, . . .	46	3	1
	„ ditto, . . .	46	3	1
	„ Dunleer Turnpike do. .	46	3	1
One Ballingarry Loan Fund Debenture for		100	0	0
		£376	18	6

For the Governor and Company of the Bank of Ireland,

P. DUBEDAT, *Secretary.*

SCHEDULE No. 6.

Return of Cash Balance in Bank to the credit of Commissioners.

RETURN of the Amount of Cash standing to the credit of the Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests for Ireland, in the Books of the Bank of Ireland, on the 31st December, 1863.

I certify that there remained a Balance of £705 16*s.* 0*d.* to the Credit of the Account of the Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests' "Charity Account," in the Books of the Bank, on the 31st day of December, 1863.

Dublin, 23rd January, 1864.

For the Governor and Company of the Bank of Ireland,

W. HODGES, *Accountant-General.*

SCHEDULE No. 7.

Schedule showing for what Trusts the Government Stocks under the Guardianship of the Commissioners are held.

SCHEDULE showing for what Trusts the Government Stocks under the Guardianship of the Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests for Ireland are held, 31st day of December, 1863.

Donor or Testator.	Charity.	Government Consols.			Half-yearly Interest.		
		£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Aghalee Union Fund, .	Poor of Aghalee, ...	172	9	11	2	11	10
Aldworth, St. Leger, .	„ Newmarket, . . .	276	18	8	4	3	1
Aldworth, R. R. . .	„ do. . . .	102	19	10	1	10	11
Archbold, Mrs. . .	Derryaghy, purchase of spinning wheels, .	91	9	0	1	7	8
Belfast Fund, . .	Incorporated Charitable Society, . .	782	13	6	11	14	9
Boyle, Margaret, .	Coombe Lying-in Hospital, . .	387	3	11	5	16	3
Browne, Colonel R. .	Freshford Dispensary, . . .	120	12	8	1	16	2
Burgh Fund, . .	Poor of Naas, ...	361	2	7	5	8	4
Cavan Fund, . .	Cavan Sick Poor, ...	903	4	2	13	10	11
Chapelliere, Louis, .	Kilkenny Marriage Portions, . .	426	12	11	6	8	0
Crawford, William, .	Kilwaugher Poor, . . .	48	15	0	0	14	8
Craven, Alice, . .	Limerick Poor Widows, . . .	714	16	6	10	14	6
Crone, John, . .	Poor of Doneraile and Cahirduggan, .	895	8	1	13	8	8
Ditto, . . .	„ Ballingarry, . . .	1,116	11	5	16	15	0
Cunningham, Samuel, .	„ Killead, ...	114	8	2	1	14	4

Schedule—*continued.*

Donor or Testator.	Charity.	Government Consols. £	s.	d.	Half-yearly Interest. £	s.	d.
Davis, Rev. Samuel,	Mendicity Association,	55	16	4	0	16	9
Disraeli, Benjamin,	School at Rathvilly,	3,102	12	2	46	10	9
Ditto,	Poor of ditto, in purchase of provisions, Christmas Eve,	503	16	4	7	11	1
Edwards, Hugh,	Castlederg School,	291	3	1	4	7	4
Erskine, William,	Cavan Fever Hospital,	130	17	1	1	19	3
Fairbrother, William,	Poor of Wicklow,	124	11	9	1	17	5
Fanning, Jas., and others,	Waterford Fanning Institution,	34,934	8	7	524	0	4
Fanning, James,	Kilkenny, Poor of Five Townlands in,	3,790	3	10	56	17	1
Fox, Mrs.	Poor of St. John's Parish, Dublin,	54	17	4	0	16	6
Frost, Edward,	„ Dunganstown,	116	6	10	1	14	11
Goold, Michael,	„ Gurrane,	310	14	11	4	13	2
Graves, Dr. H. M.	„ Templemore,	54	13	11	0	16	5
Hall, Dr. J.	Alms-house and School, Limerick,	521	8	4	7	16	5
Hall, Rowley,	Poor of Lisburn,	113	14	1	1	14	3
Ditto,	Lancasterian School in Lisburn,	61	10	10	0	18	5
Hamilton, General,	The Minister of Holy Cross,	331	6	7	4	19	5
Hanrahan, Thomas,	Poor of Tuam,	201	15	11	3	0	6
Hodgens, Thomas,	Alms-house, Kildalkey,	31	8	3	0	9	4
Hore, Rev. Thomas,	Poor of Roscarberry,	274	6	7	4	2	3
Ditto,	Rossnacreina School,	14	6	4	0	4	3
Jackson, Margaret,	Hibernian Bible Society,	57	6	6	0	17	2
Ditto,	Poor of Monaghan,	607	2	8	9	2	1
Jacobs, Rev. R. S.	Protestant Poor of Killenaule,	69	12	6	1	0	11
Johnston, Mary,	Poor of Drumcree,	100	2	6	1	10	0
Julianstown Fund,	„ Julianstown,	126	18	11	1	18	1
Keatinge, R. S.	„ Drumcollogher,	153	10	11	2	6	2
Kennedy, John,	„ Hollywood,	216	14	11	3	5	0
Lawder, James,	„ Kilmore,	133	5	0	2	0	0
Lombard, Rev. G.	Six Poor People of Kilshannig,	228	5	10	3	8	6
Lowe, Robert,	Poor of Clonmel and Cashel,	24	0	9	0	7	2
Massey, Miss F.	„ St. Multose, Kinsale,	200	2	2	3	0	0
Masterson, J. J.	Manorhamilton School,	900	0	0	13	10	0
Mills, John,	Dinner on Christmas Day to Inmates of Wicklow Gaol,	117	8	1	1	15	3
M'Kenny, Elizabeth,	Poor of Slough,	56	14	10	0	17	0
Ditto,	„ Lisburn,	200	8	8	3	0	1
Molyneux, Sir Capel,	After death of Schoolmaster and Wife, to Poor of Loughgall,	666	13	4	10	0	0
M'Cluney, Robert,	Incorporated Charitable Society, Belfast,	109	18	9	1	12	11
Ditto,	Fever Hospital,	109	18	9	1	12	11
Ditto,	Surgical „	123	3	7	1	17	0
M'Cluney, Mrs. C.	Incorporated Charitable Society, Belfast,	51	14	10	0	15	6
Ditto,	Fever Hospital,	51	14	10	0	15	6
Ditto,	Surgical „	82	1	4	1	4	7
Ditto,	Ulster Deaf and Dumb Institution,	51	14	9	0	15	6
Newman, Mrs. E.	Poor of Kilshannig,	186	7	6	2	15	10
Northumberland Fund,	Mendicity Association,	5,180	18	10	77	14	4
Power, Rev. John,	Poor of Cahir,	656	0	10	9	16	10
Power, Mary,	Old Ladies' Asylum, Waterford,	2,487	1	11	37	6	2
Ditto,	Convent Children, do.	1,658	1	4	24	17	6
Ditto,	Poor Boys, do.	829	0	7	12	8	9
Quinn, Alice,	School and Poor of Waterford and Tramore,	666	1	6	9	19	10
Ditto,	Poor Debtors, Waterford,	516	11	8	7	14	11
Sandes, George,	Poor of Rosinallis,	207	14	1	3	2	3
Sinclair, Thomas,	„ Hollywood,	49	10	6	0	14	11
Ditto,	Belfast Fever Hospital,	49	10	6	0	14	11
Ditto,	„ Poorhouse,	49	10	7	0	14	11
Shanks, John,	Poor of Lisburn,	1,389	11	0	20	16	11
Smith, Bishop,	Pious charitable uses as the Bishop of Limerick, for time being, should direct,	903	7	0	13	11	0
Smith, Rev. Dr. Thomas,	Parishes of Annahilt and Magheralin,	50	0	0	0	15	0
Southwell, Rev. Dr.	Poor Protestants of Castlemartyr,	63	13	7	0	19	1
Southwell, Sir R.	Alms-house, Kinsale,	102	0	10	1	10	8
Stewart, Dr. William,	Poor of Lisburn,	56	11	7	0	16	11
Stopford, Bishop,	„ Kintennel,	199	12	9	2	19	11
Simpson, John,	„ St. Anne's, Shandon,	1,119	13	2	16	15	11
Swanzy, John,	Poor Protestants of Clontibret,	214	0	5	3	4	2
Tate, William,	Bread for Wexford Poor,	1,567	13	8	23	10	3
Thompson, Thomas,	Muckamore Abbey School,	274	6	11	4	2	5
Thomas, General Lewis,	Poor of Naas,	636	15	8	9	11	1
Trail, Archdeacon,	„ Lisburn,	58	18	4	0	17	8
Ditto,	„ Billy,	91	2	6	1		4

APPENDIX.

SCHEDULE No. 7.

Schedule showing for what Trusts the Government Stocks under the Guardianship of the Commissioners are held.

Schedule—*continued.*

Donor or Testator.	Charity.	Government Consols. £	s.	d.	Half-yearly Interest. £	s.	d.
Tuthill, Barbara,	Roman Catholic Magdalen Asylum, Protestant Blind Asylum, Protestant Orphan Asylum, Lying-in Hospital, Protestant Penitentiary, Poor Debtors in Gaols, Blanket and Fuel Fund, Limerick,	898	1	7	13	9	4
Ditto,	Protestant Widows, St. John's, Limerick,	88	1	5	1	6	5
Verner, Thomas,	Sunday-school at Donaghmore,	143	3	10	2	3	0
Ward, Hon. Sophia,	Poor of Ballyculter,	2,753	9	11	41	6	0
Ditto,	Mendicity Association, Dublin,	283	8	3	4	5	0
Ward, Right Hon. Robt.	School at Bangor, County Down,	2,023	9	6	30	7	1
Warren, William,	Poor of Rathconnel,	329	4	0	4	18	9
Williams, Henry,	Hospital for Incurables, Dublin,	322	11	0	4	16	9
Ditto,	Sick and Indigent Roomkeepers, Dublin,	215	0	3	3	4	6
Ditto,	Molyneux Blind Asylum, „	161	5	2	2	8	5
Ditto,	Old Man's Asylum, „	161	5	2	2	8	5
Ditto,	Deaf and Dumb, Claremont, „	215	0	3	3	4	6
Ditto,	Protestant Orphan Society, „	215	0	3	3	4	6
Ditto,	Methodist Widow, „	107	9	10	1	12	3
Wyse, James,	Waterford Poor Men's Asylum,	1,170	1	2	17	11	0
Ditto,	Coals for Poor of Waterford,	505	2	9	7	11	6
Wright, Joseph,	Poor of Monasteroris,	70	13	9	1	1	3
Waterhouse, William,	Fever Hospital, Waterford,	7	19	8	0	2	4
	Total,	£84,935	10	6	1,274	0	8

Donor or Testator.	Charity.	Government New 3 per Cent. Stock. £	s.	d.	Half-yearly Interest. £	s.	d.
Adair, Rev. Dr.	Fermoy School,	1,237	9	0	18	11	2
Allen, Joseph,	Poor of Gorey,	200	0	0	3	0	0
Aldworth, St. Leger,	Poor Annuitants of New Market,	327	8	2	4	18	2
Audoen's, St., Parish,	St. Audoen's Alms-house,	184	16	3	2	15	6
Banks, Anne,	Protestant Orphan Society, Limerick,	1,000	0	0	15	0	0
Ditto,	Lying-in Hospital, „	1,000	0	0	15	0	0
Ditto,	Clergy Widows' Fund, „	1,230	8	7	18	9	2
Ditto,	Barrington's Hospital, „	1,000	0	0	15	0	0
Ditto,	County Infirmary, „	1,000	0	0	15	0	0
Ditto,	Fever Hospital, „	1,000	0	0	15	0	0
Ditto,	Female Blind Asylum, „	500	0	0	7	10	0
Ditto,	Magdalen Asylum, „	500	0	0	7	10	0
Ditto,	Female Blind and Magdalen Asylum,	421	0	2	6	6	4
Barrett, Rev. Dr.	Sick & Indigent St. Michan's Parish, Dublin,	105	13	0	1	11	8
Batchelor, John,	„ St. Audoen's „ „	205	17	8	3	1	9
Ditto,	„ St. George's „ „	212	14	7	3	3	10
Ditto,	„ St. John's „ „	212	6	9	3	3	9
Ditto,	„ St. Luke's „ „	212	6	9	3	3	10
Ditto,	„ St. Mary's „ „	212	14	2	3	3	9
Ditto,	„ St. Michael's „ „	200	0	0	3	0	0
Ditto,	„ St. Michan's „ „	209	2	0	3	2	9
Ditto,	„ St. Nicholas in „ „	212	14	7	3	3	10
Ditto,	„ St. Nicholas out „ „	210	3	0	3	3	0
Ditto,	„ St. Paul's „ „	212	13	9	3	3	10
Ditto,	„ St. Thomas's „ „	212	10	6	3	3	9
Ditto,	„ St. Werburgh's „ „	212	14	2	3	3	10
Bellew, Bishop,	Schools at Killala,	2,000	0	0	30	0	0
Belvidere, Lady,	The Bethesda School, Dublin,	300	10	4	4	10	1
Ditto,	St. George's Parish School, „	298	19	4	4	9	9
Bennett, George,	Poor of Templemore,	234	7	0	3	10	4
Benton, Dr. John,	Poor of Drumard,	254	0	6	3	16	2
Bertrand, Peter,	Alms House, Dublin,	880	17	6	13	4	3
Blennerhassett, William,	Schools at Killorgen, County Kerry,	790	5	7	11	17	1
Bryan, Jane and Mary,	Poor Widows, St. Mary's, Shandon,	108	2	5	1	12	5
Board's private fund,	Embezzled Charity Recovery Fund,	1,397	13	0	20	19	2
Brereton, Rev. G.	Sick Poor of Rahan,	200	11	10	3	0	2
Brett, John,	Bread and Mutton on Christmas Eve to Poor Roomkeepers in Downpatrick,	296	7	10	4	8	11
Burrowes, Eleanor,	Cavan Fever Hospital,	243	14	7	3	13	1
Cliffe, Anthony,	Poor of New Ross,	457	8	0	6	17	2
Clarence School Fund,	Mendicity Association School,	1,000	0	0	15	0	0
Clendenning, George,	Vicar, for Protestant Poor of Westport,	178	11	6	2	13	7
Connell, William,	Poor of Clonfert,	74	1	0	1	2	2
Cotter, H. J.	Scriptural Education, Rahan, County Cork,	149	6	8	2	4	10
Crofton, M. A.	School, County Cork,	608	6	4	9	2	5
Cunningham, George,	Sick Poor Institution, New Ross; or, that failing, the Friends of Education,	1,382	0	2	20	14	8
Darcy, Nicholas,	Poor of Loughrea,	1,858	11	10	27	17	7
Deane, Moses,	Parish of St. Nicholas, Cork,	5,559	17	8	83	8	0

Schedule—*continued.*

Donor or Testator.	Charity.	Government New 3 per Cent. Stock. £	s.	d.	Half-yearly Interest. £	s.	d.
Deane, Moses,	Parish of St. Mary's, Shandon, Cork,	2,001	2	8	30	0	4
Deane, Thomas,	Cork Alms-house and Schools,	1,015	11	3	15	4	8
Delacherois, Nicholas,	Poor of Lisburn,	464	11	5	6	19	5
Denvir, Rt. Rev. Bishop,	Masses in Glenavey,	817	19	6	12	5	5
Destournel, Eleanor,	Poor of Castlemacadam,	104	1	4	1	11	3
Ditto,	„ Dunganstown,	95	16	3	1	8	8
Donovan, Rev. Edward,	„ Ballymere,	95	13	7	1	8	8
Eaton, Catherine,	„ Wicklow,	734	9	3	11	0	4
Farrell, James,	Clonmel Surgical Hospital,	589	17	2	8	17	0
Faviere, Rev. Jos.	Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital,	4,350	0	0	65	5	0
Felster, George,	Poor of German Church, Poolbeg-st., Dublin,	326	8	6	4	17	11
Freke, P. Evans,	„ Wexford,	12	4	1	0	3	7
Goff, Joseph,	School of St. Werburgh's, Dublin,	52	16	2	0	15	10
Green, Hannah,	Poor of Donnybrook,	115	7	0	1	14	9
Hamilton, Rev. J.	„ Killough,	604	14	3	9	1	5
Hall, Dr. Jeremiah,	Limerick Alms-house and School,	312	2	3	4	13	8
Hamilton, Quinton,	Poor of Glanmire,	551	11	0	8	5	5
Herron, Samuel,	„ Lisburn,	188	9	8	2	16	7
Higgins, Francis,	Debtors in Marshalsea, Dublin, at Christmas,	923	15	1	13	17	2
Hutchinson, Lady,	Curates' Widows, Ardagh,	1,008	19	5	15	2	8
Ditto,	„ Killala,	1,125	2	10	16	17	6
Ditto,	House of Refuge, Dublin,	504	11	10	7	11	5
Ditto,	Richmond Blind, „	504	11	10	7	11	5
Ditto,	Shelter for Females, „	504	11	9	7	11	5
Ditto,	Mercer's Hospital, „	504	11	10	7	11	5
Ditto,	Meath Loan, „	504	11	10	7	11	5
Ditto,	Magdalen Asylum, „	504	11	10	7	11	5
Ditto,	House of Recovery, „	504	11	10	7	11	5
Ditto,	Reception for Servants, ditto,	504	11	10	7	11	5
Ditto,	Molyneux Asylum, ditto,	504	11	10	7	11	5
Ditto,	Hibernian Bible Society, ditto,	504	11	9	7	11	5
Ditto,	Sunday School Society, ditto,	504	11	10	7	11	5
Ditto,	Sick and Indigent Roomkeepers' Society, do.	504	11	10	7	11	5
Hughes, Eleanor,	Orphans' Schools, Townsend-street,	898	18	2	13	9	8
Jackson, Myles,	Poor of Ballingarry,	1,212	3	4	18	3	7
Jackson, Margaret,	„ Clontibret and Cornibrook,	208	16	4	3	2	8
Ditto,	Church Missionary Society,	51	4	7	0	15	3
Keary, Michael,	Sick and Indigent Roomkeepers, Dublin,	250	1	2	3	15	0
Ditto,	Widows' House, Cork-street, Dublin,	250	1	2	3	15	0
Ditto,	Asylum, Rainsford-street, Dublin,	500	2	4	7	10	0
Ditto,	Education of Roman Catholic Children, St. James's Parish, Dublin,	500	2	4	7	10	0
Ditto,	Ditto, of Clontarf, county Dublin,	500	2	4	7	10	0
Ditto,	Ditto, of Baldoyle, do.	500	2	4	7	10	0
Ditto,	Ditto, of Howth, do.	500	2	4	7	10	0
Killala Fund,	Killala Clergy Widows,	1,319	1	4	19	15	9
Kendall, Anne,	Poor of Athy,	1,237	16	10	18	11	2
Kerevan, Dr.	Charitable Society, Kilkenny,	486	6	2	7	5	11
Ditto,	Benevolent, „ „	486	6	2	7	5	11
Ditto,	Walkin-st. Poorhouse, „	486	6	2	7	5	11
Ditto,	Female Orphan School, „	291	15	8	4	7	6
Ditto,	Chapel-lane, „ „	194	10	6	2	18	3
Kellett, Anne,	Schools, Meath and Dublin,	206	18	2	3	2	1
Leake, Surgeon,	Mendicity Association, Dublin,	3,876	18	0	58	3	0
Lee, Jane,	Poor of Carrickfergus,	211	8	4	3	3	6
Leighs,	„ Lisburn,	268	4	0	4	0	5
Lett, Stephen,	„ Mulrankin, Kiltrastran, & Moyglass,	46	3	0	0	13	10
Lill, Dr.	Armagh Infirmary,	917	8	3	13	15	3
Lovett, J. H.	Poor of Lismore,	558	17	0	8	7	8
Lowe, Robert,	„ Clonmel and Cashel,	1,285	2	2	19	5	6
Ditto,	„ Fethard,	187	12	1	2	16	3
Macklin, Ralph,	School Building Fund of St. Anne's, St. Andrew's, and St. Werburgh's, Dublin,	362	1	2	5	8	7
Madden, James,	Poor of Kilcoleman,	213	5	9	3	4	0
Magan, Elizabeth,	St. George's Protestant Parochial School, Dublin,	512	10	2	7	13	8
Mahon, Bartholomew,	Poor of Bumlin, Kiltruton, and Liscanuffy,	969	18	7	14	11	0
M'Call, Samuel,	Presbyterian Congregation, Cork,	415	2	10	6	4	6
Ditto,	Poor of Glanmire,	393	0	1	5	18	0
M'Kiernan, John,	Protestant Poor, St. Michan's, Dublin,	51	7	6	0	15	5
Ditto,	Roman Catholic Poor, do. do.	102	15	1	1	10	10
Moira Parish Fund,	Poor of Moira,	479	1	7	7	3	8
Morris, Thomas,	„ Lisburn,	97	4	10	1	9	2
Moxley, William,	Poor Tradesmen, Bandon,	455	0	11	6	16	6
Ditto,	Bible Society, do.	113	15	2	1	14	2
Ditto,	Missionary, do.	113	15	2	1	14	2
Ditto,	Benevolent Society, do.	113	15	2	1	14	2

APPENDIX.

SCHEDULE No. 7.

Schedule showing for what Trusts the Government Stocks under the Guardianship of the Commissioners are held.

Schedule—*continued.*

Donor or Testator.	Charity.	Government New 3 per Cent. Stock. £	s.	d.	Half-yearly Interest. £	s.	d.
Needham, Thomas,	Poor of St. Luke's, Dublin,	485	0	10	7	5	7
Newman, Henry,	Poor of Kilshannig,	53	8	0	0	16	0
O'Donnell, Mrs.	„ Burrishoole,	420	0	0	6	6	0
O'Neill, Hugh,	Apprenticing Fund, Dublin,	3,041	17	7	45	12	5
O'Neill, Mark Kerr,	Poor of Agherton,	287	9	5	4	6	1
Palmer, Roger,	Marriage Portions, Rush, county Dublin,	3,121	7	7	46	16	5
Paul, Mrs. Urith,	Stokestown (county Wexford) School,	6,114	5	9	91	14	5
Persse, Parsons,	School at Illerton, county Galway,	232	1	2	3	9	7
Power, Mary,	Old Ladies' Asylum, Waterford,	1,175	1	2	17	12	11
Ditto,	Convent Children, „	1,019	7	3	15	5	9
Ditto,	Poor Boys, „	507	17	0	7	12	5
Power, William,	Gurteen Asylum, county Waterford,	7,416	15	8	111	4	10
Purcell, William,	Kilkenny Poor,	659	8	5			
Rush, Judith,	Poor of Mullingar,	756	0	9	11	7	0
Ryan, Kennedy,	Charleville Roman Catholic Free School,	246	14	5	3	14	0
Smith, Henry,	Poor of Colpe,	193	16	0	2	18	2
Sproule, Andrew,	„ Urney,	717	19	0	10	15	4
St. Mark's Fund,	St. Mark's Hospital, Dublin,	845	17	3	12	13	10
St. Paul's Parish,	Coal Fund, do.	55	4	0	0	16	7
Stephenson, Dr. R.	Incorporated Charitable Society, Belfast,	946	14	11	14	4	0
Switzer, James,	Fever Hospital, Kilkenny,						
Ditto,	Benevolent Society, „	3,755	5	4	56	6	8
Ditto,	Charitable „ „						
Ditto,	County Infirmary, „						
Ditto,	Bread for Poor, „	2,234	12	5	33	10	5
Tew, Rev. William,	Ballysax School,	184	10	10	2	15	4
Ditto,	Poor of Ballysax,	46	2	9	0	13	10
Ditto,	Raddanstown School,	538	10	10	8	1	0
Ditto,	Poor of Raddanstown,	46	2	9	0	13	10
Ditto,	St. Werburgh's School, Dublin,	46	2	9	0	13	10
Ditto,	Kilcullen Hospital and Dispensary,	61	11	9	0	18	5
Thomas, Robert,	Poor of Tuam,	313	13	8	4	14	1
Tisdall, Allen,	Sick and Indigent Roomkeepers, Dublin,	92	16	4	1	7	10
Ditto,	St. Audoen's Parish, do.	46	8	2	0	13	11
Ditto,	St. Catherine's „ do.	46	8	2	0	13	11
Ditto,	St. Luke's „ do.	46	8	2	0	13	11
Ditto,	St. Michael's „ do.	46	8	2	0	13	11
Trail, Robert,	Poor of Lisburn,	97	4	11	1	9	2
Tuthill, Barbara,	Roman Catholic Magdalen Asylum, Protestant Blind Asylum, Protestant Orphan Asylum, Lying-in Hospital, Protestant Penitentiary, Poor Debtors in Gaols, Blanket and Fuel Fund, Limerick,	2,222	4	9	33	6	8
Ditto,	Protestant Widows, St. John's, Limerick,	70	11	8	1	1	2
Valentine, Rev. Thomas,	Killala Clergy Widows, and School at Frankford,	2,495	0	10	37	8	6
Verschoyle, Richard,	St. Catherine's Parish, Dublin,	526	2	4	7	17	10
Ditto,	St. Luke's „ do.	526	2	4	7	17	10
Waldron, Jeffrey,	Roman Catholic Schools, Denmark-street,	461	10	9	6	18	6
Ditto,	„ „ Liffey-street,	461	10	9	6	18	6
Ditto,	Orphan School at Wicklow,	611	10	9	9	3	6
Ditto,	Indigent Roomkeepers, St. Mary's Parish, Dublin,	530	0	7	7	19	0
Ditto,	Female Penitents, Donnybrook, near Dublin,	461	10	9	6	18	6
Ditto,	Widows' House, Clarendon-street, Dublin,	276	18	6	4	3	2
Walker, Hamilton,	Poor of Inniskeel and Killybegs,	117	1	4	1	15	1
Ward, Judge,	Killough Schools and Poor,	473	8	6	7	2	0
Ward, Hon. Sophia,	Mendicity Association,	1,723	12	9	25	17	1
Waring, Samuel,	Poor Housekeepers of Moira Parish,	104	5	8	1	11	3
Waterhouse, William,	Fever Hospital, Waterford,	143	17	4	2	3	2
Ditto,	Dispensary, „	50	13	2	0	15	4
Ward, Laurence,	Sick and Indigent Roomkeepers, Dublin,	545	9	10	8	3	7
	Total,	122,025	6	8	1,830	6	8

MORTGAGE AND DEBENTURES.

	Amount. £	s.	d.	Donor.	Object of Trust.
Ballast Office Debenture,	92	6	2	M. Boyle,	Coombe Lying-in Hospital.
*Two Kinnegad „	92	6	2	Rev. Dr. Smith,	Poor of Annahilt and Maralin.
*One „ „	46	3	1	—	St. Mark's Hospital.
*Dunleer Turnpike, „	46	3	1	M. Boyle,	Coombe Lying-in Hospital.
Ballingarry Loan Fund,	100	0	0	John Crone,	Poor of Ballingarry.
	376	18	6		

*The Debentures thus marked were given up and exchanged for a Mortgage upon the county of Dublin Rates, executed by J. Prendergast, Esq., Commissioner appointed under Act of Parliament, the 18 & 19 of Vic., cap. 69.

Schedule No. 8.

Return of Rents or Annuities under the Guardianship of the Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests for Ireland, and in which the Title of the Charity has been established by decree or order, showing by whom created, whence derived, and the object of the Trust, and showing the Head Rents affecting same, to 31st Dec., 1863.

By whom created.	Gross Amount.	Head Rent.	Whence derived.	The Trusts.	Observations.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.			
Peter Bertrand,* .	686 3 10	190 6 0 Including renewal fine.	Lands and premises in Dublin, . . .	Female Orphan School in Dublin.	* A sum of £2,400 has been borrowed upon mortgage, to pay off the Archbishop of Dublin; and the surplus rent is invested to form a fund, which now amounts to £880 17s. 6d. stock, to redeem same. No part of the rent is applied for the purposes of the charity, nor can it be so applied until the mortgage is paid off.
Cordelia Carey, .	355 19 0½	64 10 8	Rents of lands and premises in Dublin and King's County, . . .	For Poor, for Schools, and several Charitable Institutions in Portarlington and Dublin.	
J. Crone, . .	64 12 3	—	Rent-charge of lands in county Limerick, .	Poor of Ballingarry, county Limerick.	
John Crone, . .	64 12 4	—	Rent-charge of lands, county Cork, . .	Poor of Doneraile and Cahirduggan, county Cork.	
S. Cunningham, .	23 12 2	8 0 7	Rent of lands in Killead, county Antrim, .	Poor of Killead, county Antrim.	
Thomas Deane, .	92 6 2	—	Rent-charge of lands in county Cork, . .	Alms-house and Schools in Cork.	
Hugh Edwards, .	27 13 10	—	Annuity payable out of lands in county Tyrone,	School at Castlederg, county Tyrone.	
M. Goold, . .	9 4 7	—	Annuity payable under will of testator, . .	Poor of Gurrane, county Cork.	
Captain Grenville, .	44 17 0	—	Tithe rent-charge of lands of Ballyvaloo, co. Wexford	Poor of Enniscorthy, county Wexford.	
Dr. J. Hall, . .	211 0 7	12 12 9	Rent of premises in town of Limerick, . .	Alms-house and School in Limerick, . .	These rents are received and administered locally.
R. S. Keatinge, .	9 4 7	—	Annuity under testator's will, . . .	Poor of Drumcolliher, county Limerick.	
James Lawder, .	18 9 2	—	Rent-charge of lands in Kilmore, county Cavan,	Poor of Kilmore, county Leitrim.	
Dr. Lill, . .	62 1 3½	22 9 3½	Rent of lands in county of Tyrone, . .	Infirmary at Armagh.	
Robert Lanigan, .	10 0 0	—	Rent of lands in county of Kilkenny. . .	Alms-house in county Kilkenny, . .	This rent is administered locally.
William Power, .	26 15 0	—	Rent of lands in Gurteen, county Waterford, .	Asylum at Gurteen, county Waterford.	
Parsons Persse, .	23 1 6	—	Rent-charge of lands, county Galway, . .	School at Ilerton, county Galway, . .	This rent is administered locally.
Sir Robert Southwell,	46 3 4	—	Rent-charge of lands in counties Cork and Limerick	Alms-house at Kinsale, county Kerry.	
B. Tuthill, . .	69 4 8	—	Rent-charge of lands in county Limerick, .	Magdalen Blind, Protestant Orphan Asylums, Lying-in Hospital, Penitentiary, Gaol, Blanket and Fuel Fund, and Protestant Widows, Limerick.	
Judge Ward, .	67 3 3	—	Rent of lands in Bangor, county Down, . .	For Schools and Poor at Killough, county Down.	
Wm. Waterhouse, .	54 10 0	21 16 6	Rent of house in Waterford, . . .	Hospital, Dispensary, Fanning Institution, and Sick Poor, Waterford.	
Joseph Wright, .	69 4 8	—	Rent-charge of lands in King's County, .	Lying-in Hospital, Hibernian Marine Society, Dublin, King's County Infirmary, and Monasteroris Poor.	
Joseph Wright, .	9 4 7	—	Rent-charge of lands in the county Monaghan, .	Poor of Aghabog, county Monaghan.	
Total amount of rents,	2,045 3 9	319 15 9½			
Deduct head rents,	319 15 9½				
Net rents, £	1,725 8 0	—	Subject to poor's rate and receiver's fees.		

An annual gift of £200 heretofore made by the Hon. Sidney Herbert for the Parish Priests of Irishtown, Booterstown, and Bray, has been reduced by the Trustees of the Earl of Pembroke to £110, in consequence of the death of the Parish Priest of Booterstown, who received £90.

APPENDIX.

SCHEDULE No. 9.

Return of Charity Funds standing to the Credit of Causes and Matters in the Court of Chancery, and in which the Title of the Charity has been established by Decree or Order.

SCHEDULE No. 9.

RETURN of Charity Funds standing to the credit of Causes or Matters in the Court of Chancery, and in which the title of the Charity has been established by Decree or Order.

The Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests against Francis Lill, John Stewart, and others.

Government New 3 per Cent. Stock, . . .	£4,399	3	1
Turnpike Debentures,*	2,500	0	0

The Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests against the Rev. Edward St. Lawrence and others.

Government New 3 per Cent. Stock.† . . .	£3,422	8	6
Cash, ...	49	16	10

I certify that the foregoing sums remain in Bank to the credit of the matters above recited.

DIGBY P. STARKEY, *Accountant-General.*

Accountant-General's Office, Four Courts,
20th January, 1864.

* By letter received from Edward Clements, Esq., Turnpike Commissioner, dated 25th January, 1859, these debentures are stated to be totally valueless.

† These funds are held in Elizabeth Smith's Charity, and are to accumulate until they amount to £4,000; but they are subject to reduction in case the interest upon a fund in stock in the same charity should not be sufficient to pay two permanent Annuities with which such fund is charged.

Dublin: Printed by ALEXANDER THOM, 87 & 88, Abbey-street,
For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNT

OF THE

ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSIONERS FOR IRELAND,

for the Year ended the 1st day of August 1863.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY GEORGE WILLIAM FREDERICK EARL OF CARLISLE,
LORD LIEUTENANT-GENERAL
AND GENERAL GOVERNOR OF IRELAND, &c. &c. &c.

WE, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for Ireland, whose hands and corporate seal are hereunto annexed, beg leave, in pursuance of the provisions of the Act 3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 37, to submit to your Excellency the Report of the proceedings of the Commissioners for the year which ended the 1st of August 1863, and to subjoin an account of their receipts and disbursements, distinguishing the specific sources from which all moneys have been derived, and the specific purposes to which they have been applied; also, an account of their receipts and disbursements in relation to Primate Boulter's and Primate Robinson's Funds.

The sums appropriated at the usual annual special meeting of the Board in November 1862, for the several Church Works of this year, amounted to 50,415 *l.* 1 *s.* 1 *d.*; of this sum, 1,844 *l.* 2 *s.* 3 *d.* was set apart towards the completion of four Churches undertaken in former years, and 17,760 *l.* towards erecting 14 new Parish and District Parochial Churches; 772 *l.* 1 *s.* 1 *d.* to complete the amounts required for the enlargement of 8 Churches already partially provided for, and 6,421 *l.* towards the enlargement of 19 other Churches, and the residue, amounting to 23,617 *l.* 17 *s.* 9 *d.*, was appropriated to the repairs of Churches, and for fencing Churchyards, including the expenses connected with carrying out these several works.

The 14 Parish and District Parochial Churches, for the building of which grants were made, are,—

Ballyclog - - - - -	in the Diocese of Armagh.
Rasharkin - - - - -	in the Diocese of Connor.
Belfast - - - - - -	in the Diocese of Connor.
Balla - - - - - -	in the Diocese of Tuam.
Urney - - - - - -	in the Diocese of Derry.
Clontarf - - - - -	in the Diocese of Dublin.
Ardfert - - - - - -	in the Diocese of Ardfert.
Kilfergus - - - - -	in the Diocese of Limerick.

A District Parochial Church at Waterside, in the Parish of Glendermott	in the Diocese of Derry.
A like Church in Belfast, in the Parish of Shankill	in the Diocese of Connor.
A like Church at Castlekirk, in the Parish of Cong	in the Diocese of Tuam.
A like Church at Derrygimla, in the Parish of Ballindoon	in the Diocese of Tuam.
A like Church at Kill, in the Parish of Monkstown	in the Diocese of Dublin.
A like Church in the Pembroke District, in the Parish of St. Peter's, to be called St. Bartholomew's	in the Diocese of Dublin.

The 19 Churches, for increased accommodation in which grants have been made, are—

Loughgall	in the Diocese of Armagh.
Brantry	
Glenavy	in the Diocese of Connor.
Carnemoney	
Dunseverick	
Templepatrick	
Monkstown	in the Diocese of Dublin.
Narraghmore	
Cove	in the Diocese of Cloyne.
Maghera	in the Diocese of Derry.
Raymunterdoney	in the Diocese of Raphoe.
Stranorlar	
Seapatrick	in the Diocese of Dromore.
Lacca	in the Diocese of Ossory.
Cloydah	in the Diocese of Leighlin.
Knockany	in the Diocese of Emly.
Clonmel	in the Diocese of Lismore.
Stradbally	in the Diocese of Killaloe.
Donaghadee	in the Diocese of Down.

In addition to the sums thus appropriated, grants to the amount of 957 *l.* have been made towards building and providing Licensed Houses of Worship in the following Parishes:—

Maguiresbridge	in the Diocese of Clogher.
Tamlaghtfinlagan	in the Diocese of Derry.
Bordwell	in the Diocese of Ossory.
Oola	in the Diocese of Emly.
Gurranekemefeek	in the Diocese of Cloyne.
Moneygall	in the Diocese of Killaloe.
Lahinch	in the Diocese of Kilfenora.
Killimor	in the Diocese of Clonfert.

And a further sum of 452 *l.* 2 *s.* 4 *d.* has been granted for completing the works in nine of the cases of this class mentioned in last year's Report.

In the sum of 17,760 *l.* is included 2,600 *l.* which was granted in previous years towards the erection of four of the Parish and District Parochial Churches, which are now included in this Report, inasmuch as the grants made in previous years were afterwards rescinded, the conditions on which the same were then made not having been complied with within the period prescribed by the Board; and in the sum of 6,421 *l.* is included 2,350 *l.* which was granted in previous years towards the enlargement of four of the Churches, which are also included in this Report, inasmuch as the grants then made were afterwards rescinded for a like reason.

The

The Churches of Clonabogan, in the Diocese of Derry, Lower Falls, in the Diocese of Connor, Tullylish, in the Diocese of Dromore, Bray, in the Diocese of Dublin, and Glengariffe, in the Diocese of Ross (the rebuilding of which was provided for in former years), have been completed; and the following are in progress:—

Woodschapel	in the Diocese of Armagh.
Ahoghill	in the Diocese of Connor.
Castlerahan	in the Diocese of Kilmore.
Renvyle	in the Diocese of Tuam.
St. Andrew's, St. Dolough's, St. Jude's, Kill, Tullow	in the Diocese of Dublin.
Fiddown	in the Diocese of Ossory,
and Abbeyleix	in the Diocese of Leighlin;

also, the Church of Jonesborough, in the Diocese of Armagh, which is being erected with funds provided exclusively by the liberality of Lord Clermont.

The subscriptions from private sources received within the year, in aid of the building, rebuilding, enlarging, and improvement of Churches and Licensed Houses of Worship, have amounted to the sum of 12,516*l.* 7*s.* 5 *d.*

The Commissioners have, during the year, granted loans on mortgage to the amount of 2,916*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.*, for building, improving, and repairing Glebe Houses in the following cases:—

For the Deanery of Ferns.

For the Benefice of Tullylease, in the Diocese of Cloyne.

„	Killenumery, in the Diocese of Ardagh.
„ Fuerty, „ Athleague,	in the Diocese of Elphin.
„	Innismagrath, in the Diocese of Kilmore.
„ Kilmaine, „ Ross,	in the Diocese of Tuam.
„	Kiltanalea, in the Diocese of Killaloe.
„	Enniskillen, in the Diocese of Meath.

And a sum of 4,282*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.*, has been paid on foot of these loans, and of those referred to in last year's Report.

Under the provisions of the 32d section of 23 & 24 Vict. c. 150, the Commissioners have allocated a further annual sum of 1,000*l.*, charged on income arising from Disappropriated Tithes, to the augmentation of Benefices the incomes of which were under 100*l.*, which sum has been distributed amongst the following Benefices:—

Altedesert, Ballygawley, Milltown	in the Diocese of Armagh.
Newbliss, Lisnaskea	in the Diocese of Clogher.
Castlejordan, Kilbride, Tullamore, Drumraney, Durrow, Girley, Mayne, Leney	in the Diocese of Meath.

Edenderry	in the Diocese of Derry.
Milford, Mountcharles, Lettermacward	in the Diocese of Raphoe.
Grey Abbey	in the Diocese of Down.
Ballycastle, St. Jonn's, Malone, St. Paul's, Dunseverick, Kildollagh, Rathlin, St. Mark's, Ballysillan	in the Diocese of Connor.
Arvagh, Kinawley	in the Diocese of Kilmore.
Ballyjamesduff, Killoughter	in the Diocese of Kilmore.
Abbeylara	in the Diocese of Ardagh.
Kilmactruney	in the Diocese of Elphin.
St. Mary's, Donnbybrook, Grange Gorman, St. Jude's, Kilbride, St. Nicholas' Within, Miltown	in the Diocese of Dublin.
Ardemine, Hooke, Monast, Owenduff	in the Diocese of Ferns.
Stradford-on-Slaney	in the Diocese of Leighlin.
Frankfield, Kilcully, Ballinaboy	in the Diocese of Cork.
Cahernarry	in the Diocese of Limerick.
Kinconly, Ventry	in the Diocese of Ardfert.
Agleshcloghane, Clare Abbey, Killaloe	in the Diocese of Killaloe.
Sellerna, Killannin (Spiddal), Turlough, Monivea, Moyrus	in the Diocese of Tuam.

By the half-yearly returns of promotions, it appears that appointments have been made within the year to 92 Benefices, consisting of 10 dignities, 7 prebends, and 75 parochial benefices; of these 44 appear to be subject to ecclesiastical tax.

With reference to the vacancy which took place in the Prebend of Kilgobinet, in the Diocese of Lismore; not having cure of souls, within the meaning of the statutes, the Commissioners recommended the appointment to it to be suspended, with which recommendation your Excellency and the Privy Council were pleased to comply.

In the case of the vacancy in the Chancellorship of Christ Church, without cure of souls, in the Diocese of Dublin, the Commissioners likewise recommended to your Excellency and the Privy Council to suspend the appointment to

to it. They have been informed that an Order in Council was made on the 2d of February 1863, disappropriating the glebe lands of Kilcullen from the Chancellorship, and annexing them to the Perpetual Curacy of Kilcullen.

Thirty-three applications for the purchase of Perpetuities have been received, and the sum realised from this source within the year has amounted to 5,532 *l.* 12 *s.* 1 *d.*; and for the liquidation of mortgages granted for Perpetuity purchases effected in former years, a sum of 1,110 *l.* 12 *s.* 4 *d.* has been paid.

The following sums have been invested in Government Securities; viz., 3,000 *l.* to the credit of the Perpetuity Purchase Fund; 2,446 *l.* 10 *s.* 10 *d.* to the credit of the Insurance Fund; and, temporarily, 4,641 *l.* 10 *s.* out of the General Fund, pending the execution of the works for which contracts have been entered into.

The annual account of the Trust Fund arising under Bishop Gore's will, from the impropriate tithes of Cahir Parish, in the Diocese of Lismore, has been furnished by the Commissioners to the Bishops of Cashel, Waterford, and Lismore, pursuant to the direction of the Court of Chancery.

All which is submitted to your Excellency's consideration.

(signed) MARCUS G. ARMAGH.
RICH^{D}. C. DUBLIN.
MAZIERE BRADY, C.
JOS. H. MEATH.
PLUNKET TUAM, &c.
J. F. OSSORY and FERNS.
TH^{OS}. LEFROY, C^{H}. J.
ARTHUR EDWARD GAYER.
BENJ^{N}. LEE GUINNESS.
W^{M}. CHA^{S}. QUIN.

SEAL.

(signed) *Robt. F. Franks,*
Secretary.

Board Room,
24, Upper Merrion-street.
12 May 1864.

BY THE ECCLESIASTICAL

AN ACCOUNT of all their RECEIPTS and DISBURSEMENTS for One Year, ending the 1st been derived, and showing the Total Amount derived from each Source,

RECEIPTS.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Balance in Bank of Ireland, 1st August 1862, General Fund	17,991	2	9			
Ditto - ditto - - ditto - Perpetuity Fund	2,394	11	7			
Private subscriptions for building, enlarging, and altering churches	12,516	7	5			
				32,902	1	9
IN RESPECT OF INCOME.						
From See Estates	62,868	7	3			
– Suspended dignities and benefices, and disappropriated tithes	20,423	11	1			
– Charge on the See of Derry	2,949	10	1			
– Tax on Bishoprics and benefices	13,495	4	6			
– Glebe-house loan instalments	3,762	6	9			
– Interest on Government Securities standing to the credit of General Fund (principal for most part under engagement)	2,685	–	–			
– Ditto - - - ditto - - - standing to the credit of the Perpetuity Purchase Fund	2,842	–	–			
– Ditto on moneys invested in Government Securities for repairs of Trustee Chapels of Ease	18	7	10			
– Ditto on moneys invested for Endowment Fund	101	13	7			
– Ditto on Perpetuity Mortgages	771	13	7			
– Ditto in Government Securities, Insurance Fund	316	15	10			
– Ditto on Glebe House Mortgage Loans under 23 & 24 Vict. c. 150	308	15	8			
– Income Tax refunded by Commissioners of Inland Revenue	90	10	5			
– Contributions from Economy Funds of Cathedral Churches	26	8	10			
– Bequest for keeping Dunamon Church in repair	7	2	2			
– Miscellaneous	152	19	8			
				110,820	7	3
IN RESPECT OF CAPITAL.						
From Sales of perpetuities	6,643	4	5			
– Instalments in repayment of Glebe House Mortgage Loans, under 23 & 24 Vict. c. 150	99	15	11			
				6,743	–	4
			£.	150,465	9	4

Dr. PRIMATE BOULTER'S AND PRIMATE ROBINSON'S FUNDS

1862:		£.	s.	d.
August 1	To Balance in Primate Boulter's Fund 31st July 1862	2,239	6	7
	– Amounts received from Primate Boulter's and Primate Robinson's Funds	4,505	17	4
	£.	6,745	3	11

OMMISSIONERS FOR IRELAND:

day of August 1863; distinguishing the specific Sources from which all Moneys have and the specific Purposes to which the Receipts have been applied.

DISBURSEMENTS.

	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
IN RESPECT OF INCOME.			
For Building Churches	12,549 3 10		
– Enlarging ditto	9,904 18 6		
– Repairing ditto	28,483 1 7		
– Extraordinary repairs of ditto	236 8 3		
		51,173 12 2	
– Requisites for celebration of Divine Service	6,780 18 9		
– Clerks' and Sextons' Salaries	23,594 6 7		
– Organists, Organ Blowers, and for Tuning Organs	1,554 1 8		
– Fuel used in Churches	3,896 – 10		
		35,825 7 10	
– Stipends of Dublin Curates, under 3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 37	1,983 12 2		
– Ditto to Vicars' Choral and Curates of suspended benefices, &c.	4,082 4 2		
– Ditto in augmentation of small benefices	4,023 1 6		
– Ditto - - ditto - to Incumbents of the parishes of Tullow and Kill	144 7 6		
– Salaries of Diocesan Schoolmasters	192 19 10		
		10,426 5 2	
– Ministers' Money, under the Act 17 Vict., to incumbents of such benefices as formerly received income from that source	- - -	12,487 2 2	
– Purchase of Government 3 per cent. Stock on account of the property of Vicars' Choral of Tuam, being compensation for land purchased by Tuam and Athenry Railway Company	- - -	228 10 –	
– Investment on account of Insurance Fund	- - -	2,446 10 10	
– Endowment Fund, paid Incumbents of Dunlewy, Jonesborough, and Brantry Churches	- - -	101 13 6	
– Superannuation Account under 23 & 24 Vict. c. 150	- - -	235 15 2	
– Quit and Crown rents	- - -	54 7 5	
– Salaries to Commissioners, Secretary, Treasurer, and Clerks	- - -	7,109 10 –	
– Rents, Rentcharges, taxes, and other expenses connected with mensal and other lands	- - -	218 14 10	
– Salaries of Solicitor, Law Clerks, and Disbursements	- - -	1,009 7 2	
– Rents, coals, candles, supernumerary clerks, and other incidents	1,662 13 6		
	£. s. d.		
– Income Tax paid direct for certain small properties	30 8 8		
– Ditto being deductions on account from Office Salaries	133 15 10		
	164 4 6		
– Postage	224 7 1		
– Advertising Proposals for Church works	273 16 6		
– Stationery and printing	362 19 8		
– Survey and Valuation of Lands	327 8 4		
		3,015 9 7	
IN RESPECT OF CAPITAL.			
For Investment in Government Stock (General Fund) pending fulfilment of contracts for Church works	4,641 10 –		
– Ditto - - in Perpetuity Purchase Fund	3,000 – –		
– Advances on mortgages on Glebe Houses from Perpetuity Purchase Fund, under 23 & 24 Vict. c. 150	4,282 13 5		
– Enrolling and registering Perpetuity Certificates	87 6 9		
		12,011 10 2	
Balance to credit of General Fund	12,354 1 7		136,343 16 –
– Ditto - - Perpetuity Purchase Fund	1,767 11 9	- - -	14,121 13 4
		£.	150,465 9 4

PRIMATE BOULTER'S AND PRIMATE ROBINSON'S FUNDS. *Cr.*

1863:		£. s. d.	£. s. d.
August 1	By Augmentation of small benefices	4,397 10 –	
	Balance in Bank, 31 July 1863	2,347 13 11	6,745 3 11
		£.	6,745 3 11

E. E. (signed) *Geo. Lefroy,*
Treasurer.

ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSION (IRELAND).

ANNUAL REPORT and ACCOUNT of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for *Ireland* to the Lord Lieutenant, for the Year ended 1st day of August 1863.

(*Presented pursuant to Act* 3 & 4 *Will.* 4, *c.* 37.)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
30 *May* 1864.

334.

Under 1 oz.

REPORTS

FROM

COMMISSIONERS:

SIXTEEN VOLUMES.

—*(4.—Part I.)*—

EDUCATION.

EDUCATION (SCIENCE AND ART); ROYAL ACADEMY;
NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY;
WALL PAINTING (PALACE OF WESTMINSTER);
EDUCATION (IRELAND); QUEEN'S COLLEGES (IRELAND);
QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY (IRELAND).

Session

4 *February* —— 29 *July* 1864.

VOL. XIX.—Part I.

1864.

REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

1864.

SIXTEEN VOLUMES:—CONTENTS OF THE

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OBSERVATIONS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS

UPON THE

REPORT of the COMMISSIONERS appointed to inquire into the PRESENT POSITION of the ROYAL ACADEMY in relation to the FINE ARTS.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty,

Royal Academy of Arts,
March 15th, 1864.

SIR,

WE, the Members of the Royal Academy of Arts, having been authorized by a letter dated the 20th of November 1863, and addressed by the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Home Department to the President of the Academy, to submit for Her Majesty's consideration the result of our deliberations on the several matters comprised in the recommendations of the Royal Commissioners appointed to inquire into the present position of the Royal Academy in relation to the Fine Arts, beg leave to state that we have given our most careful attention to the matters referred to; and we have now, in accordance with our instructions, to request that you will do us the honour to lay before Her Majesty, as the gracious Patron of the Royal Academy, together with the expression of our dutiful obedience, the result of our deliberations.

Confining our attention to the Report itself of the Commissioners, bearing date the 10th of July 1863, we feel it to be our duty to acknowledge the candour of its statements, and the courtesy of its tone.

It will be seen that we agree with many of the views of the Commissioners,—views which, in some instances indeed, had been previously and independently expressed by us.

With regard to those opinions entertained by us which may differ from the suggestions of the Commissioners, we will only observe that in coming to such conclusions we have been guided by experience, and by a conscientious desire, while advocating certain changes, to maintain the real efficiency of the Institution. The constitution and laws of the Royal Academy were originally framed with great care by most competent authorities, under the immediate supervision of His Majesty George the Third. The objects proposed at its foundation are still admitted to be most important; nor can we omit to remark that the general wisdom of its regulations has been recognized by the patronage with which it has been uniformly honoured by the Successors of its Royal founder, and especially by Her present most Gracious Majesty.

We conceive, therefore, that the changes required must chiefly consist in adapting the Institution to the present state of the Fine Arts in this country, and to the circumstances connected with their more enlarged study and influence.

We do not see, nor do the Commissioners appear to contemplate, the possibility of comprehending in one vast establishment all the Societies, at present existing, connected with the different Arts.

But we propose to enlarge the Academy by the increase of its professional members, and to remove all restrictions which, for whatever reason, may have been formerly thought necessary with regard to the members of other Art Societies.

The alterations which we propose in the constitution of the Academy, as to the number of its members, agree almost literally with the recommendations of the Commissioners. The only point on which a difference exists is that relating to the introduction of non-professional members; a proposed change which we cannot look upon as a mere enlargement of the original plan of the Academy, but as an uncalled-for innovation. We think it unnecessary to repeat here the objections urged by various independent witnesses to this proposition. It is, however, important to remark that the decision of the

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Commissioners on this subject does not appear to have been the result of any preponderating evidence in favor of their view.

In many cases, and particularly in those connected with the Exhibition and the schools, the present difficulties of the Academy arise from want of space; and could that want be met, a nearer approach to an agreement with the recommendations of the Commissioners would be possible.

In following our instructions it has appeared advisable to adhere to the order of the subjects and propositions in the Commissioners' Report. This will afford opportunities for such further explanations as may appear to us to be necessary.

Question respecting a Charter.

Before proceeding to the consideration of the constitution of the Academy the Commissioners observe:

> "It seems to us that the position of the Academy would be far better defined, and far more satisfactory, if, instead of the present Instrument of 1768, it rested on a Royal Charter to be granted by the Crown."—Report, pp. vi. vii.

The Academy has had the experience of nearly a century as to the sufficiency of the constitution granted to it by the Sovereign for the purposes for which it was established.

We therefore consider that there is no adequate reason for making any such alteration as that which a Charter would create. Charters are found very useful with bodies having to enter into engagements or transactions with other parties, but the Academy has hitherto found no difficulty, of the description referred to, from any imperfection in its constitution.

It is also a very natural feeling with all bodies that have been long established not to disconnect themselves from the "Instrument" to which they owe their origin; and this is especially the case with an Institution which is immediately indebted to the Sovereign for its formation.

Were we to consult only our own convenience and security, we might regard a Charter as calculated to protect the Academy, to a certain extent, from vexatious interference; but, looking to the position of the Institution with reference to the interests of the Fine Arts, we conceive that the possibility of changes consistent with the general provisions and objects of the "Instrument,"—changes which, as at present, may be attended with beneficial effects,—should by no means be precluded; more especially since certain alterations proposed by the Commissioners and by ourselves must, for a time, be regarded as experimental.

For these reasons we are not prepared to acquiesce in the recommendation to surrender our present Deed of Establishment, and accept a Charter, which would not be productive of any advantage, and which might impair the connexion with the Sovereign which the Academy enjoys under its present constitution, and to which the Commissioners in their Report attach considerable importance.

A.—Constitution of the Academy.

Number of Academicians.

The Commissioners are of opinion—

> "That the Academy might be advantageously extended from its present number of forty Academicians and two Academician Engravers to the number of fifty, the additional eight members thus to be elected being chosen in the first instance from the classes of Architects and Sculptors."—Report, p. viii.

We recommend that the number of Academicians should be increased to fifty, the relative proportion of the different classes being reserved for future consideration.

The Lay Element.

The Commissioners are of opinion—

> "That to the fifty professional Academicians there should be added ten members not being artists."—Report, p. ix.

We feel compelled to dissent from this recommendation. We conceive however, that the Academy might with advantage avail itself of Lay assistance with regard to lectures,—as at present in the instance of lectures on anatomy. We therefore recommend that the Council be empowered to invite any person distinguished for attainments in

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history, archæology, science or general literature, to deliver lectures on subjects that may be considered useful for the students or interesting to cultivated persons generally.

We consider it desirable that the present honorary members of the Academy should be invited to deliver occasional lectures in the Academy.

Number of Associates.

The Commissioners state the result of their careful consideration of this subject as follows:

> "We have arrived at the conclusion . . . . . that the Associate class, so far from being abolished or reduced, might be far more advantageously extended . . . . We would therefore propose that the number of the Associates of the Royal Academy should be increased at once to fifty, with power at any time hereafter to fix a larger number with the assent of the Crown."—Report, p. x.

We recommend that no further election shall take place in the present class of Associates, the present Associate members retaining all their rights and privileges.

We propose that a new class of members shall be instituted, to be called Associates, consisting of an indefinite number of artists by profession,—Painters, Sculptors, Architects, and Engravers;—each class comprehending the various branches coming under the denomination of Fine Art, of which that class may consist.

The following recommendations of the Commissioners will be found to be met by corresponding proposed regulations respecting the class of Associates:

> "It is not desirable that artists should be required to inscribe themselves as candidates for admission to the honours of the Academy."—Report, p. xiii.
>
> "It is not desirable that artists should cease to belong to other Art Societies before they can be admitted to the honours of the Royal Academy, and that in exhibiting their works they should not be restricted to the Royal Academy Exhibition."—Report, p. xiii.

We propose that the members of the new class of Associates shall be British subjects, or, if foreigners, they shall be permanent residents in this country.

Members of other Art Societies shall be eligible as Associates of the new class.

There shall be no restriction as to age, nor, in the instance of British subjects, as to residence.

The practice of exhibiting in the annual Exhibition shall not be considered a necessary condition of membership in the new class of Associates.

Election into the new class of Associates shall be by invitation (see the subjoined proposed regulations).

Associates so elected shall not necessarily be considered candidates for the rank of Academician.

Proposed Mode of nominating the Associates of the New Class.

The Commissioners recommend—

> "That any artist designed as a candidate for the rank of Associate should be proposed and seconded by Royal Academicians or Associates, and his name put to the vote at a General Assembly."—Report, p. xiii.

The mode we propose is as follows:—

The Secretary shall, at an appointed time, send a printed form of nomination to each Academician and Associate, and shall invite him to insert in such printed form the names of the artists he may desire to propose as candidates for the rank of Associate, according to the number of elections previously recommended. The nomination paper so filled up and signed by the member shall be returned to the Secretary within a specified time.

The nominations having been examined by the President and Council, a certified list of the names shall be printed and sent to each Academician at least one month before the day of election.

Proposed Mode of electing the Associates of the New Class.

At the time appointed a printed list of the candidates shall be delivered to each member present, who shall proceed to mark names in such list according to the proposed number of elections.

Each member will be required to add his signature to his marked list.

The lists so marked having been examined and the result announced, the names of those candidates with the highest number of marks shall be balloted for separately. Two thirds of the votes of the members present shall be required to constitute an election.

The newly elected Associate may, on or after his election, notify to the Secretary by letter his desire to be a candidate for the rank of Academician. Such notification,

unless subsequently withdrawn, shall be considered always to remain in force without the necessity of repetition.

Privileges of the Associates of the New Class.

The Commissioners proceed:

> "We think that this Associate class should not, as the one now existing, be debarred from any control or jurisdiction in the affairs of the Academy. We propose, on the contrary, that the Associates should be members of the corporate body, and jointly with the Academicians should constitute the General Assembly."—Report, p. x.

And further—

> "That there should be a General Assembly consisting of Royal Academicians and Associates of the Royal Academy, held at least twice in each year."—Report, p. xi.

We do not recommend that the Associates should, jointly with the Academicians, constitute the General Assembly; but we propose that they shall share in the elections, in the mode and to the extent already stated, as regards the Associates themselves, and in a similar mode in the election of Academicians.

Mode of Electing Academicians.

The Commissioners propose—

> "That the Royal Academicians should be elected from the rank of Associates."—Report, p. xiii.

To this, the principle of the present system we desire to adhere.

The Commissioners are of opinion that the Royal Academicians should be so elected—

> "on the ground of merit alone, and wholly irrespective of any consideration arising from the length of time during which they may have been on the list of Associates of the Royal Academy."—Report, p. xiii.

No objection can be offered to such a recommendation; on the contrary, we would rather extend the caution intimated, and say that elections should take place on the ground of merit alone, and wholly uninfluenced by any pressure from without, often the result of mistaken partiality or temporary and undeserved reputation.

The Commissioners recommend—

> "That any Associate designed as a candidate for the rank of Royal Academician should be proposed and seconded by Royal Academicians, and his name put to the vote at a General Assembly."—Report, p. xiii.

We propose that when the election of an Academician or Academicians is to take place the Secretary shall send a printed form of nomination to each Academician and Associate, inviting him to propose a candidate or candidates according to the number of vacancies. The remaining preliminary forms are in substance similar to those before described for the nomination of candidates for the other class.

The final election shall be decided by ballot between the two candidates having the highest number of marks.

In the elections of Academicians and Associates twenty-five members shall be requisite for a quorum.

Referring to the recommendation of the Commissioners, that the Associates should form part of the General Assembly and should vote openly with the Academicians, there are two points to be considered:—the influence of such a system on the elections and on the decision of other questions, and its effect on the Associates themselves.

According to the scheme of the Commissioners, fifty Academicians and fifty Associates would, apparently, represent two equally balanced sections of voters, while the ten lay members could throw their weight into either scale according to circumstances.

For constituencies in general, in which a fair representation of different interests is desirable, this machinery, even with the peculiar control of the ten, might be unobjectionable. But in a constituency of artists there are, or should be, no different interests, though there may be different ideas of excellence and different powers of appreciating it. The correctness of the decisions of such a constituency (setting aside those tendencies, good or evil, which are common to all societies) would not depend on the number of voters, however great, but on their knowledge and experience. It remains to be seen how far these requisites are secured by the scheme of the Commissioners.

It must be obvious that the fifty Academicians, doubless assumed by that scheme to to be the best artists, would be always exposed to the danger of defeat by the fifty Associates.

It appears, therefore, that this is not a scheme which even professes to give weight to the best judgment and the greatest experience, but is rather intended to operate like

constituencies in general, on the plausible but in this instance mistaken principle of representing rival interests by corresponding numbers.

The right of nomination which we propose, as distinguished from personal voting in elections, is an important privilege as such, but its great utility would be to put the Academicians in possession of opinions which might sometimes differ from their own, and thus guard against the danger of their overlooking any important claims. Again, by the method we propose it would be unnecessary to limit the Associates to fifty. In the scheme of the Commissioners, that number could not be exceeded, lest the Academicians should be opposed, in divisions, to more than their own number.

The Commissioners do not give the Associates the right of nominating a candidate for the rank of Academician. (Report, p. xiii.)

We propose to grant this privilege, guarding against self nomination, by requiring each member to sign his nomination paper. A direct prohibition might be added if necessary.

With regard to the second point to be noticed—the effect on the Associates themselves of the scheme referred to,—we cannot but think that those among them who might be candidates for the higher rank, would, under such circumstances, be in a less independent position than the Associates are at present. The very necessity for voting on contested questions, far from being an agreeable privilege, would by many be regarded as an embarrassing duty.

We are of opinion that while a friendly intercourse between the two classes must always be desirable, their collision as rival sections of the body corporate should especially be avoided. The harmonious working of the society would, we are persuaded, be incompatible with a mixed constituency, such as the Commissioners recommend. The evils of such a system had indeed been fully experienced in the dissensions of the Chartered Society of Artists previously to the foundation of the Royal Academy.

Rights of the present Associates.

The Commissioners recognize the right of the present Associates, in case of need, to pensions (Report, p. xxi.); but they advert to no other right.

We have recommended (see page 9) that, in the event of the proposed alterations being carried into effect, the present Associates should retain all their rights and privileges.

By the new regulations proposed they would indeed have an important additional privilege,—that of nominating candidates for the classes both of Associates and Academicians.

As regards their present rights, the only point which may require explanation is their position as candidates for the rank of Academicians.

On vacancies occurring in the list of Academicians, we conceive that an Associate of the present class should not be opposed to a greater proportionate number of competitors than he has, or may have, been opposed to hitherto.

Assuming the Academicians to be increased to fifty, the number of Associates corresponding with the original proportion of Associates to Academicians would be twenty-five. The number of Associates of the new class is proposed to be indefinite, but the proportion indicated defines the number of competitors to be opposed to the present Associates.

Accordingly, Associates of the new class being supposed to be elected, we propose that a certain number of candidates, to be nominated in the mode before explained, shall make up, with the present Associates, the number twenty-five; from which number the Academicians would be elected.

By this arrangement the rights of the present Associates would be in no way prejudiced, while twenty-five candidates would amply suffice to supply the vacancies in the list of Academicians.

The number of Associates of the new class being indefinite, elections into that class might continue to take place according to the regulations before described.

The period of transition from the old to the new system would, it is believed, under such circumstances, be not inconveniently prolonged.

The Office of President.

The Commissioners observe—

> "We conceive that the position and the labours of the President of the Royal Academy must be such as to justify an amount of income very far exceeding that which is now bestowed."

We consider it inexpedient to increase the salary attached to the office of President.

The Commissioners continue:

> "We recommend that the President should, as now, be elected annually, but should be re-eligible.
>
> "That there should be two Vice-Presidents as honorary officers, who should be selected from the other two main branches to which the President himself may not belong, so that in all cases painting, sculpture, and architecture should be represented, either in a President or in a Vice-President."—Report, p. xi.

We concur in the recommendation respecting the annual election of the President,—the original and present system. But to whatever class of Art the President may belong, we consider that the proposition to appoint Vice-Presidents is unnecessary.

According to the present laws the President is empowered to nominate a chairman in his absence.

The Council.

The Commissioners propose

> "That the Council should be nominated by the Royal Academicians from amongst their own body, subject to the approval of the General Assembly; the Council to consist of the President, the two Vice-Presidents, and nine other Members of the Royal Academy; and of those nine, two should be non-professional members."—Report, p. xi.

On the subject of Vice-Presidents and non-professional members we have already submitted our opinion. With regard to the Council we propose to modify the present system as follows:

The Council shall consist of nine Academicians and the President. Six members shall be appointed in rotation, according to the present law. Three shall be elected annually from the general body on the 5th of December. On retiring from office they shall not be re-eligible till after an interval of one year.

Proposed Council of Advice on matters relating to the Fine Arts.

> "It seems to us," the Commissioners observe, "that the Royal Academy, constituted in the manner we have proposed, would form a valuable permanent Council of advice and reference in all matters relating to the Fine Arts, public monuments and buildings."—Report, p. xii.

We are of opinion that the Academy, however constituted, should not form a permanent or exclusive Council of advice on the matters above referred to. We believe that the members of the Academy would be ready to act in concert with others if required so to do; but we consider that on any question arising respecting the Fine Arts, public monuments and buildings, it should rest with the Government to select, as advisers, such professional men, whether from the Academy, or from any other body, as might, according to the circumstances of the case, be thought the fittest.

Engravers.

Referring to the mode in which the names of Academician Engravers are separated from the list of forty Academicians, the Commissioners observe:

> "We can see no just ground for their [the Engravers] still forming any separate class."—Report, p. xii.

When the Engravers were admitted, it was considered desirable to retain the form of the constitution as originally defined. The alteration of that form which we have proposed implies our concurrence, under such circumstances, with the above opinion.

Honorary Foreign Members.

The Commissioners

> "recommend that there should be Honorary Foreign Members of the Academy, selected by the Council, and approved by the General Assembly:
>
> "That they should have no voice in the management of the concerns of the Academy, but that they should be entitled to send a certain number of pictures to the annual Exhibition of the Royal Academy."—Report, pp. xii. xiii.

A desire has long existed in the Academy, and propositions have been repeatedly brought forward, to invite distinguished foreign artists to be Honorary Members. The postponement of this object is explained by the present restricted space for the Exhibition.

In a Report of the Council to the General Assembly, in February 1860, it was observed:

> "The Academy knowing that many [native] meritorious artists cannot find a place in the Exhibition,—a state of things annually recurring,—has not felt itself justified in taking any step which might have the effect of increasing the existing difficulties. . . . . We still hope that a period may arrive when, with considerably more space at its disposal, the Academy will be enabled to welcome the select works of distinguished foreigners, with a view to the general promotion of Art."

Art Workmen.

The Commissioners continue:

> "Looking to the intimate connexion between the Fine Arts and those of a more mechanical character, and the great importance of extending the influence of the former over the latter, we think that workmen of great excellence in metal, stone, wood, and other materials might be properly distinguished by some medal or certificate of honour, conferred by the Royal Academy, and in certain special cases become members of the Academy, at least as Associates."—Report, p. xiii.

The importance of extending the influence of the Fine Arts over those of a more mechanical character is fully admitted, and the connexion appears to us to be in a great measure represented and promoted by the establishment at South Kensington and by its affiliated schools. Should it be thought practicable to further this connexion by means of some action on the part of the Academy, we should be ready to consider, with the sanction of the Government, any plan that may be suggested for establishing a closer relation, with that view, between the Academy and the Institution referred to, or any institution tending to the promotion of the decorative Arts.

The remaining recommendations of the Commissioners, under the head of the Constitution of the Academy, are for the most part included in the modes already proposed of electing Associates and Academicians.

Mode of Voting.

With regard to the recommendation of the Commissioners—

> "That all voting, whether for the election of Royal Academician, Associate of the Royal Academy, honorary member, or any other person, should be open."—Report, p. xiii.

Having given our best attention to this question, we are of opinion that, as regards the more important elections, the present system of voting by ballot is the least objectionable. It will be seen that in the nominations and in the election of Associates and Academicians the signature of each member is to be added to the paper marked by him, but we recommend that the final election should be by ballot.

Annual Report.

The Commissioners recommend—

> "That an annual Report should be published of the proceedings of the Academy, with a statement of its income and expenditure duly audited, and that such Report should be submitted to the General Assembly at the first of its annual meetings, for approval and adoption."—Report, p. xi.

This has been the practice of the Academy for some years; but as the Report, presented as soon as possible after the 1st January in each year, has been sometimes unavoidably incomplete in its financial statement, it is now recommended,

That the annual financial statement to the 31st of December should be printed, together with the Report of the Council, and submitted to the General Assembly as early as possible in each year.

B.—Funds.

The chief subject considered under this head in the Report of the Commissioners is the nature of the bequest by the late Sir Francis Chantrey; after some remarks on which, they repeat the recommendation that a Report and financial statement should be annually submitted to the General Assembly.

With reference to such statement we recommend that the Auditors shall be constituted an advising Committee to the Council, to be called the Committee of Finance. That the said Committee shall consist of five members, two of whom shall be a quorum. It shall be their duty to examine the accounts of the several departments in order to report the same for payment.

C.—Exhibition.

The Commissioners observe—

> "The space now available is greatly below the requirements of the Academy, and altogether inferior to what British Art at this time demands. Indeed it is to this want of space, rather than to any other cause, that we may ascribe a large share of the complaints that have been made."—Report, pp. xiv. xv.

Want of space is so unquestionably the source of many of the difficulties of the Academy, that, assuming the present limits of the Establishment to remain as they are, it would be altogether inexpedient to increase the number of members. In adopting many of the recommendations of the Commissioners, and in suggesting expedients ourselves, it will therefore be necessary to bear in mind, on the one hand, that certain proposed changes will only be practicable under altered conditions as to space, and on the other, that various arrangements, which may be considered present improvements, may be superseded by a more comprehensive system.

The Commissioners suggest, as the first obvious mode of relieving the Exhibition while the claims for wall space are so urgent, that the number of works now allowed to be sent by each artist should be reduced from eight to four:

> "We propose that the Academicians and the now exisiting Associates should send four works of Art, as of right, and never more; and that Associates henceforth elected, and other artists, should send no works of Art, as of right, and never more than four."—Report, p. xv.

It rarely happens that any member or contributor sends eight works; but inasmuch as it might be occasionally desirable, with a view to the character and effect of the Exhibition, to have more than four works by the same artist, we propose to limit the reduction from eight works to six; such regulation being applicable to all exhibitors under the same general conditions as at present.

We are of opinion that the arranging committee should be unrestricted by any laws respecting the placing of pictures above or below "the line."

With regard to the annual recurrence of the Exhibition, and the general nature of the works in various branches of Art eligible for exhibition, the recommendations of the Commissioners (Report, pp. xv. xvi.) agree with the present regulations.

The Commissioners proceed to state their opinion:

> "That all works sent in for exhibition should be submitted to and selected by the Council.
>
> "That three committees should be nominated by the Council, and elected by the General Assembly, for the arrangement of the works of Art so selected; each committee to consist of two Academicians and an Associate; to act under the supervision and general responsibility of the Council; and to have the advantage of paid professional assistants, if they should be required.
>
> "The first of these committees should have the power of arranging the works of painting and engraving, the second the works of sculpture, and the third the works of architecture.
>
> "It does not appear to us that any member of the Council should in any case form part of those three committees."—Report, p. xvi.

With regard to those appointed to select works of Art for exhibition the Commissioners observe—

> "We must confess that in considering this question, of the votes to be given by the members who should form the Council by which works of Art are selected, we cannot conceive any system to be established by which complaints would be prevented. It is impossible but that artists disappointed in the exhibition of their works should sometimes feel their disappointment keenly; and no composition of the Council, whatever it may be, could prevent those complaints from arising. If there are only artists on the Council, there will be a cry of professional jealousy: if there are lay members also on the Council, there will be a cry of non-professional ignorance. It is, we fear, unavoidable that men inspired by honourable emulation in pursuing the profession to which they have applied themselves should regard as injustice any decision by which the claims of rivals are preferred to their own."—Report, p. xvi.

The just observations in the last paragraph quoted appear to us to be in a great measure applicable to some of the foregoing proposed changes. We believe with the Commissioners, that as long as a principle of selection is adhered to (and such a principle is regarded as indispensable in all Exhibitions of works of Art), it will be impossible to give universal satisfaction. We do not consider that by changing or enlarging the tribunal, complaints would be less numerous.

There appears to us to be an essential objection to the introduction into the committee either of selection or arrangement, of those who are professedly to represent certain interests. It must be apparent, on the one hand, that they could never be numerous enough fairly to represent all classes of exhibitors; and on the other, that their votes

would, of necessity and on a principle of duty, be always influenced by the mere interests of the exhibitors they represented, and almost independently of merit.

It is unnecessary to repeat that we object to the lay element, as well in influencing the selection of works for exhibition, as in the other departments of management before referred to. We object also to the introduction of Associates, who, as candidates for the rank of Academician, would be in a wrong position; while, if intended to protect the Associate class, the representative would be at once insufficient and unavoidably partial. But we entirely admit and have always acted on the principle of entrusting the arrangement of sculpture and architecture to sculptors and architects. At the same time we see no necessity for having an equal number of arrangers in each department. At present, the arrangement of pictures, drawings, miniatures, and engraving occupies weeks; while that of works of sculpture and architectural designs, of the latter especially, is the labour of a very few days. One sculptor and one architect, under the supervision of the Council, are respectively sufficient for such employment; while, in the selection of the works, the united judgment of the Council suffices to assist that of the special representatives of sculpture and architecture.

It further appears to us to be necessary, if not indispensable, that the arranging Committee, as long as they are numerically equal to the work, should be members of the Council. The Council is permanent during the arrangement. Not only the difficulties of the arrangement itself, but all matters connected with the Exhibition require their frequent deliberation. It would be altogether inconvenient, and incompatible with the constitutional privileges and functions of the Council, if other members (as in the case of the introduction of distinct elements for the committee of arrangement) were to be present at such deliberations; and yet many important questions relating to the arrangement would render their presence often requisite. Other objections of no less weight might be urged; but the reasons adduced are, in our opinion, sufficient to show the extreme inexpediency of appointing arranging committees distinct from the Council.

The Commissioners propose, as points for consideration only, the following suggestions:

> "Whether in some cases it might not be interesting to the public, and conducive to the interests of Art, that all the works of each artist should be exhibited together whenever practicable."—Report, p. xvii.

The mode of exhibition suggested is justly assumed to be only occasionally practicable; and we are of opinion that, as regards ordinary exhibitions, this is a sufficient objection. The practice, from its necessarily exceptional character, might be by many considered unjust. Even as regards the interests of Art, such a mode of arrangement appears to be more applicable to international and commemorative Exhibitions, in both which cases there is a manifest object and advantage in placing together the productions of each artist.

The Commissioners continue:

> "There is another question on which, as connected with the space available, we would refrain from suggesting any positive rule, but we think that, unless in special cases, no picture of ordinary size should be exhibited with its base less than two feet or more than eight feet from the ground."—Report, p. xvii.

The propriety of this suggestion can admit of no question, although its application, under existing circumstances, may in many cases be impracticable. We are, for the same reason, compelled to postpone the consideration of another suggestion of the Commissioners (Report, p. xvii.) respecting the exhibition of works of sculpture in the same gallery with paintings.

The Commissioners observe—

> "We think it also desirable that rooms should be set apart for the exclusive exhibition of water colour drawings, engravings, and architectural designs respectively."—Report, p. xvii.

We fully acknowledge the objections to the exhibition, in one and the same room, of oil paintings with water colour drawings, or with engravings. Although the claims for space have been such as to render this hitherto unavoidable, we cannot doubt that the separation recommended, which may be possible hereafter, would be advantageous to the exhibitors, and conducive to the better effect of the Exhibition.

The Commissioners add:

> "We would also suggest that no work should be exhibited without having the name of the artist, and, when it seems desirable, of the subject, legibly inscribed on the frame, in the case of a picture or drawing, or, in the case of sculpture, on the shelf or pedestal on which it stands."—Report, p. xvii.

We agree with the Commissioners in thinking that this means of communicating infor-

mation to the public would be very desirable. It must, however, be at the option of the exhibitors, and partly dependent on their co-operation. Some plan may perhaps be devised, if not for the forthcoming Exhibition, for future occasions, by which this object may be at least partially accomplished. The schools are closed not only during the Exhibition, but during the preparations for it. Within the period allotted for those preparations—a period which cannot be extended without still further abridging the school term—it would hardly be possible to impose additional occupation on the already overworked officers and assistants. The alteration proposed can therefore be only gradually carried into effect.

With regard to the charge for admission to the Exhibition, the Commissioners observe:

> "We think that the charge for admission on common days should be 1*s.* as heretofore, but on Mondays it might be raised to a higher sum, and that the Exhibition, on the other hand, should be wholly free on Saturdays."—Report, p. xvii.

We think it would be advisable to adopt this suggestion to a certain extent. We doubt, however, whether artists would consent to send their works, the safety of which the Academy, with all possible care, can under no circumstances undertake to guarantee, if exhibited to unrestricted crowds. A reduced charge even could not be introduced, without previous notice to exhibitors. On various grounds, and especially on account of the present narrow access, within the building, to the Exhibition rooms, we are of opinion that the proposed alteration in the charge for admission should be deferred till the question of space is finally settled.

D.—Teaching.

On this subject the Commissioners begin by stating their opinion as follows:

> "Supposing sufficient space to be provided, we are clearly of opinion, as indeed the members of the Royal Academy seem themselves to be, that the schools should be open throughout the year, with the exception of such times as may be set apart for vacation.
>
> * * * * *
>
> "We recommend that the present system of instruction, as superintended by the Keeper in the Antique School, and by Visitors alone in the Life and Painting Schools, should be abandoned. We think there should be a General Director of the Schools, not necessarily a member of the Royal Academy, who would receive a salary sufficient to secure the services of a first-rate teacher."—Report, p. xviii.

The present necessity for closing the schools during the Exhibition has been often pointed out by us as a prominent evil, and we cordially agree with the views of the Commissioners on this point. We agree also in the principle and object of the suggestions which follow, although we are prepared to recommend a somewhat different machinery.

We propose that there shall be a School Committee consisting of eight members of the Academy; four painters, two sculptors, and two architects; to be elected annually, but to be re-eligible.

The control of the schools, masters, and students shall rest entirely with such Committee.

We are of opinion that an individual, as a General Director, possessing a complete knowledge of all the Arts, might be sought for in vain. On the other hand the Committee, comprehending among its members professors in every branch of Art taught in the Academy, would supply the place of a Director.

We propose that thoroughly efficient masters should be appointed to teach the different branches of Art respectively; that is to say,

A master to instruct the students, in whatever school, in the practice of drawing.

A master to instruct the students, in whatever school, in the practice of modelling.

A master to instruct the students, in whatever school, in the practice of painting.

A master to instruct the students in architecture.

There shall be a curator in each school to maintain order in the absence of the masters, and to conduct such teaching as may be authorized.

The various masters will submit their Reports to the School Committee.

The question of instruction in architecture, which is not referred to by the Commissioners, has long engaged the attention of the Academy.

This branch of Art, although promoted by honorary rewards, travelling studentships, and scholarships, has, with the exception of lectures and the use of the library, never received that amount of direct instruction which has been provided for painting and sculpture.

We, therefore, recommend, that in the event of sufficient space being available, a

room shall be set apart as a school for students in architecture, where they may be instructed in the elements of composition, in the practice of drawing and modelling from the human figure and other objects, and in the principles of harmony in colour. A considerable part of such instruction having for its object, the study and practice of decoration applicable to buildings.

It is also desirable that a room should be provided for architectural models of ancient and modern buildings, as well as sculptured and coloured decorations, for the use of the students.

The Commissioners consider that

> "whatever advantages have hitherto attended the system of Visitors might in a great measure be still secured by the appointment of a sub-committee of the Council, which should visit the schools from time to time, reporting to the Council as to the progress that had been made, and making any suggestions that they might consider requisite."—Report, p. xix.

We have assumed that the School Committee will be distinct from the Council; but as regards the duty of inspection, and the possibility of sufficiently securing in that mode the advantages of the system of Visitors, we agree with the Commissioners. We propose that the members of the School Committee shall by turns, and sometimes together, visit the schools, so as to be conversant with the practical results of the system recommended, and to be better enabled to judge of any suggestions submitted in the Reports of the Masters.

The School Committee will report its proceedings and the result of its inspection annually to the Council.

We propose that the ordinary regulations for the various schools, as well as the details for the system of instruction shall be prepared by the School Committee, to be confirmed by the Council and General Assembly.

The attention of the School Committee should be directed to the recommendations of the Commissioners respecting the mode of admission of students into the Academy (Report, p. xix.)

We approve of the proposed system (Report, p. xix.) of awarding scholarships to students, who, either by means of the present tests, or by others hereafter to be established, may give satisfactory proof of their proficiency.

The Commissioners do not think it unreasonable that the instruction of the students

> "should no longer be entirely gratuitous, but that, on the contrary, some moderate fees should be required."—Report, p. xix.

We are of opinion that instruction in the schools of the Royal Academy should continue to be gratuitous.

A system of periodical examinations of the students, as recommended by the Commissioners (Report, p. xix.), is at present observed by the tests to which the students are subjected as candidates for admission to the different schools, and more literally in the study of anatomy and perspective.

An annual exhibition of the works of the students, as recommended by the Commissioners (Report, p. xix.), might possibly be practicable hereafter; at present the works of candidates for premiums are so exhibited. The distribution of the prizes (Report, p. xx.) is, and always has been, so far public that admission to the Academy on the occasions when it takes place is obtained without difficulty.

We recommend with the Commissioners (Report, p. xx.), that a professor of chemistry should be appointed to teach, in the Academy, chemistry as applicable to Art.

The Commissioners are of opinion that the present system of travelling studentships cannot be said to have worked well,

> "the number being far too small to have produced any practical effect."

They suggest,

> "that instead of these a certain number of Art fellowships, so far as the funds of the Academy may properly allow, should be annually competed for. . . . . That these fellowships should be held for a term of years, the object being to assist students in the study and practice of Art at home and abroad; but that all fellows should be required annually, during the tenure of their fellowships, to submit, for the inspection and satisfaction of the Council, one or more specimens of their work in the branch of Art which they cultivate."—Report, p. xx.

The proposed substitution of Art fellowships for travelling studentships appears to us to be in a great measure nominal. The number of students who, by successful competition are entitled to pecuniary assistance, has been recently increased, in consequence of the institution of an annual travelling studentship in architecture and other scholarships. The successful candidates have the option, in certain cases, of studying at home or abroad; and the travelling students, properly so called, are required to submit to the

Council, at stated times, specimens of their work. With regard to any great increase of the number of such scholarships in all the branches of Art, it may be doubted, as indeed the Commissioners appear to surmise, whether the annual outlay would be practicable for the Academy, especially when it is remembered that many of the changes already proposed would involve a greatly increased expenditure.

The establishment of a branch Academy at Rome, in connexion with the Royal Academy, as proposed by the Commissioners (Report, p. xx.), is a question depending on so many circumstances beyond our control, that we think it unnecessary at this time to offer any opinion respecting it.

As the internal economy of the Academy will require the supervision of a responsible and most competent officer, we propose that there shall be a Superintendent resident on the premises, having the control and management of the entire establishment, who will be required to look to the safety of the building, to take charge of the property of the Academy, and to superintend all matters relating to the ordinary expenditure, submitting the accounts periodically to the Auditors and Council. Though required to maintain the material efficiency of every department, it will be no part of his duty to give instruction in the schools.

E.—Charities.

On this subject the views of the Commissioners entirely agree with our own.

F.—Buildings.

The principal changes in the constitution and management of the Academy which have been proposed by the Commissioners, and with many of which we are prepared to agree, must depend, as they repeatedly admit, on considerably increased accommodation as to space. The Commissioners propose that, in the event of a new National Gallery being erected on some other site,

> "the whole of the present building in Trafalgar Square should be handed over to the Royal Academy for their use, subject to such conditions and arrangements as the Government of the day might determine."—Report, p. xxii.

"It is further to be observed," they elsewhere say,

> "that it is only by the grant of apartments, whether permanent or temporary, to the Royal Academicians that the public acquire any right of control and jurisdiction in their affairs. If we suppose the Academy, under its Instrument, to provide a building of its own at its own charge, we cannot see how the public could claim any right of interfering with its proceedings any more than with those of any other private corporation. It is, therefore, by the grant of apartments adequate to the requirements of the Royal Academy and to the claims of British Art, that the Government acquire the right of proposing to the Academy such rules and regulations as they may deem expedient, and such as in our preceding recommendations we have shown to be, in our judgment, requisite."—Report, p. xxi.

On this subject we have first to remark, that the proposed increase of the members of the Academy, the more extensive and costly system of instruction contemplated, the greater outlay that will be required for the annual Exhibition, and the enlargement of the establishment, will add considerably to the expenses of the Institution; and it is, therefore, not without anxiety that we wait for a decision as to the general conditions, financially considered, on which we may be permitted to take possession of the building at present only partially occupied by us.

With regard to the other "conditions and arrangements" referred to, and the "rules and regulations" which, as the Commissioners state, the Government would acquire the right of proposing to the Academy, we trust that the carefully considered opinions we have expressed, and which agree in many important respects with the recommendations of the Commissioners, will be found acceptable.

In prescribing rules and regulations for a body of experienced professors of the Fine Arts, it is not unreasonable to assume that the Government would require advice from impartial professional men. The artist element was wanting in the Commission, and we confess we do not see how it could have been easily supplied; yet we cannot refrain from remarking that the Commissioners who have come to the conclusion, justly or not, that a very moderate addition of the lay element might assist the judgment of artists, seem to have overlooked the tendency of their argument in an opposite sense, having apparently felt no want of professional judgment in their private and final decisions. The advantage to be derived even from varying opinions elicited in evidence is admitted; but the conclusions and views of the Commissioners, however honest and impartial, are, after all, those of unprofessional men. We submit that they are to be regarded as in

some respects open to question accordingly. At the same time, concluding as we began, we desire to express our sense of the fairness with which the Commissioners have weighed the evidence; we remark their disregard of the unreasoning hostility sometimes evinced in it, and we fully admit the largeness of their views, and their zeal for the highest interests of Art.

We have to request, Sir, that in submitting to the Queen the result of our deliberations on the matters referred to us, you will do us the honour to convey to Her Majesty, with the expression of our humble and dutiful obedience, that of our deeply felt gratitude for the special patronage and privileges which Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to continue to the Royal Academy. The Institution owed its existence, its early support, and its subsequent establishment in a building expressly prepared for it, to the munificence of the Crown; and whatever success may have attended its efforts for the promotion of the Fine Arts in this country has, from first to last, been greatly attributable to the Royal favour.

We have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servants,

Signed on the part of the Members of the Royal Academy.

C. L. EASTLAKE,
President.

JOHN P. KNIGHT, R.A.,
Secretary.

Colonel The Honourable
Sir Charles B. Phipps, K.C.B.

LONDON:
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SEVENTH REPORT

OF THE

TRUSTEES

OF

THE NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY

TO THE LORDS OF HER MAJESTY'S TREASURY.

The Trustees of the National Portrait Gallery have the honour to submit herewith their Seventh Annual Report.

In their last, dated 16th April 1863, they stated that only four days since they had unhappily lost their able and much-respected colleague Sir George Cornewall Lewis. The vacancy thus created has been supplied by a Treasury Minute, dated 13th May 1863, and naming the Earl of Dudley a member of the Board.

Accordingly, the Board of Trustees is composed as follows:—

Earl Stanhope (Chairman).
William Smith, Esq. (Deputy Chairman).
The Lord President of the Council (for the time being).
The Earl Somers.
The Earl of Dudley.
The Lord Stanley, M.P.
The Lord Elcho, M.P.
The Lord Robert Cecil, M.P.
The Lord Bishop of Oxford.
The Right Honourable the Chancellor of the Exchequer.
The Right Honourable B. Disraeli, M.P.
Sir Charles Eastlake, P.R.A.
William Stirling, Esq., of Keir, M.P.
Thomas Carlyle, Esq.
William H. Carpenter, Esq.

Since the day of the last Report (16th April 1863) up to the present day, the number of meetings held by the Trustees is six, and from the 9th of February 1857, when the Trustees commenced their duties (including the present meeting) 64.

The list of 47 donations, as given in their former Reports, may now be extended, as follows:

48. John, Lord Hervey, 1696—1743.
A full-length Portrait, by Vanloo; engraved by Faber. Presented, December 1863, by the Marquess of Bristol.

49. Dr. Arnold, of Rugby, 1795—1841.
A Marble Bust by Behnes. Presented, February 1864, by the Lord Bishop of Manchester.

50. William

50. William Woodfall, the Parliamentary Reporter, 1745—1803.
Painted by T. Beach, a Pupil of Sir Joshua Reynolds. Presented, February 1864, by H. D. Woodfall, Esq.

51. The Right Honourable George Tierney, 1761—1830.
A Marble Bust, by Behnes. Presented, April 1864, by his Son, George Tierney, Esq.

The following was also presented as a contribution to the portfolio of original drawings by Mrs. Lucretia Kay, December 1863.

A Lead-pencil drawing of Admiral the Earl of St, Vincent; a profile taken at Lisbon, by Bouch, in 1797.

The purchases made were stated by the Trustees in their former Report as amounting to 111. They are now increased, as the following list will show, to 118.

112. Charles Churchill, 1731—1765.
Painted by T. Schaak; engraved by T. Burford. Purchased April 1863. Price 26 *l.* 5 *s.*

113. Queen Catherine of Arragon, 1485—1536.
Painter unknown. Purchased July 1863. Price 42 *l.*

114. Sir Nicholas Bacon, 1510—1579.
Painter unknown. Purchased July 1863. Price 105 *l.*

115. Thomas Stanley, the Historian of Philosophy, 1625—1678.
Painted by Sir Peter Lely. Purchased July 1863. Price, 50 *l.* 10 *s.*

116. Lord Heathfield, 1717—1790.
Painted by J. S. Copley, R. A. Purchased March 1864. Price 39 *l.* 18 *s.*

117. Archbishop Laud, 1573—1645.
School of Van Dyck. Purchased March 1864. Price 75 *l.* 12 *s.*

118. Earl of Mansfield, 1704—1793.
Painted by J. S. Copley, R. A. Purchased March 1864. Price 241 *l.* 10 *s.*

The three last of these pictures were obtained at Lord Lyndhurst's sale in March last. It was the desire of the Trustees also to secure on that occasion an original half-length portrait of Lord Duncan, the victor of Camperdown; but the sum which they had decided upon offering, though considerable, did not prove adequate, and the picture has passed, it must be owned very appropriately, into the possession of one of the grandsons of the distinguished Admiral.

As in the preceding year, the Trustees have again adopted the plan of opening the apartments during the three days very frequently regarded as a period of holiday among the working classes, namely, the three first days of Easter week.

The result has again been very satisfactory. On Easter Monday there were 1,184 visitors as compared to 942 visitors in 1863, and 672 in 1862; on Easter Tuesday 677 visitors, as against 496 in 1863, and 201 in 1862.

The weather on Wednesday, as in the previous year, was very dark and rainy, and the attendance was only 153 visitors as against 150 in 1863, and 287 in 1862.

The Secretary on that occasion reported to the Chairman as follows:—"As "regards the Chandos Shakspeare, there was a little crowd around it all day "long; but not one single attempt at touching it, or indeed any of the other "objects in the Gallery, was seen either by myself or the constables in attend-"ance in the Gallery. There were many children, even charity children, and "those belonging to the humblest classes, and it was quite striking to observe "how quickly they caught at the name of Shakspeare.

"The printed lists of the pictures that were freely distributed seemed to afford "great satisfaction. Many persons were heard to say that they had never known "that the Gallery was open to the public, and that they must come again soon.

"I was surprised to find that the amount of ready knowledge which many of "the visitors brought to bear on reading the names affixed to the pictures. "Many of our visitors to-day were working men; very many were printers."

It

It has been resolved at the present meeting, from past experience of the open days, that the hours of public admission may henceforth be safely extended.

The Gallery, instead of being open from 12 to 4, will henceforth be open from 10 to 5 between Easter and Michaelmas, and from 10 to 4 between Michaelmas and Easter, the days of admission being Wednesdays and Saturdays, as before.

In this year, as in the two last, the Trustees can only renew their earnest representations how utterly inadequate is the space at their disposal compared with the pictures they have been enabled to obtain.

For further details upon the subject they desire to refer to their previous Reports. The inconvenience of access to their visitors, the growing difficulty to find room for any fresh accessions on their walls, and the unfavourable light in which many of the pictures are placed, are certainly no slight evils to any collection of works of Art. The Trustees desire to assure Her Majesty's Government that they will use their utmost exertions to mitigate these difficulties as much as possible; but so long as the space at their disposal shall not be extended, they trust that they may receive, and they know that they shall require, a large meed of the public indulgence.

Signed, by Order of the Board,

George Scharf,
Secretary and Keeper.

29, Great George Street, Westminster,
18 April 1864.

NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY.

SEVENTH REPORT

OF THE

TRUSTEES

OF THE

NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY

TO THE

LORDS OF HER MAJESTY'S TREASURY.

(Presented to Parliament by Her Majesty's Command.)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
26 *April* 1864.

234

Under 1 *oz.*

REPORT

OF

THE COMMISSIONERS

APPOINTED TO CONSIDER THE

AGREEMENTS MADE BY THE FINE ARTS COMMISSION WITH ARTISTS,

IN RESPECT TO

WALL-PAINTINGS

FOR THE PALACE OF WESTMINSTER.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY GEORGE EDWARD EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1864.

[*Price 2d.*]

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COMMISSION.

VICTORIA R.

Victoria, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith.

To Our right trusty and well-beloved Samuel Jones Baron Overstone, Our right trusty and well-beloved Councillor Henry Baron Taunton, Our trusty and well-beloved Sir Charles Lock Eastlake, Knight, Our trusty and well-beloved Austen Henry Layard, Esquire, and Our trusty and well-beloved Robert Stayner Holford, Esquire, Greeting:

Whereas We have thought it expedient for divers good Causes and Considerations that a Commission should forthwith issue to consider the Agreements made by the Commissioners "appointed to inquire whether Advantage might not be taken of the "rebuilding of the Palace of Westminster for the Purpose of promoting and encouraging "the Fine Arts," with Artists in respect to Wall-Paintings for the Palace of Westminster which are now in progress, or which have been recently completed, and to report whether any Circumstances have arisen of a Nature to make it desirable that those Agreements should be revised, and if so, what Alterations they would recommend.

Now know ye, that We, reposing great Trust and Confidence in your Knowledge and Ability, have authorized and appointed, and do by these Presents authorize and appoint, you the said Samuel Jones Baron Overstone, Henry Baron Taunton, Sir Charles Lock Eastlake, Austen Henry Layard, and Robert Stayner Holford, to be our Commissioners for the Purposes aforesaid.

And for the better enabling you to carry these Our Royal Intentions into effect, We do hereby give and grant unto you full Power and Authority to call before you such Persons as you shall judge likely to afford you any Information upon the Subject of this Our Commission, and to inquire of and concerning the Premises by all other lawful Ways and Means whatsoever.

And We do by these Presents will and ordain that this Our Commission shall continue in full Force and Virtue, and that you Our said Commissioners may from Time to Time proceed in the Execution thereof, and of every Matter and Thing therein contained, although the same be not continued from Time to Time by Adjournment.

And Our further Will and Pleasure is, that you Our said Commissioners, upon due Inquiry into the Premises, do report to Us, in Writing, under your Hands and Seals, your several Proceedings under and by virtue of this Our Commission, together with what you shall find touching or concerning the Premises.

Given at Our Court at Saint James's, the Thirteenth Day of June One thousand eight hundred and sixty-four, in the Twenty-seventh Year of Our Reign.

By Her Majesty's Command,

G. GREY.

MINUTES.

Thursday, 23rd June 1864.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lord Taunton.
Lord Overstone.
Sir Charles Lock Eastlake.
Mr. Layard, M.P.
Mr. Holford, M.P.
Mr. A. Bonham-Carter, *Hon. Sec.*

Lord TAUNTON being called to the CHAIR, the Commission was read.

Resolved,

That Mr. Alfred Bonham-Carter be appointed Honorary Secretary to the Commission.

That an official letter be written to the office of Her Majesty's Works, to request that the Commissioners may be furnished with the agreements (alluded to in the Commission) made with Mr. Dyce, Mr. Herbert, Mr. Maclise, Mr. Cope, and Mr. Ward, and with such documents and correspondence as may be deemed to throw light on the subject of the inquiry.

That the above-mentioned artists be written to, giving them the terms of the Commission, and stating that the agreements between them and the Fine Arts Commissioners had been applied for, and requesting them to favour the Commissioners with any observations they may wish to make on the subject.

Adjourned to Monday, the 27th inst., at 3.30 p.m.

TAUNTON, Chairman.

Monday, 27th June 1864.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lord Taunton, *Chairman.*
Lord Overstone.
Sir Charles Lock Eastlake.
Mr. Layard, M.P.
Mr. Holford, M.P.
Mr. A. Bonham-Carter, *Hon. Sec.*

The agreements between the Fine Arts Commissioners and Mr. Dyce, Mr. Herbert, Mr. Maclise, Mr. Cope, and Mr. Ward were produced, together with the minutes of the Fine Arts Commission, and the copy of a letter from Mr. Herbert to the First Commissioner of Her Majesty's Works.

The letter addressed to these artists, and to Mrs. Dyce on behalf of her deceased husband, by which they were informed of the appointment of the Commission and requested to favour the Commissioners with their observations, was read.

The letter of 25th inst. from Mrs. Dyce with its enclosures, in reply to the Commissioners, was read.

The agreement with the late Mr. Dyce, R.A., was considered.

The Commissioners adjourned to the Queen's Robing Room in the House of Lords, and inspected the frescoes executed by Mr. Dyce, with a view to judging of what space of wall-painting remained unexecuted by him.

Adjourned to Saturday, the 2nd July, at 11.30 a.m.

TAUNTON, Chairman.

Saturday, 2nd July 1864.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lord Taunton, *Chairman.*
Lord Overstone.
Sir Charles Lock Eastlake.
Mr. Layard, M.P.
Mr. Holford, M.P.
Mr. A. Bonham-Carter, *Hon. Sec.*

The agreement with Mr. Dyce was further considered.

The agreement with Mr. Maclise, R.A., was considered.

The letter of the 27th June last, from Mr. Maclise to the Commissioners, was read.

The Commissioners visited Mr. Maclise in his studio in the Royal Gallery, when he stated that at the commencement of his work he had been occupied for a month in painting, in *buon fresco*, the

meeting of Wellington and Blucher; and that this much of his work he had destroyed, the method being, in his opinion, ill adapted to the subject, and that of his own free will and choice he had substituted the water-glass method in his subsequent operations.

The agreement with Mr. Herbert, R.A., was considered.

The letter of the 27th June last, from Mr. Herbert to the Commissioners, and the letter of the 16th January last, therein referred to, from Mr. Herbert to the First Commissioner of Works, were read.

Adjourned to Wednesday, the 6th July, at 11.30 a.m.

TAUNTON, Chairman.

Wednesday, 6th July 1864.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lord Taunton, *Chairman.*
Lord Overstone.
Sir Charles Lock Eastlake.
Mr. Layard, M.P.
Mr. Holford, M.P.
Mr. A. Bonham-Carter, *Hon. Sec.*

The agreements with Mr. Ward, R.A., and Mr. Cope, R.A., were considered.

The letters of the 1st July, 1864, from Mr. Cope and Mr. Ward to the Commissioners, were read.

The Commissioners inspected the paintings by Mr. Herbert, Mr. Cope, and Mr. Ward in the Peers' Robing Room, and the Lords' Corridor, and the Commons' Corridor.

Mr. Herbert appeared before the Commissioners, and stated that he had no further observations to make beyond those mentioned in his written communication to them; and that he considered his work of "Moses" substantially finished.

The draft Report was read and considered.

Adjourned to Wednesday, the 13th July, at 11.30 a.m.

TAUNTON, Chairman.

Wednesday, 13th July 1864.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lord Taunton, *Chairman.*
Lord Overstone.
Sir Charles Lock Eastlake.
Mr. Layard, M.P.
Mr. Holford, M.P.
Mr. A. Bonham-Carter, *Hon Sec.*

The Report was read.

The Report was read, paragraph by paragraph, and agreed to.

TAUNTON, Chairman.

REPORT.

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

We, Your Majesty's Commissioners appointed to "consider the agreements made by "'the Commissioners appointed to inquire whether advantage might not be taken of "'the Rebuilding of the Palace of Westminster for the purpose of promoting and "'encouraging the Fine Arts,' with Artists in respect to Wall-Paintings for the Palace "of Westminster which are now in progress or which have been recently completed, "and to report whether any circumstances have arisen of a nature to make it desirable "that those agreements should be revised, and if so, what alterations we should "recommend," humbly submit to Your Majesty the following Report.

After duly considering the terms in which the limits of our inquiry are defined we have deemed it incumbent upon us to direct our attention exclusively to the engagements entered into on the part of the Fine Arts Commission with Messrs. Herbert, Maclise, Cope, Ward, and the eminent artist, Mr. Dyce, recently deceased.

We have put ourselves in direct communication with these gentlemen, or their representatives, and we have personally inspected their works, with the view of informing ourselves accurately as to the state of those works—how many of them are completed, and the progress which has been made in those which are still incomplete. Appendix No. 2.

1. From letters which passed between Sir Charles Eastlake, as Secretary of the Fine Arts Commission, and Mr. Herbert, which will be found in the Appendix to this Report, it appears that Mr. Herbert engaged to execute nine Wall-Paintings in the Peers Robing-Room; that these Paintings were to be completed in not less than 10 years from the 1st of April 1849; that the total sum to be paid to Mr. Herbert for these works was 9,000*l.* Appendix No. 1.

We now find that at the end of 15 years one of these Paintings is finished with the exception of the Water-glass fixing; Designs for three of the remaining eight Pictures have been submitted to the Fine Arts Commission, and have received their approval, at the respective dates of July 1851, 1855, 1857. No Wall-Painting, however, has been commenced in respect to any of these eight Pictures. Mr. Herbert has received on account of these three Designs the sum of 1,800*l.*; while for one Wall-Picture completed there has been paid to him the sum of 2,000*l.* It thus appears that the time within which it was understood that the nine Paintings were to be completed has proved insufficient for the completion of one of the nine; while 3,800*l.* out of the 9,000*l.* have been already paid to the Artist.

Many considerations may no doubt be reasonably urged in explanation of this wide deviation from the original understanding. Wall-Painting in fresco and water glass is a branch of Fine Art only recently attempted in this country. Our artists have entered upon it without the advantage of previous experience. They have necessarily made many tentative efforts. Success has been gradually attained through a series of failures. Work done has been obliterated, and the Painting recommenced. The process of fresco painting in its original and strict sense has been abandoned, under the sanction of the Fine Arts Commission; and in place of it the more modern Water-glass process has been resorted to.

It is impossible that we should overlook these facts, and especially the effect of the adoption of the Water-glass process, when called upon to reconsider the terms of the engagements which have been submitted to us, and to exercise a judgment as to the equitable claims which the Artists may make for some further consideration beyond the strict amount of their original contract.

We do not consider it to be any part of our duty to pronounce an opinion upon the artistic merit of the works in question. That must be decided at the bar of public criticism. Our duty is to weigh fairly the unexpected difficulties with which the Artists have had to contend, and the diligence and fidelity with which they have endeavoured to carry out the spirit of their engagements.

In the Painting of "Moses bringing down the Tables of the Law" Mr. Herbert has produced a work which has excited much attention, and has secured a large share of public approval. We have further reason to believe that the accomplishment of this result has required more prolonged and patient thought and more personal labour than was anticipated by either of the parties to the original contract,—the Fine Arts Commission or Mr. Herbert himself.

We therefore feel justified in recommending that a further sum of 3,000*l.*, in addition to the sum of 2,000*l.* already paid to him, be awarded to Mr. Herbert on account of the one picture which he has completed, viz., "Moses, &c."

But we think it necessary to accompany this recommendation with the expression of our opinion that the contract as regards the remaining eight Pictures should be cancelled. No commencement has been made of any one of these Pictures. The time nevertheless within which they were all to have been finished has long since expired. The further time which may be required for their completion is altogether indefinite; so also must be the further remuneration which may become equitably due to the Artist for his prolonged thought and labour. This cannot be a satisfactory or proper state in which to leave the matter. The use of the room in question is required for important public purposes; the public purse, moreover, ought not to be subject to future charges of an uncertain and undefined amount.

If the remaining eight pictures are to be proceeded with, it is clearly our opinion that it ought to be under a new contract, in which the time for the completion of each picture and the sum to be paid to the artist shall be distinctly set forth, with the understanding that it is not open to any subsequent revision. The experience now obtained in Fresco-painting and in the Water-glass Process will of course afford the means of forming a distinct and definite estimate of the time and labour which may be required, and the remuneration which may be fairly claimed for any future Wall-Paintings which it may be deemed expedient to authorize.

Appendix No. 1.

2. By the letters between Sir Charles Eastlake and Mr. Maclise, which appear in the Appendix, and which constitute the agreement between him and the Fine Arts Commissioners, Mr. Maclise has been entrusted with the decoration of the Royal Gallery.

This was to be effected by the execution of eighteen Wall-paintings of various sizes. For the two largest the Artist was to receive 3,500*l.* each; and for the remaining ten the estimated cost was 1,000*l.* each. One of the large compartments is completed ("Meeting of Wellington and Blucher at Waterloo"); and the Artist has received for this the full stipulated price of 3,500*l.* The painting of the second large compartment is in an advanced state. The Artist has received for this one half of the stipulated price (1,750*l.*) The balance due to him on the completion of the work is therefore 1,750*l.*

We believe that these two large and important works will be completed in about eight years from the commencement of them. We are satisfied that Mr. Maclise has applied himself with uninterrupted diligence and energy to the accomplishment of the work he had undertaken; that he has devoted his well-known skill and genius as an artist exclusively to this work,—foregoing the emolument which he might undoubtedly have derived from the execution of private commissions. The probable result will be the completion of two works of unusual magnitude within a reasonable period of time.

Under these circumstances we are of opinion that some consideration beyond the sum stipulated for in the contract is fairly due to Mr. Maclise. We, therefore, recommend that the total sum to be paid for the two Wall-Paintings, which, according to the existing agreement, is 7,000*l.*, be increased to 10,000*l.*, making 5,000*l.* for each picture. If this recommendation be approved, the sum of 1,500*l.* will be payable at once on account of the Painting which is finished; and the sum of 3,250*l.* (1,750*l.* plus 1,500*l.*) will be payable on completion of that now in progress.

We think the understanding with regard to the Paintings in the other compartments not yet commenced ought to be treated as we have already recommended in the case of Mr. Herbert, that is to say, the engagement, so far as regards them, ought to be cancelled. If it be deemed expedient to carry out fully the original plan for the wall decoration of the Royal Gallery, the Artist and the Government must, for the reasons we have already stated, be better prepared now to conclude an arrangement which will be just and equitable between the parties, and which will require no subsequent revision.

Appendix No. 1.

3. The terms of the agreements entered into between the Fine Arts Commission and Messrs. Cope and Ward, and the progress made towards the completion of their works, are so nearly identical, that we see no ground for drawing any distinction between these Artists in the conclusion at which we have arrived.

Both undertook to complete eight works; Mr. Cope for the decoration of the Peers' Corridor; Mr. Ward for the decoration of the Commons' Corridor. For these eight Pictures they were each to receive 4,800*l.*, that is 600*l.* per Picture. Mr. Cope has completed six, and Mr. Ward has completed five of the Pictures respectively entrusted to them.

Letters have been addressed to us in which these gentlemen set forth their views on the subject of the engagement into which they have entered with the Fine Arts Commission. These letters are appended to this Report.

We must observe that of the Pictures by Mr. Cope, five were completed and paid for before the end of 1862; and of the Pictures by Mr. Ward, four were completed and paid for before the end of 1862.

Admitting, however, to a greater or less extent, the reasonableness of the considerations which these gentlemen have urged upon us, and applying to their cases the principles which we have laid down when discussing the cases of Mr. Herbert and Mr. Maclise, we recommend that Messrs. Cope and Mr. Ward be requested to complete the commissions entrusted to them, now in the advanced state above mentioned, with all reasonable expedition, and, when that shall have been done, we recommend that, in addition to the stipulated sum of 4,800*l.* to which they will have then become entitled, a further sum of 800*l.*, being 100*l.* additional for each picture, be awarded to each of them.

4. By the engagement which Mr. Dyce entered into with the Fine Arts Commission he undertook to paint in fresco seven compartments in the Queen's Robing Room, together with smaller compartments in the Frieze (28 in number), which were to be painted in fresco or in any other method. This work was to be completed in seven years from the 1st July 1848, and Mr. Dyce was to receive by successive payments a total sum of 4,800*l.* This contract underwent some subsequent modifications, principally an increase of remuneration on account of an excess over the estimated wall-space, which it is not necessary to set forth in detail. Mr. Dyce died having completed five of the seven larger compartments, but not having commenced any of the 28 smaller compartments in the Frieze. For the work left in this incomplete state, 5,600*l.* had been paid to Mr. Dyce before his death. Appendix No. 1.

This state of things does not appear to call for any interference or further recommendation on our part. The incomplete state in which the decoration of the Queen's Robing Room now remains is the result of an event beyond human control, by which this eminent Artist has been prematurely arrested in his career.

In conclusion, we have humbly to state that we have endeavoured to discharge the duty with which Your Majesty has entrusted us in that spirit of liberality towards these distinguished Artists in which our appointment as a Royal Commission appears to have originated, so far as is consistent with justice to the public. But we desire to express our strong conviction that it is for the true interest and honour of Artists as well as due to public economy, that in future there should be no subsequent departure from the provisions of any contract which has been deliberately agreed upon. It is for the Artist before he enters upon such an engagement well to consider how far the renown which accompanies a successful work in a National Monument or Building affords an adequate compensation for any pecuniary loss which he may apprehend with regard to his private practice. We believe that nothing would more effectually discourage the Government and Parliament of this country from attempting to promote the cultivation of the highest branches of Fine Art by giving important commissions, than the admission of a loose and indefinite system of payment which would make it impossible to form beforehand a reliable estimate of the expenditure to be incurred.

Witness our hands and seals this 19th day of July 1864.

TAUNTON (Chairman). (L.S.)
OVERSTONE. (L.S.)
C. L. EASTLAKE. (L.S.)
A. H. LAYARD. (L.S.)
R. S. HOLFORD. (L.S.)

ALFRED BONHAM-CARTER,
Honorary Secretary.

APPENDIX.

No. 1.

Fine Arts Commission and Mr. Herbert.

J. R. Herbert, Esq., to C. L. Eastlake, Esq., R.A.

1, Gloucester Road, Old Brompton,
July 15, 1850.

Sir,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st inst., informing me that while the Royal Commissioners on the Fine Arts do not object to the amount, viz., 9,282*l.* (arrived at by calculating the cost of the frescos for the peers' robing-room, on the basis of the terms they did me the honor to accept), the Commissioners are of opinion that the mode proposed by me of estimating the cost at so much per square foot had better not be literally adopted, and suggest that the sum should be fixed at 9,000*l.* I beg that you will have the goodness to state to the Royal Commissioners that, as far as possible, I am most anxious to meet their views, and therefore abandon the 282*l.* As this will make the rate of the whole somewhat *under* that which I received from my Lear, I beg to submit to the consideration of the Royal Commissioners that in the event of the spaces being enlarged that I may receive payment for the increase at the same rate as the other parts of the work, with this proviso, however, that should the increase bring the extra sum beyond 500*l.*, that all beyond that sum should not be charged for. Permit me to add that with respect to the time, ten years, and the mode of payment, I have not the slightest objection to offer.

I have, &c.

To C. L. Eastlake, Esq., R.A., &c. &c.

J. R. Herbert,

C. L. Eastlake, Esq., to J. R. Herbert, Esq.

Sir,

Westminster, July 27, 1850.

Having submitted to Her Majesty's Commissioners on the Fine Arts your letter of the 15th inst., in which you accept the terms proposed by the Commissioners, and expressed to you in my letter of the 1st inst., I am directed to acquaint you that the Commissioners are now ready to conclude an agreement with you accordingly.

It is understood that you are prepared to paint in fresco the peers' robing-room in the Palace at Westminster at the price of 9,000*l.*, such sum being spread over a period not less than 10 years, dating from the 1st of April last. It is understood that in the event of any alterations being made, with the consent of the Commissioners, in the dimensions of the compartments to be painted by you in the said peers' robing-room after this date, and irrespectively of alterations before proposed by you, such future alterations may involve a corresponding change in the price.

It is understood that you are to enjoy the copyright of your works in the said peers' robing-room with a view to engraving, and that all studies, cartoons, and paintings executed by you in reference to such works will be your property. It is also understood that, while you are at liberty to take your own course as to the method in which your designs, preparatory to the execution of the frescos, may be made, the Commissioners require, in accordance with your own proposal, that a defined sketch of each subject be submitted to them for approval before such subject is proceeded with.

The Commissioners have further directed me to state to you that, being of opinion that it will be expedient to bring under the notice of the House of commons, in the next session, such arrangements of the Commission as extend beyond the current year, it is understood that the agreement hereby made with you is, for the present, conditional, and subject to its adoption by the House of Commons.

I am, &c.

(Signed) C. L. Eastlake,
Secretary.

J. R. Herbert, Esq., R.A.,
1, Gloucester Road, Old Brompton.

Fine Arts Commission and Mr. Maclise.

Daniel Maclise, Esq., to Sir C. Eastlake, P.R.A.

14, Russell Place, Fitzroy Square,
July 14, 1857.

Dear Sir Charles,

I have to ask you to be so kind as to submit from me to Her Majesty's Commissioners on the Fine Arts a proposal for which I am anxious to obtain their favourable consideration.

Having found, upon inquiry, that the subjects selected to be placed in the Royal Gallery of the Palace at Westminster, and described by the Commissioners at page 13 of their seventh report, have yet in no way been appropriated, and learning that an opinion has been expressed that the time has arrived when those subjects might be proceeded with, I venture to request, through you, that I may be permitted to undertake the execution of them in fresco, in accordance with the plan laid down in the report.

The various compartments reserved for them in this gallery I have, within the last few days, carefully examined. I have convinced myself that the subjects embraced in this particular series are those which upon the whole I might hope to execute more worthily than any other still unappropriated, and if the Commissioners accede to my proposal, I am prepared henceforwarded to devote myself to the work until the whole of it shall be accomplished.

Permit me to add that every other consideration connected with the proposition thus submitted to Her Majesty's Commissioners I regard as subordinate to the hope and the ambition with which I should enter upon it of so carrying it to completion as to justify the confidence which may be reposed in me.

I remain, &c.

(Signed) Daniel Maclise.

Sir Charles Eastlake, P.R.A.

14, Russell Place, Fitzroy Square,
February 13, 1858.

Dear Sir Charles,

As I have stated my reasons in conversation as a kind of excuse for naming 3,500*l.* as a price for the proposed fresco, I shall merely say in this note that I will very readily undertake to execute the work for that sum.

I remain, &c.

(Signed) Daniel Maclise.

Sir Charles Eastlake, P.R.A.

14, Russell Place, Fitzroy Square,
February 18, 1858.

Dear Sir Charles,

You have called my attention to the fact of my not having answered your letter of July 6, 1857, in which you ask me, on the part of Her Majesty's Commissioners, if I would undertake to paint the series of frescos proposed for St. Stephen's Hall in the Palace of Westminster. I am quite amazed that I betrayed this more than usual unclerklike failing, for which I beg you will accept my apologies.

I can only account for the omission in my note of the 14th of July 1857 by supposing that in the earnest expression of my desire to be allowed to execute the works in the Royal Gallery, as containing subjects on the whole more interesting to me than those in St. Stephen's Hall, and in the hope of being thought worthy to undertake which I felt willing to devote myself exclusively, I neglected to refer to the particular subject of your letter.

Again begging you to receive this as my excuse,

I remain, &c.

(Signed) Daniel Maclise.

Sir Charles Eastlake, P.R.A.

Sir C. L. Eastlake to D. Maclise, Esq., R.A.

Palace of Westminster,
February 24, 1858.

Sir,

Having, on the 20th inst., laid before Her Majesty's Commissioners on the Fine Arts, your letter dated the 14th of July last, together with that dated the 18th of this month, I am directed to acquaint you that, subject to the sanction of the Treasury and of the House of Commons, the Commissioners approve of the proposal submitted in your letter of July last, to undertake to paint, in fresco, the subjects selected for the Royal Gallery in the Palace of Westminster.

The Commissioners understand it to be your wish that the lower series of frescos in the Royal Gallery—ten in number, exclusive of two of large dimensions,—although not the first in chronological order, should be undertaken

before the upper series, six in number. In this view they are disposed to acquiese, but they are of opinion that the subject first treated by you should be one of the ten referred to, and not one of the two intended for the large compartments. The Commissioners leave it to you to select any one of the ten subjects you may perfer.

The ten compartments in question vary slightly in size, but, in accordance with your instructions, I have stated to the Commissioners that you are ready to undertake to paint those compartments in fresco at the rate of 1,000*l.* for each compartment, and that your estimate for each of the two large compartments, each measuring 45 feet 8 inches in length, is 3,500*l.*

Considering the magnitude of the scheme as regards labour and estimated cost, and the impossibility of assigning any probable time for its completion, the Commissioners think it would not be advisable to submit the whole plan and estimate to Parliament for approval or rejection. They have accordingly only recommended at present that one of the ten frecoes referred to should be committed to you at the price of 1,000*l.*

When you have selected a subject, the Commissioners require that you should submit a sketch of the composition before the cartoon is undertaken.

I am, &c.

(Signed) C. L. Eastlake,
Secretary.

D. Maclise, Esq., R.A.,
14, Russell Place, Fitzroy Square.

Memorandum.

An agreement by letter, dated the 1st July 1851, was made by Sir Charles L. Eastlake, as secretary of the Fine Arts Commission, with Mr. Ward, for oil pictures for the Commons' Corridor, at 500*l.* for the first picture, and in the event of the whole series being undertaken, at 450*l.* for each remaining picture; and a similar agreement was made with Mr. Cope, by letter dated 28th June 1853.

The substitution of frescoes for oil paintings, involved an alteration in price which was verbally agreed upon by Sir Charles Eastlake with both these artists in 1857. The result of these agreements appears in the remarks appended to the estimates of the year 1857-58, in which it is stated each fresco was estimated at 600*l.*, and that the gross estimate for each corridor was 4,800*l.*, and a vote was taken accordingly.

(Signed) C. L. Eastlake.

Contract between the Fine Arts Commission and Mr. Dyce.

Articles of Agreement indented, had made, concluded, and agreed upon, this first day of July, in the twelfth year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lady Victoria, by the grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith, and in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and forty eight, between Charles Lock Eastlake, of Fitzroy Square, in the County of Middlesex, Esquire, R.A., on behalf of Her Majesty's Commissioners on the Fine Arts of the one part, and William Dyce, of the parish of Chelsea, in the County of Middlesex, Esquire, R.A., of the other part.

Whereas the Commissioners appointed by Her Majesty on the Fine Arts have, with the sanction of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, resolved that the said William Dyce should be employed in the decoration of the Queen's robing room in the New Palace at Westminster, and the said William Dyce is content to undertake the same upon the terms and conditions herein-after mentioned, now it is witnessed by these presents and the said William Dyce for the considerations herein-after expressed, doth for himself, his heirs, executors, and administrators, covenant, promise, and agree to, and with the said Charles Lock Eastlake by these presents in manner following, that is to say, that he, the said William Dyce, shall and will decorate with paintings in fresco the two compartments on the west wall of the said robing room, measuring each eight feet wide and eleven feet three inches high, and also (if required by the said Commissioners on the Fine Arts) the centre compartment on the said wall, measuring seven feet wide and twelve feet high, the upper side thereof being arched, also in fresco, or with the consent of the said Commissioners on the Fine Arts by some other process of painting, the several compartments in the frieze of the said wall, be the same five in number more or less, according as the said Commissioners on the Fine Arts shall determine, and shall also decorate with paintings in fresco the two compartments on the north wall of the said robing room, one measuring seventeen feet wide and eleven feet three inches high, and the other measuring six feet eight inches wide and eleven feet three inches high, and also in fresco, or with the consent of the said Commissioners on the Fine Arts by some other process of painting, the several compartments in the frieze of the said north wall, be the same nine in number, more or less, according as the said Commissioners on the Fine Arts shall determine; and shall also decorate with paintings in fresco the two compartments on the east wall of the said robing room, measuring each eight feet wide and eleven feet three inches high, also in fresco, or with the consent of the said Commissioners on the Fine Arts by some other process of painting, the compartments in the frieze of the said east wall, be the same five in number, more or less, according as the said Commissioners on the Fine Arts shall determine; and shall also decorate with paintings in fresco, or with the consent of the said Commissioners on the Fine Arts by some other process of painting, the compartments in the frieze on the south wall of the said robing room, be the same eleven in number, more or less, according as the said Commissioners on the Fine Arts shall determine, it being the true intent and meaning of the parties to these presents that the dimensions of all or any of the compartments aforesaid may be varied and modified by the said William Dyce, by and with the consent of the said Commissioners on the Fine Arts, and the Architect for the time being of the said New Palace. And further that he, said William Dyce, shall and will prepare designs for the subjects to be painted as aforesaid in fresco or otherwise, and submit the same to the said Commissioners on the Fine Arts for their approval, and as each or any of the said designs shall have been approved by the said Commissioners on the Fine Arts and Cartoons prepared, shall forthwith at such reasonable times as admit of the execution of fresco or other paintings as aforesaid, proceed in the execution of the said paintings in fresco or other paintings as aforesaid with as much expedition as the nature of the work will admit: And further that he, the said William Dyce, shall and will completely execute and finish the said fresco paintings and other paintings as aforesaid in all the said compartments herein-before mentioned, except the said centre compartment on the said west wall, within the space of six years from the day of the date of these presents; but if he shall be required to paint in fresco the said centre compartment, then all the said herein-before mentioned compartments, together with the said centre compartment, within the space of seven years from the day of the date of these presents, and shall bestow his utmost skill in and upon, and spare no pains to make and finish the said fresco paintings as perfect as he is or shall be able to do or perform the same: And for the considerations aforesaid, the said Charles Lock Eastlake, on behalf of the said Commissioners, doth hereby covenant, promise, and agree to and with the said William Dice, his executors, administrators, and assigns, that he, the said William Dyce, shall be paid for the execution of the said fresco paintings and other paintings as aforesaid in all and every the said compartments herein-before mentioned, including the said centre compartment on the said western wall if he shall be required as aforesaid to execute a fresco painting in the said last mentioned compartment, the sum of Four thousand eight hundred pounds, clear of all fees and deductions whatsoever, in the proportions and at the times and in manner following, that is to say, the sum of Eight hundred pounds in each and every of the first six years, commencing on the day of the date of these presents, by equal quarterly payments on the first day of October, the first day of January, the first day of April, and the first day of July, in each and every of the said years, the first quarterly payment to be made on the first day of October next, and if the said William Dyce shall execute and finish, to the satisfaction of the Commissioners on the Fine Arts, the said fresco paintings and other paintings as aforesaid in all and every the said compartments herein-before mentioned, including the said centre compartment on the said western wall if he shall be required as aforesaid to execute a fresco painting in the said last mentioned compartment, before the expiration of the first six years as aforesaid; then, upon the production of a certificate from the Commissioners on the Fine Arts that the same have been executed and completely finished, such sum as shall be wanting to make up the sum of Four thousand eight hundred pounds, and shall remain unpaid, shall forthwith be paid to the said William Dyce: And lastly, it is hereby fully declared and agreed by and between the said parties to these presents, that the said Charles Lock Eastlake shall not be liable or answerable in his person or estate to any action of covenant or other action whatsoever by reason of his being, on behalf of the said Commissioners on the Fine Arts, made a party to this contract; provided always, and it is hereby agreed, that if any loss of time shall arise to the said William Dyce occasioned by any delay on the part of the said Commissioners on the Fine Arts beyond

what may be necessary and proper for that purpose in deciding and signifying their decision upon the designs prepared and submitted to them by the said William Dyce, or by any alterations which in consequence of suggestions by the said Commissioners on the Fine Arts shall be undertaken by the said William Dyce, or from other reasonable and just causes, then it shall be in the discretion of the said Commissioners on the Fine Arts to award any further sum and allow any extension of time to the said William Dyce if to the said Commissioners on the Fine Arts it shall appear to be just and proper; provided always, that if the said William Dyce shall in any case not be satisfied with the decision of the said Commissioners on the Fine Arts in respect of any of the designs which shall be submitted to them as aforesaid, it shall be lawful for him to give notice thereof to the said Commissioners on the Fine Arts, and of his intention not to proceed further with the works, and after such notice given as aforesaid to abandon this agreement so far as regards any works remaining unperformed at the time of his abandoning the same, in which case the said William Dyce shall only be entitled to such proportion of the quarterly payment to be made to him as aforesaid as shall be due on the day of such abandonment; provided also, and these presents are upon this express condition, that no member of the House of Commons be admitted to any share or part of this contract or agreement, or to any benefit to arise therefrom. In witness whereof the said Charles Lock Eastlake, on behalf of the said Commissioners on the Fine Arts, and the said William Dyce have hereunto set their hands and seals, the day and year first above written.

C. L. EASTLAKE. (L.S.)
W. DYCE. (L.S.)

Signed, sealed, and delivered, by the said Charles Lock Eastlake and William Dyce, in the presence of—

THOMAS BAMFORD, Treasury, Whitehall.

No. 2.

The Commissioners to Mr. Herbert and others.

A. BONHAM-CARTER, Esq., to J. R. HERBERT, Esq., R.A.

Sir, 24 June 1864.

I am directed to inform you that a Commission under the royal sign manual has been appointed "to consider the agreements made by the Commissioners of the "Fine Arts with artists in respect to wall-paintings for the "Palace of Westminster, which are now in progress, or "which have been recently completed, and to report "whether any cases have arisen of a nature to make it "desirable that those agreements should be revised, and "if so what alterations should be recommended." And in stating that application has been made by them to the First Commissioner of Works for the original agreement made with you, I am to request you to favour the Commissioners with any observations you may have to make on the subject.

The members of the commission are Lord Taunton, Lord Overstone, Sir C. Eastlake, Mr. Layard, and Mr. Holford. Their next meeting is on Monday next.

I am, &c.

(Signed) A. BONHAM-CARTER,
Hon. Sec.

J. R. Herbert, Esq., R.A.
&c. &c. &c.

Similar letters were sent to

D. MACLISE, Esq., R.A.
C. W. COPE, Esq., R.A.
E. M. WARD, Esq., R.A.

And to Mrs. DYCE as the representative of Mr. Dyce, R.A., deceased.

Mr. Herbert's reply to the Commissioners.

J. R. HERBERT, Esq., R.A., to A. BONHAM-CARTER, Esq.

Sir, Monday, June 27, 1864.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th inst., informing me that application had been made to the First Commissioner of Works for the agreement made with me, and requesting me to forward any observations I may have to make on the subject.

In reply I would respectfully call the attention of the Commission to my letters to the First Commissioner dated the 16th of January; and, if they have any bearing on the subject which the Commissioners are to report upon, those also to the First Commissioner of 20th of January, and the 23rd of March last.

These letters which, no doubt, the First Commissioner will lay before you will show that the agreement originally made with me was for works of a totally different character and to be executed in a different manner from my work of Moses lately competed. And that the variation in method was adopted with the full approbation of the Royal Fine Art Commission now expired.

May I take the liberty to add that all questions of pecuniary remuneration are so painful to artists that I cannot help feeling it would be more conducive to the objects of the Commission, as well as much more satisfactory to myself if I named some one to represent me in those points.

I have, &c.

A. B. Carter, Esq. (Signed) J. R. HERBERT.
&c. &c.

J. R. HERBERT, Esq., to the Right Hon. W. COWPER, M.P.

Sir, Athenæum, January 16, 1864.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter informing me that the estimates for Works of Art in the Houses of Parliament are now being prepared, and requesting to know whether I shall proceed with another wall-painting in order to be entitled to an instalment during the year ending 1865.

In reply I beg to state the original estimate for the entire series of works in *fresco* for the peers' robing room to be executed by me was 9,000*l.*

For the designs of four of this series which I have made, I have received instalments, viz., Judgment of Daniel, Judgment of Solomon, Daniel in the Lion's Den, and Moses descending with the Law to the Israelites. This estimate was based upon the work being done in *fresco, the most rapid of all modes of painting* as it does not admit of the least change or re-touching, so as to be durable after the colour has been on the wall from six to eight hours.

The single work that I have as yet been able to bring to completion was commenced by me in fresco, the details on which my original estimate of time was based are now before me; in them I gave myself one year for the cartoon "of Moses," and eight months more only, as ample time for the actual painting of the work on the wall. I was two-and-a-half years on the cartoon, and I worked upon the fresco for a year more, and in the course of that time became convinced that the utmost within the compass of fresco would fall far short of my desires, and that the dignity of sacred art required a refinement of execution which that mode does not and never did allow of. This conviction was also entertained by His Royal Highness the late Prince Consort, who, remarking on the decay of most of the frescos in the building, strongly recommended me to make experiments for another process, and for this purpose he caused to be forwarded to me in April, 1859, a jar of silicate of potash. I at once made several experiments with it, but I continued to work in the manner I had engaged to paint, *i.e.*, fresco.

When His Royal Highness in 1860 saw some of these experiments (of which several are still on the south wall) he felt the great inferiority of fresco, and requested that I would adopt one of these processes exampled on the wall for the "Moses," instead of *the fresco manner*. These experiments are alluded to in a Parliamentary Report, 1861, No. 12, p. 10.

In order to carry out the wishes of His Royal Highness I first made my experiments for applying silicate to the work then existing in order to save it. I found it impossible, and I cut away what remained on the wall (on the whole I have cut off over a year of fresco work).

Since the close of 1860 until its completion at the present time, the execution of the "Moses" being in a process admitting of the utmost refinements of treatment and subtleties of art, has occupied me three years more, single parts, which in fresco must have been completed somehow in about six hours, have taken me in the new process as many weeks to perfect them. Considering the enormous amount of work which this present process has entailed upon me it will, I think, be felt, if carefully examined, that I have been even expeditious with it.

I have devoted in all to the "Moses" (including over

two years to the cartoon begun in 1855) nearly seven years, and I have given all this time because I believed the dignity of the place demanded the highest possible completion, and also that I ventured to hope I might there make my art conducive to the public good.

I do not wish it to be understood that I have been since 1855 (now nearly 10 years) uninterruptedly engaged upon this work; but some of the time not reckoned in the above calculation has been used in easel work really forming studies in colour for figures in the different cartoons. Altogether, at the fairest computation, it has occupied me six years and a half.

The foregoing details will, I think, satisfy you that my remuneration for the "Moses" must be reconsidered, and in the event of its being determined to adopt the process alluded to above, and which I have no doubt, whatever is almost indestructible, for the other subjects, I need not say that a new estimate must also be made for them.

I beg leave to affirm that, taking into account the time wasted on the cut-out fresco work, the time required for the fulfilment of the request to make the experiments for adoption of the above process, 2,000*l.* (the original estimate for the "Moses") would pay me about 300*l.* a-year only, and this with the *perpetual temptation* held out to me of commissions for easel pictures, which would have paid me as much in any three or four weeks.

The following will give some idea of the process used:—

In order to shut off all chance of the lime in the (hollow) wall from burning the colours in future years, the wall is first well brushed with a stiff brush, removing every grain of sand not solidly bound in the plaster, and also in order that when it is saturated with distilled water, carbonate of lime may exude sufficiently to bind the brilliant oxide of zinc white with which it is then covered.

As the work proceeds each part is wetted any number of times admitting thereby changes or additions (and even the use of genuine ultramarine and colour carrying a charm no other can supply, and which is destroyed in a moment in fresco) until the completion which it calls forth is attained. The whole is afterwards charged with a silicate, vitrifying the wall and colours, while stopping short of a glazed surface; some colours require fixing with the brush with stronger silicate.

If, however, it be resolved that the remaining works shall be executed in fresco, "The Judgment of Solomon," containing about the same space and work as the "Moses," could be completed on this side of 1865. But it would be difficult, if not impossible, for *me* to return to a method which our climate, gas, and other causes have rendered as fragile *as elsewhere*, and which, moreover, the least cursory comparison with the "Moses" would should to be wholly inferior in its results to those which may and ought to be aimed at.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. R. Herbert.

To the Rt. Hon. W. Cowper, M.P.

. Ma-
e's reply
the Com-
ssioners.

Daniel Maclise, Esq., R.A., to Alfred Bonham-Carter, Esq.

4, Cheyne Walk, Chelsea, S.W.,
Sir, June 27, 1864.

In reply to your letter of the 24th inst. I need only trouble you with one or two observations. In 1857 I began a design for one of the larger compartments in the Royal Gallery "The Meeting between Wellington and "Blucher after the Battle of Waterloo," to be painted in fresco, but I found the process so ill suited to the due rendering of a multiplicity of details over a surface of 46 feet, that I unwillingly resigned the commission intrusted to me by the Royal Commissioners of the Fine Arts.

His late Royal Highness the Prince Consort then directed my attention to the waterglass method of painting, specimens of which I had seen in the Great Exhibition of 1851, and in which I had made some small experiments. In 1859 under His Royal Highness's auspices, I proceeded to Berlin and elsewhere, where the method had been successfully practised, and where I painted myself and found the process so satisfactory that I adopted it for the execution of the above-named subject, and I am now engaged in the corresponding panel in the Royal Gallery in painting "The "Death of Nelson" in the same method.

I consider the process to have many advantages over that of fresco, but is certainly a slow one and invites attention to details and to greater finish, above all it is to be hoped its enduring qualities will compensate for many drawbacks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) Daniel Maclise.

To Alfred Bonham-Carter, Esq.

P.S.—As I have alluded to the slowness of the process, I may perhaps be permitted to remark that it necessitates constant labour to paint a picture double the dimensions of the largest painted in the New Palace, such as those I have been engaged on, and I have found it imperative in accepting this commission to give up all others with which I had been intrusted, and at great pecuniary sacrifice, a subject to which I had not intended to allude if I had not been afforded the opportunity of making these observations.

Mr. Cope's reply to the Commissioners.

C. W. Cope, Esq., R.A., to A. Bonham-Carter, Esq.

Hyde Park Gate South, Kensington Gore,
Sir, July 1, 1864.

In compliance with your request that I should send the agreement made between the Commissioners of the Fine Arts and myself, in respect of the Peers' Corridor to the First Commissioner of Her Majesty's Works, I have to state that no positive agreement was made. I merely received a note from the Secretary (June 28, 1853), inquiring "whether I "would like to submit a design for one of the subjects in "the Peers' Corridor," with reference to employment on the series, and stating that the price for the first was to be 500*l.*, and 450*l.* for each of the others. This commission was for paintings in oil. I submitted a sketch, and was commissioned to paint the subject of "The Pilgrim Fathers."

After the picture was almost finished, it was discovered (by an experiment in the Commons' Corridor) that owing to the peculiar position of the lights pictures with a shining surface would be nearly invisible as they reflected the windows, and after consideration it was thought desirable to adopt the method of painting in fresco. In consequence of this change I was obliged to repaint "The Pilgrim "Fathers" in the new method, and the original picture remains on my hands. For this I have received *no remuneration whatever*.

I had stated at the time of my commencing this series that I feared the price proposed would be inadequate to the time and labour required, but I deferred making any formal representation until I had first tried the experiment, but after completing the first picture of the series I addressed a letter on the subject to the Commissioners (December 30, 1856), and they agreed to raise the price from 500*l.* to 600*l.* I still feared that there would be a great pecuniary loss on my part, but being unwilling to raise any difficulty on this ground, and also wishing to undertake the task, I proceeded with the work.

I have since then had ample experience as to the time requisite for the execution of compositions of this extent, and what a great mistake had been made, and with every wish to lose no time in finishing my task, I have not been able to complete even one picture in each year. The first picture was commenced in 1853, and the sixth was completed in 1863; the six pictures have occupied by *far* the greatest part of 10 years. For these 10 years of most onerous employment I have received 3,600*l.*, or, in other words, I have been receiving a salary at the rate of about 360*l.* for about nine or ten months' labour in each year.

An inquiry may here be naturally made "Whether my "time has not been otherwise professionally occupied?" I reply that I have done no picture of importance since 1854, I have merely painted a few small domestic groups in time which ought to have been given to relaxation, and without the proceeds from these I could not have afforded to go on with the series at all. These small efforts have been in fact the means by which I made the sacrifice necessary to execute the series.

In making these statements, I wish to cast no blame whatever on the Commissioners. I believe the whole thing has occurred from a mistaken estimate in the first instance as to the time these works (generally) would require. Mr. Dyce was the first to try the experiment, and he never could keep pace (even when hard at work) with the random estimate he had formed before he had fairly grappled with the subject. The sum he received for the work executed by no means represents the value of his professional time for the period. I mention this as I believe that he was consulted about prices. I cannot but think that some *general* principle must have been adopted, such as the square foot measure, and that the figures were generally supposed to be about the size of life or larger. But the size of the figures in the Peers' Corridor is much less, many only half that size, and it is evident that the scale of figures being reduced the square foot measure is inapplicable. The subjects in that locality are such as (with one exception only, "Lord Russell") require very many figures and many portraits, and the time and study requisite to *compose these pictures is as great* as if they were to be executed on a much larger scale or on any scale. The execution or painting a picture is to the composition what printing a

book is to the writing; it is obvious that the labour of composing a book is not be estimated by the size of the type.

It was remarked in the House of Commons "that it "would not do to pay what are called 'picture dealer's "'prices;'" but at present it is notorious that the prices paid are quite inadequate to the time and labour bestowed, or to the position of the artists. In my own case, considering that at least a year is usually occupied in preparing, reading up and painting one compartment, it is surely not an extravagance to name 1,000*l.* as the sum I ought to have received for each picture of the series. Even at that sum it is not so remunerative as private commissions executed in the quiet of one's own studio, and free from the anxiety and responsibility of works done for the public, and exposed annually to parliamentary criticism.

I abstain from making any remarks about time lost in travelling, experiments, changes of method, &c., but I assert that no sacrifice has been made by one artist that has not been made equally by one and all of those who have gone through the fresco ordeal.

The two subjects still remaining to complete the series in the Peers' Corridor are, "The setting out of the Train-bands from London to relieve Gloucester," and second, "The "Speaker Lenthall asserting the privileges of Parliament, "&c." They both require extensive compositions of many figures. I propose to execute them in the water-glass method which I have adopted in the two last pictures. It is a slow method. I have already been employed for the greater part of a year in making studies, collecting portraits, &c., and I cannot expect to finish them in less than two years, in addition to the time already occupied.

I think that if a contrast is drawn between the receipts of the historical painters employed by the government, and those of any other artists, it will be found that they have already made enormous sacrifices.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. Cope.

To A. Bonham-Carter, Esq.,
Hon. Sec. to the Commission on Wall Painting, &c.

P.S. I think I ought to mention that the spaces in the Peers' Corridor, are nearly two feet larger than those in the Commons. The mistake occurs in the last report of the Commissioners for the Fine Arts.

Mr. Ward's reply to the Commissioners.

E. M. Ward, Esq., R.A., to A. Bonham-Carter, Esq.

Kent Villa, 1, Lansdowne Road, Notting Hill,
July 1, 1864.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

In reply to your communication of the 24th instant, I beg to submit the following remarks expressive of my feeling as to the nature of the commission with which I was honoured in connexion with the Fine Art decoration of the Houses of Parliament, the modifications in its execution which subsequently occurred, and the position which, under its recent aspect, it has assumed.

The original commission in oil colours was for eight pictures, and in accordance with this direction I completed two of the series, namely, "The last Sleep of Argyll," and "The Execution of Montrose."

When placed in the position for which they were destined, it was found that the gloss of surface, necessarily characteristic of painting in oil, was detrimental to their effect.

As evidencing that I had devoted my best efforts to the execution of these works, I may be allowed to mention that they received the marked approval of the Royal Commission, and subsequently upon their exhibition in Paris in 1855, at the Exposition, I received the medal awarded by the French Government.

Fresco was then suggested as a preferable medium under the peculiar requirements of the case; with considerable reluctance, the process being comparatively new to me, I agreed, upon the recommendation of Sir Charles Eastlake, (from whom as Secretary of the Fine Arts Commission I had received much valuable advice and assistance) to execute the works in fresco, and took back upon my own hands and at my own risk, the two pictures already finished in accordance with the original commission.

Much preparatory study and experimental manipulation were necessary in commencing operations in so new a field of action. I went to Paris for the purpose of getting such opinions on mural decoration generally as might assist me, and saw Messrs. Delarodie, Delacroix, and other distinguished artists, at a considerable cost to me of time and money. I ultimately commenced the works in fresco, and was again subject to loss by the destruction of much initiatory labour. After the execution of four of the subjects in fresco, I resolved to adopt the process known as stereochrome or glasswater painting, as offering advantages of additional permanence to the colours; and by this process I concluded my last work of "Charles II. landing at Dover." This medium, in most respects very satisfactory, entails a vast amount of additional labour, by which I have been subject to considerable pecuniary loss not only as regards the works themselves, but by the neglect to which they consigned many valuable commissions I had on hand.

It is no exaggeration to affirm, that independent of my loss on the previous works, that upon the last one amounts to several hundreds of pounds.

In justice to myself, I would observe that, although subject to much loss, I certainly should have felt bound to complete the series on the terms stipulated, notwithstanding the alteration in their mode of execution, but as by the appointment of your Committee, there is an evident disposition to admit a further claim to a more adequate remuneration, it is equally an act of personal justice to draw your attention to my own title to consideration, more especially as one claim has been already admitted the justice of which nobody more readily concurs in than myself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. M. Ward.

Mrs. D reply to Commi sioners

Mrs. Dyce to A. Bonham-Carter, Esq.

Sir, Streatham, June 25, 1864.

In answer to your letter received this morning, I think I cannot do better than send you a copy of a letter addressed by my husband to Mr. Cowper nearly two years ago; as in it he accounts for the whole employment of his time since the commission was given to him. In this letter he distinctly states, that with the exception of the four years named, his time has been almost entirely occupied in the execution of the frescoes. He made an unfortunate arrangement, which he found out to his cost, but having made it, he felt bound to abide by it. In proof of this, I may say that the whole fresco season of the last three years of his life was occupied in executing the work, at a time when his health was in such a condition that he should have had entire rest and freedom from anxiety. My great desire is, that Mr. Dyce's memory and character should be cleared from the imputation of neglect, and a desire to shirk duties which, however unwisely, he undertook to do; and which, notwithstanding all that has been said to the contrary, he used his utmost diligence to do; and the pressure of these unfulfilled duties on his mind was a main cause of his premature death. I call them unfulfilled duties, but that they were so, was his fault only in so far that he overrated his powers, and under-estimated the time the works would require to execute. Of their merits, as works of art, the cultivated art public must be the judge.

I am, &c.
To A. B. Carter, Esq. (Signed) Jane B. Dyce.

W. Dyce, Esq., R.A., to the Rt. Hon. W. Cowper, M.P.

Sir, Streatham, August 2, 1862.

I regret very much that I had no opportunity of saying to you a few words on the subject of my frescoes in the Queen's robing room, previously to the occasion of your recent observations in the House of Commons.

If my conduct with respect to these works has been deserving of censure, let me be censured by all means; but the true state of the case ought first to be known; and I think I could have afforded you such information as would at the least have accounted for the long period which has elapsed since the works were commenced, even if it failed to satisfy you that I had done as much as I could towards their completion.

The state of the case, then, is this: of the 13 years which have expired since the commission was given me for the works, nine have been spent on the execution of the frescoes up to the present time, including the first year 1848-49, during which all the designs and one of the cartoons were made. There remains four years to be accounted for. The works were interrupted in 1851 for the reason given in a Report of the Commissioners.* In 1860, in consequence of the poor state of my health, and during two previous years, which were given to the execution of frescoes in the Church of All Saints, Marylebone. I will refer to this last interruption presently. This is the actual disposal of the 13 years; but the question which will at once occur to you is this: How is it that frescoes which I undertook (most unwisely as I have learned to my cost) to complete in six or seven years,

* Mr. Dyce was juror and reporter in class 22, which occupied him three or four months.

have already so far as they have gone, taken eight years for their execution, and will require three more before I can complete the work which still remains to be done. I might reply to this question by asking another, viz., how is it that Mr. Herbert, after four or five years of labour, ended by destroying the work he had executed? But I only refer to his case because it shows precisely where the real difficulty lay; a difficulty which, had he been obliged, as I was, to proceed with his frescoes, would have brought him into the very predicament in which I now find myself. That difficulty is not to keep time in the preparation of designs and cartoons, which is easy enough, the real difficulty lies in the execution of the works in fresco, which is limited to about four months in the year—in this climate generally from May to September. The amount of work in fresco, which the artist is able to execute during those few months is the measure of his progress during the year. The possibility, accordingly, of my fulfilling the terms of the contract as to time, depended on my being able to cover a certain amount of wall space during a limited period in each year. If I failed to work at the rate implied in the contract, the necessary consequence was my falling behind. This is precisely what happened; and there is nobody to blame for it but myself, for it was I who fixed my rate of progress. Judging inconsiderately from the time occupied by me in the execution of my fresco in the House of Lords, and the size of the work measured by square feet, I applied the same rule to the space to be painted in the Queen's robing room, and decided that I could execute at the rate of about 140 square feet in a season. But I altogether overlooked the fact, that very little comparison could be made between the kind of subject represented in the House of Lords and those I was to undertake in the Queen's robing room, in a most important particular affecting rapidity of execution; and I besides made no allowance for those preliminary failures and hindrances to progress which oppress every one who attempts the practice of this most disheartening and patience-exhausting art. The subject painted in the House of Lords was well adapted for fresco painting,—a composition adequately expressing it, might be simple, consist of large masses, and be devoid of those small ornamental and other details, the execution of which presents so many embarrassing difficulties to the fresco painter. In the Queen's robing room, on the other hand, the due representation of the subjects necessarily required those very details—chain armour, swords, and accoutrements, trappings of horses, jewellery, coronets, and the like, became essentials in the works I had undertaken; and not only involved difficulties of execution which I had not previously encountered, but in consequence of the great number of joinings in the plaster which became necessary, and the small size of the pieces which could be executed in a single day, my progress was greatly retarded. The execution of Mr. Maclise's great picture of Waterloo in fresco, with its prodigious amount of details, would, I believe, have been next to impossible *even to him.*

The naked fact, however, is, that I have never, since the commencement of these frescoes, been able to keep pace with the rate of progress implied in the contract. In one year I reached the amount of something over 100 square feet; in another, not more than 40 or 50; in others, between 70 and 80; in others, between 80 and 90; the time given in each case being about the same, and the whole resulting in an average rate of something over half the rate supposed in the contract. Nobody has greater reason to regret this than I have; but as I imposed the burden on myself I must bear it.

With respect to the interruption of my progress in the Queen's robing room during two seasons, caused by the execution of the frescoes in All Saints Church, I can only speak in deprecatory terms. I yielded to a temptation which, to one of my predilections in art, proved irresistible; but I am not sure whether, if all the circumstances were known, my indiscretion would not meet with a very lenient judgment. It is, at least, in point to say, that the Commissioners were aware of my having undertaken to paint those frescoes, and had the goodness to furnish me with lime for the execution of them out of the pits under the Houses of Parliament.

Those frescoes were, however, finished four or five years ago, and since that time there has been no interruption to the works in the Queen's robing room, except during the year I was unwell. So far as it depends upon me, there shall be no further interruption till the pictures are finished; but I see no chance whatever of my being able to increase my rate of progress.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. Dyce, R.A.

To the Right Hon. W. Cowper, M.P.

LONDON:
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For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

ANNUAL REPORT of the COMMISSIONERS of EDUCATION in *Ireland*, for the Year 1863–64.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY GEORGE WILLIAM FREDERICK
EARL OF CARLISLE, K.G.,
LORD LIEUTENANT-GENERAL AND GENERAL-GOVERNOR
OF IRELAND, &c. &c. &c.

WE, "the Commissioners of Education in Ireland," constituted by an Act of Parliament passed in the fifty-third year of the reign of his late Majesty King George the Third, and in obedience thereto, respectfully submit to your Excellency a General Report of the Proceedings of the Board since their last Report.

In reference to the Royal School of Armagh, we beg respectfully to state that since we last reported to your Excellency, we have paid to the Executors of the late Lord Primate, the sum of 600 *l.*, being the balance of a large sum munificently advanced by his Grace for the improvement and extension of the School premises at a time when we were not in possession of sufficient funds to enable us to carry out the works which his Grace from personal inspection had reported to us to be absolutely required for properly conducting an establishment of this class. The number of pupils on the roll does not show any material variation from that in attendance for the last few years.

The extensive additions and alterations not long since carried into effect by us at Dungannon Royal School, and on account of which we have since our last report expended upwards of 400 *l.*, have rendered this establishment one in every way worthy of the high position which the large number of pupils in attendance, and their great success at the different examinations where they have presented themselves, prove that this School holds in public estimation.

The Enniskillen Royal School, we have the pleasure to report to your Excellency, is in a most flourishing condition, whether regarded as to the School buildings and premises, the number of pupils, or the course of instruction there given. As your Excellency condescended some short time since to visit and to minutely inspect this endowment, it is scarcely necessary to report that this is one of the finest and most successful scholastic establishments in Ireland. And we beg to report that in consequence of your Excellency's recommendation to us, we caused a cricket-ground to be formed at Portora, the expense of which in consequence of the hilly nature of the ground, much exceeded what was at first anticipated; it is, however, reported to be now completed in a manner which gives great satisfaction to the numerous pupils who avail themselves of it. The

Master having urgently appealed to us to carry out a former Resolution of the Board to restore to the School the number of assistant masters which had formerly been maintained by us at this establishment, but which had been some years since reduced by us in consequence of a diminution in the number of pupils. We, having regard to the present very large attendance at the School, the great annual expenditure incurred by the Master himself in paying assistants in the various branches of general education, felt ourselves called upon to carry out our former resolution, and to raise the staff of assistants to the same amount as formerly. We have also, on the recommendation of the Master and of our architect, caused an isolated building to be erected on the School grounds as an Infirmary; and we have reason to expect that, within a very short period, the contractor will be prepared to hand over the buildings in a finished state. And we beg further to report to your Excellency, that the Master having pressed upon us that, in order to enable him to carry out more fully the benefits of this School, a large additional schoolroom is required, we have obtained plans and estimates for that purpose, and that we shall take this subject into our serious consideration.

As regards Banagher Royal School, we beg to report that very strong representations having been made to us by the Master, that a transfer of this endowment from Banagher in the King's County to Ballinasloe, in the County Galway, would be likely to lead to a more numerous attendance of pupils at the School; and an eligible offer of a school-house at a moderate rent in the neighbourhood of Ballinasloe having been made to us, we very fully discussed the proposal, but came to the conclusion that we could not comply with the prayer of the memorial, as the patent establishing this foundation would not warrant us in changing the site of the Royal School of Banagher from the King's County to the County Galway.

The condition of the Royal School of Raphoe, notwithstanding the great difficulties with which from change of the times and of circumstances it has had to contend, appears yearly to become more satisfactory; and the reports made to us of the results of an examination held at the School by a former Fellow of Trinity College, for prizes granted by us, are very creditable to the exertions of the Master.

As regards the Royal Schools of Cavan and Carysfort, we do not feel called upon to make any special remarks to your Excellency; but we may report, generally, that all the Royal School premises are now and have been kept in a sound and satisfactory condition.

It is, perhaps, scarcely necessary that we should state to your Excellency that the management under the care of our local agents, and the general condition of the Estates forming the endowments of the Royal Schools, have during the last year necessarily occupied much of our time and consideration.

The subject of the Royal Scholarships founded by us in the University, and which are only obtainable after a severe competitive examination in a very extensive course (which is from time to time, varied by us), and which become forfeited unless the holders obtain during each year of their under-graduate course, certain high literary distinctions in the University, has been so frequently

pointed

pointed out in our Annual Reports, and the great success of many of those Royal Scholars in subsequently obtaining many of the appointments and situations now thrown open to public competition, having been frequently adverted to, we do not feel called upon now to do more than to state to your Excellency that the Reports made to us by the Examiners, prove that there is no relaxation of exertion on the part of the various masters, and are most creditable to the students themselves. And we may state that recently we have much extended and made more general the class of annual distinctions which qualifies a Royal Scholar to retain his Exhibition. And we beg to refer your Excellency to a Schedule hereunto annexed, containing the names of the present Exhibitioners, and the respective amounts annually payable by us to each.

The condition of the various schools of private endowment under our control, continues to be much the same as when we last reported to your Excellency, with the exception of the Endowed School of Midleton, in the County Cork, which, under its present Master, shows such promise of success, that the local Governors having represented to us the great importance of making extensive alterations and improvements in the School premises, we agreed to expend for that purpose a fund in our hands, which was the result of savings accumulated by us when this School was almost in a state of abeyance; and plans having been procured and submitted to and approved of by the local Governors, we have to report that the works are now in progress, with every prospect of their being completed soon after the termination of the summer vacation. And we should further state to your Excellency that we have very recently received from the Governors of this School, who held there a visitation and made a very minute inspection of the entire establishment, a report so creditable to the Master as to warrant a very confident expectation that this Endowment, small though it is, will ere long become one of very great value to the South of Ireland.

No changes of such importance as to call for any special observations to your Excellency, have taken place in the Diocesan or District Diocesan Schools.

All which we respectfully submit to your Excellency as our Report.

(signed) MAZIERE BRADY, C. (L.S.)
PLUNKET TUAM, &c. (L.S.)
RICHARD MACDONNELL. (L.S.)
FRANCIS BLACKBURNE. (L.S.)
ROBERT SHAW. (L.S.)
J. G. PORTER. (L.S.)
WILLIAM GIBSON. (L.S.)

Wm. Cotter Kyle, LL.D., M.R.I.A.,
Secretary.

8 Clare-street, 24 June 1864.

SCHEDULE of the Royal Scholars.

On the Armagh Royal School Foundation.

	£.		£.
W. Riddall - -	30 per annum.	J. W. Hogan - -	20 per annum.
R. Turle - -	30 „	C. Faussett - -	20 „
D. Orr - - -	10 „	H. Tracy - - -	30 „
A. Robinson - -	40 „	M. Armstrong - -	20 „
S. J. Herrtage - -	50 „		

On the Cavan Royal School Foundation.

J. Mills - - -	15 *l.* per annum.	J. J. Lough - -	15 *l.* per annum.

On the Dungannon Royal School Foundation.

	£.		£.
R. H. Collins - -	50 per annum.	R. C. Christian - -	40 per annum.
H. B. Leech - -	50 „	W. Erskine - -	50 „
W. Colquhoun - -	50 „	W. K. Appelbe - -	30 „
C. Kough - -	50 „		

On the Enniskillen Royal School Foundation.

	£.		£.
B. Purser - -	50 per annum.	J. MacIvor - -	50 per annum.
R. Bennett - -	50 „	J. B. Hutton - -	30 „
W. A. Leech - -	50 „	J. G. Gibson - -	50 „
E. G. Cooper - -	30 „	G. Wright - - -	30 „
T. Hime - - -	30 „	G. Richardson - -	30 „

Wm. Cotter Kyle, Sec.

EDUCATION (IRELAND).

ANNUAL REPORT of the COMMISSIONERS of EDUCATION in *Ireland*, for the Year 1863-64.

(Presented to Parliament by Her Majesty's Command.)

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REPORTS

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COMMISSIONERS:

SIXTEEN VOLUMES.

—(7.)—

CHILDREN'S EMPLOYMENT;

~~FACTORIES.~~

Session

4 *February* —— 29 *July* 1864.

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1864.

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1864.

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SEVENTH VOLUME.

N. B.—*THE* Figures *at the* beginning of the line, *correspond with the* N° *at the foot of each* Report; *and the* Figures *at the* end of the line, *refer to the* MS. Paging *of the Volumes arranged for The House of Commons.*

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~~[3390.] REPORTS of INSPECTORS of FACTORIES, for the Half-year ending 30th April 1864 - - - - - - - - - 721~~

CHILDREN'S EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION (1862).

SECOND REPORT

OF

THE COMMISSIONERS.

WITH APPENDIX.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

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SECOND REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS.

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

1. We, the Commissioners appointed by Your Majesty to inquire into the employment of children and young persons, in trades and manufactures not regulated by law, humbly present to Your Majesty the Second Report of our proceedings in the execution of Your Majesty's Commission.

The Lace Manufacture.

2. The "lace factories" which were placed under regulation by the Act of 1861 (24 & 25 Vict. c. 117.) were "factories in which machines for the manufacture of lace "are moved by steam, water, or other mechanical power," (s. 4); and "no person "employed upon the 'dressing' or 'finishing' of lace, or upon any other process "subsequent to the making of lace upon the lace machine," is included in the provisions of the Act. (*Ibid.*)

The branches of the lace manufacture under regulation.

3. The evidence relating to the branches of the lace and hosiery manufacture not yet under regulation, together with the Reports upon them of our Assistant Commissioner, Mr. White, are contained in the Appendix to our First Report. In §§ 593–4 of that Report we stated our reasons for deferring our comments upon those subjects until we should be able to deal with them in connexion with others of a like nature in our Second Report.

The evidence on which this Report is founded is contained in our First Report.

4. The branches of the lace manufacture not yet under regulation are distinguished from nearly all the industries hitherto placed under legislative control by two peculiarities.

Peculiarities of branches of lace manufacture not yet under regulation.

1. They are carried on (with a small and unimportant exception) by unassisted manual labour; no "steam, water, or other mechanical power" being, as a rule, used in any of their processes.

That it is hand labour only.

2. The places of work are, not only large buildings specially appropriated to them and at once recognized as having the character of manufactories, but often rooms in private houses. In some cases these rooms are large enough to approximate them closely to the character of a manufactory. In other cases they are the mere dwelling or sleeping apartments of cottages.

That it is carried on partly in private houses.

5. The branches of the lace manufacture not yet under regulation are,—

Branches of the manufacture not under regulation.

I.—Lace finishing.
II.—Pillow lace making.
III.—The "making up" of lace made both by machinery and on the pillow.

6. Several efforts have been made of late years to ascertain the number of persons engaged in the above employments.

Numbers employed.

7. The estimate of Mr. Felkin that the total number of persons in the whole *lace trade* in 1860, amounted to about 150,000, is generally accepted as most trustworthy. (Appendix to our First Report, p. 182).

8. Of these, about 10,000 persons of all ages and sexes are estimated to be employed in lace *making*. Less than a half of that number was calculated to be likely to come under the Act subjecting machine made lace to legislative restrictions. (Report of Commissioner for inquiring into the Lace Manufacture, 1861, p. 15.) Practically, therefore, a very small deduction must be made from the total number in the trade for those now under legislative control.

9. Of the total number of persons of all ages and sexes in the branches of the trade not yet subject to legislative control, which would appear, from what has been stated above, to be not very far short of 150,000, a very large proportion are women and children, and young persons.

A large proportion of the persons employed are women, children, and young persons.

10. The places of work in which they are employed are,—

Places of work.

A.—Dressing rooms.
B.—Warehouses.
C.—Houses, private, or so called.

11. Of the Dressing rooms, Mr. White says (Appendix to our First Report, p. 183) that in them "the greater part of the work is done by females, many quite young, and some "of them children."

Of the work in the Warehouses he states (p. 182) that it is done by females, many of "them young children." Of the largest warehouse in Nottingham he says (*ibid.*) that

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of the 450 persons employed, "nearly five-sixths are females, and somewhat less than "one-third are children or young persons."

12. And, of the Houses, "private, or so called," whether "second-hand Mistresses' "houses," (p. 184), "or lace schools," (p. 185), "or other rooms in cottages," he states (*ibid.*) "that the work is carried on by women alone, or by children of their own or of "other people."

State of places of work, and the hours of work, and their consequences.

A larger number of persons in greater need of protection than those already protected.

13. The general conclusion arrived at by Mr. White on reviewing the state of the places of work, the houses of work, or the other conditions under which this large body of women and children and young persons is employed, is that in these branches of the lace manufacture there is "a larger number in greater need of protection" than those to whom the protection of the Legislature has been extended (p. 182). The places of work are generally either not provided with any, or only with injudicious, means of ventilation; they are often improperly crowded, and the temperature is very high. The hours of work are sometimes excessive, for several weeks and months together. The consequences are, great injury to the general health, and a high rate of mortality from consumption. There is much neglect of early education, a low moral condition, and much unfitness among the young women to undertake the care of a family, all contributing, with the circumstances above designated, to a high rate of infant mortality.

Can legislative protection be extended to them?

14. Many employers in Nottingham and elsewhere, as appears by the evidence, have long been desirous to apply a legislative remedy to this state of things, if practicable. In the words of Mr. White (p. 182), "the difficulties seem greater" than were found in the case of machine lace making. We proceed to consider whether they are in reality such as to present any insurmountable obstacle to legislative action.

A.—*Dressing Rooms.*

Number of sets of rooms.

15. The process of lace dressing is almost entirely confined to Nottingham, the lace made in other parts of England, the two factories at Tiverton and in the Isle of Wight excepted, being sent to Nottingham to be dressed and finished. "There are in Notting- "ham about 30 sets of dressing rooms, not including the separate rooms sometimes kept "by manufacturers themselves on their own premises." (Mr. White, p. 183.)

Size of rooms, and nature of process.

16. In these rooms, "many of which are above 250 feet long, some nearly 350 feet, and "one much larger," the lace is spread on frames to dry, being stiffened with a liquid mixture,—the "dressing,"—applied either before or after it is stretched on the frames.

High temperature.

17. The nature of the work requires a high temperature, usually from 80° to 100°, and the heat, "from the moisture of evaporation, is sometimes of a very oppressive kind." (p. 183.)

Exceptional use of steam power.

18. The small and exceptional employment of steam power in any branch of the lace manufacture not yet under regulation, adverted to in § 3, occurs in this department. In pressing out the superfluous "dress" by passing the material between rollers, sometimes steam power is used; and in some cases, also, steam power is used to move fans to help the drying. But in both cases the work can be done "almost as well by hand."

At one time dressing rooms believed to come under Bleaching Works Act.

19. It was this exceptional use of steam power that caused a belief to be entertained, after the passing of the Bleaching Works Act, of 1860, that this Act applied to dressing rooms. Notices of the application of the Act were forwarded to them, "and many of "the younger hands were discharged;" but the facility with which the use of steam power could be abandoned, has, apparently, prevented these notices from being followed up.

Hours of work.

20. As the pressure of work in lace finishing, of which lace dressing is a part, is more variable than in lace making, the hours of work are subject to corresponding irregularity. The cause, which is fully described by Mr. White (p. 182) is briefly this:—The manufacturers and merchants keep no stock of lace on hand, but purchase, or send from their unfinished stock the kind of lace required at the time by the varying demands of season or fashion. As each owner of dressing rooms is anxious to do all the work he can when his orders come in at his "busy time," he can only get through it by lengthening the hours.

21. The ordinary hours of work for about two-thirds of the year, in most cases, appear to be from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., or at latest 8 p.m.

For a part of the year excessive.

22. For the remainder of the year, during the times of pressure, the work is continued to 9, 10, and in some instances to 12 o'clock at night.

Ill effects of this work in heated temperatures.

23. The ill effects of even the more moderate hours of work upon the young are amply proved by the evidence. Mr. White enumerates them at p. 183 of his Report (last paragraph):—

"From the great heat and continual perspiration, they become pale, languid, and emaciated; fainting and fits are of usual occurrence; consumption common; and the moral and physical consequences of the undue stimulus given to the female functions very injurious."

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24. In many rooms there is no space even for sitting down, and the legs have no rest, and sometimes swell; "and meals are in some cases taken in the same heated atmosphere."

25. There can be no question that the protection of the Factory Act is much required in this case, and it appears that many of the principal persons in the trade are prepared for it. One or two slight modifications may be requisite to meet certain peculiarities of the business.

Protection of Factory Act required; and capable of being applied with slight modifications.

26. The following evidence shows that the limitation to factory hours would be practicable, and unattended with any valid objections.

Evidence that limitation to factory hours is practicable.

27. Mr. F. Dobson, lace dresser, states, First Report, p. 187:—

"We have tried night-work, and find it does not answer in a business point of view. It is not well done. We should be very glad if all were required to work only between 6 and 6. It would give sufficient time for the work wanted, and leave leisure for rest, recreation, and fresh air: the latter is very important on account of the health of those who work in dressing rooms."

28. Mr. Alfred Cleaver, lace dresser, states, p. 187:—

"A limitation of the work of the younger hands, i. e. under 18, would make no difference, if the same for all the trade," * * "and if the hours were limited at night, he would begin at 6, and find no difficulty in it. Likes closing early best, and very rarely works more than 12 hours."

29. Mr. J. Lambert, lace dresser, states, p. 192, "Taking the year round, a day of 12 "hours, including meal times, would be ample."

30. But Mr. Lambert couples this admission with a suggestion, which points to a common feeling amongst the smaller masters in the trade. The suggestion is, that the 12 hours throughout the year should be made up of the average, including both slack and busy times.

31. It is obvious that if this suggestion were acted upon, it would leave all the evils of overtime in these heated rooms uncorrected.

The work would be more distributed over the trade.

32. There can be no doubt that there are dressing rooms enough in Nottingham to do all the work required in the busiest time within 12 hours a day. The only difference that a restriction to that number of hours would make, would be, that the work would be more distributed.

33. Upon this point the following evidence is conclusive.

34. Mrs. Cooper, lace dresser, states, First Report, p. 188:—

"If there were fixed hours of work for the younger hands, no time could be made up in small rooms like these by employing more hands, or by any other means that she can see, though it might, if the frames were longer or more numerous. What they could not do themselves would not wait for them, as there are so many and so large dressing rooms now, that some are always ready to take work and do it in time. Has lost a good deal of work so this last summer, because she does not like to go beyond about 13 hours or so, which is quite long enough. When she is tired herself she likes the people to give over too."

35. Mr. J. L. Bottom, lace dresser, states, p. 189:—

"The difficulties which lace dressers would meet with, owing to the fluctuations of work depending upon changes of fashion, are of the same kind as those felt by the lace makers. Indeed, a maker must run a risk, which we do not, as he must decide upon his patterns in sufficient time, and this often considerable, to be in a position to produce goods when the season comes, though he keeps as little stock as possible. Our only risk is keeping up an establishment large enough to do the orders which we may get quickly enough to keep ourselves from losing any custom, and this risk we must, and do incur, and from my experience it is not usual to lose much by inability to do the work as speedily as required. If other establishments were under equal restrictions, there would be, so far, less room for such loss by a demand for immediate execution of an order. But the dressing rooms in Nottingham have increased very much of late, and beyond what is required; and in consequence of this excess, there are always some ready for the work which others cannot do."

36. Mr. J. B. Carter, lace dresser, says, p. 191:—

"The tendency of any restrictions on the hours of work, even if it applied to all employers alike, would be to take business from him, and one or two others in his position, who are generally full, and give it to places large enough, as some are, to execute any amount of orders at once, or to other empty places. When customers are once obliged to leave, they are not likely to return, as they do not like changing about. This would be a personal loss to himself, though it would spread the business more evenly over the trade. If he thought it likely to answer, he could avoid this by getting larger premises. That would be a question of prudence."

37. Mr. J. Webster, lace dresser, states, p. 193:—

"It is true that there are now more dressing rooms in Nottingham than are required for the amount of lace produced. For a large part of the year it does not pay to keep the hands, the work not being enough to keep them profitably employed."

38. Mr. C. J. Mulholland, lace dresser, states, p. 194:—

"It would certainly be better for the workpeople and for the employers as well, if the work could be done in more regular hours, but the effect of any restrictions as to the labour of those employed would be more in favour of the large establishments, which can nearly always take any amount of work, to the prejudice of the small."

39. Mr. J. Thornley (p. 194), gives testimony to the same effect.

THE LACE MANUFACTURE. DRESSING ROOMS.

40. It is thus clear that in an economical point of view, nothing would arise from a restriction to factory hours but a more general distribution of the work to be done.

41. But as this would involve, as is shown by the evidence, loss of custom to the smaller masters, the latter would meet this point by ceasing to employ any one under 18 years of age, in the event of children and young persons only being included in the protection of any Act that might be passed in reference to this trade.

Smaller masters would discharge all under 18 if Act limited to them. Act should therefore conform to the Factory Act as to the persons protected.

42. The evidence of the following masters, Mr. Bolton (First Report, p. 182), Mr. Baker (p. 191), Mr. Carter (p. 191), Mr. Webster (p. 193), Mr. Mulholland (p. 194), is unanimous to the effect that if this Act included only children and young persons, they would discharge them all, and employ only adults, chiefly females. It is clear, therefore, that, as the injury arising from over hours in the high temperature of these rooms has been shown to extend to all employed in them, any Act which departed from the principle of the Factory Act, by including in its protection children and young persons only, would be manifestly imperfect.

Modification of the Factory Act in regard to meal times, asked for by the masters.

43. The masters ask for a modification of the Factory Act in regard to meal times, on the following grounds.

44. Mr. J. L. Bottom thus describes the peculiarity of the work.

"A lace-making machine can be stopped at a given time without injury. Dressing cannot. Each piece of my lace, nearly all silk, and of nearly all kinds, with a very little light cotton, takes on an average about a quarter of an hour to put it on the frame and spread the dressing, and from half to three-quarters of an hour to dry, and this may be more or less, according to the weather. The moisture outside must be great to affect the work inside, but it is difficult to counteract frost or great cold by applying extra heat. If the piece be taken off too soon it will stick together and spoil. Till it is dry it must be watched, and the frame narrowed by racking in, if silk, and widened by racking out, if cotton, as the former contracts, and the latter expands, in proportion to the thickness of the dressing. But one person can attend to the whole frame for this purpose. When the dressing is once set, *i.e.*, dry, it may be left for a couple of hours without injury, but not all night. The odd intervals could not be filled up with short pieces of work. It is more convenient to dress pieces of the same class of material one after the other. No other respect in which this business differs as regards restrictions in labour, from that of lace making, occurs to me."

45. Mr. F. Baker also explains the nature of the case as follows (p. 190–1):—

"Our pieces take on the average about 20 minutes, a few half or three-quarters of an hour, and occasionally, from the state of the external air, much longer. Cotton is dipped in the dressing before it is put on, and only needs drying, which, unless it be of a very thick kind, takes on the average about 10 minutes. Silk, being a more delicate and also a much more valuable material, must be put on the frame with much greater care, and the dressing is spread afterwards, all of which increases the time. Both cold and moisture affect the work, but in ordinary cases this can be counteracted by increasing the heat and by a suitable arrangement of the materials to be dressed. Some kinds, as strong black materials which must be stiff, and yet in which any superfluous particles of dressing left on would be visible, require to dry slowly, so as to allow of the particles being removed, and they are kept till the end of the day, when the air is hotter, as well as moister from the evaporation of the previous pieces and the dressing which has fallen from them to the ground. A short piece can be put on and the dressing spread in less time than if it be larger. For white a dry air is best. Still, arrangements of a like kind cannot be made, so as to allow of fixing any precise time for leaving off work. Also, if the dressing mixture which had been prepared could not all be used on the same day, it would, in certain cases, be spoiled by keeping to the next, and it would not be possible to foretell the exact quantity that would be needed."

46. Mr. F. Dobson also, concurring with all the other witnesses, states (p. 187), "A "slight margin for the time of leaving off is necessary, as the work when begun must be "finished or spoiled."

47. Mr. J. Lambert is of opinion (p. 192) that "a margin of half an hour would meet "this sufficiently, the full time being still given for meals in each case."

48. On the other hand, the testimony is almost unanimous to the fact that for at least two-thirds of the year, the usual hours of work do not exceed 11, meal times included; their hours being from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., (C. Thorpe, p. 188; A. Hart, 189; J. B. Carter, 191; E. Chadwick, 191; J. Lambert, 192; S. Key, 193; S. Ency, 194). In many cases the usual hours of work are only from 8 a.m. to 6½ p.m. (p. 187, 192, 193, 194). During by far the greater portion of the year, therefore, the restriction to factory hours would still leave the margin required at the end of the day. And as during the busy times, which do not exceed three or four months in the year, the existing dressing rooms could clearly, according to the evidence already quoted, perform within factory hours the total amount of work required, there does not appear to us to be any adequate reason, in a public point of view, for more than a temporary relaxation of the factory hours in regard to meal times, to give time to the employers to conform their mode of work to the change.

49. It appears that in consequence of the varying time which the different lace materials take for drying,—the difference varying from three minutes to an hour, and sometimes longer (Mr. A. Cleaver, p. 187),—the habit in the trade is for the meals to be taken

"about" the usual times. Mr. Lambert states, "They always stop pretty near 1 o'clock "for dinner, seldom more than 10 or 15 minutes one side of it or the other." C. Thorpe says, "They have an hour and 10 minutes for dinner about 1, half an hour for tea about "5," (p. 188). S. A. Marshall says (p. 192), "Has an hour for dinner and half-an- "hour for tea, as near 1 and 5 as the work is done, but always has the full time. If "they come early they have breakfast here." . . (See also P. Fells, p. 193; S. Ency, p. 194).

The Lace Manufacture. Dressing Rooms.

50. The circumstances of this case are precisely analogous to that of the Paper Stainers, dealt with in our First Report. Some of the principal manufacturers in the trade urged that, in consequence of the nature of the materials used, and their various processes, they would be unable, without serious loss, to stop for meal times at any given moment. But it was seen from the evidence that, by due care and previous arrangement, the apprehended difficulty could be got over; and accordingly by clause six of section six of the Factory Acts Extension Act passed during this Session of Parliament, an interval of 18 months is given to them, from the passing of the Act, before they are required to conform to the meal hours specified by the Factory Acts.

51. We are of opinion that a similar provision would be sufficient in this case. If, as is stated above, "only a slight margin is required;" if, as appears, the meals are now taken "about the usual times" and seldom more than 10 or 15 minutes on one side or the "other," it cannot be doubted that an interval of 18 months from the passing of the Act would give time for the mature consideration and the adoption of arrangements which would remove all difficulty now thought to be in the way of a strict conformity to factory hours.

Factory hours for meals not to be adopted until 18 months after the passing of the Act.

52. We are also of opinion that the stringency of the Factory Act, in regard to limewashing, may safely be relaxed in the case of dressing rooms.

Relaxation as to times for whitewashing, &c.

53. These rooms are for the most part exceptionally large, especially those recently built, and the nature of the business is such as to cause a tendency in the trade to substitute large rooms for the older and smaller ones, a small one being described as 120 feet long. The room at Mr. J. B. Carter's (p. 190) is 258 feet in length. The three rooms at Mr. J. Webster's (p. 193) are 348 feet × 84 × 8 feet high each. The four rooms at Messrs. Lambert's are 302 feet × 75½ × 10 feet high each. The room at Mr. J. L. Bottom's (p. 189) is 325 × 201 × 20 feet high, covering nearly an acre and a half.

54. The cost of whitewashing rooms so large is necessarily great, ranging, according to the evidence of Mr. J. Webster (193) and Mr. J. Lambert (192), from 36*l.* to 100*l.*

55. The quantity of air in proportion to the numbers employed is also great in all these large rooms, being in those of Mr. Lambert no less than 4,530 cubic feet for each person (p. 192); the number of cubic feet required in barracks for each soldier being from 500 to 600. (Appendix to First Report, p. 184.)

56. Mr. J. L. Bottom's spacious room is whitewashed, according to his statement, "every year or two, and the floor cleaned every two or three weeks, more or less, "according as required by the greater or less amount of work" (p. 190).

57. Mr. Baker states (p. 191) that his rooms—

"Are kept carefully clean, one woman being employed for nothing else but to clean the floors of two of the rooms, the others being done by the workpeople; and for light and tidiness the rooms are whitewashed every two years, though this is oftener, probably, than is required for health alone."

58. Mr. J. Lambert states respecting his four rooms (p. 192):—

"Whitewashing these premises would cost 100*l.*, and I think that such a burden ought not to be imposed oftener than necessity requires. Having regard to the great space and the amount of fresh air constantly admitted from the windows, once in three years would be as much as health or appearance requires. No one could object to a power in an inspector to order cleaning, washing, &c. if he found it really wanted. Requirements beyond what are necessary are apt to be evaded or neglected."

59. The Factory Act (7 Vict. c. 15. s. 18) requires that "all inside walls, ceilings, or "tops of rooms, whether plastered or not, and all passages or staircases which have not "been painted with oil once within seven years, must be limewashed once every 14 "months."

60. "All inside walls, ceilings, or tops of rooms which are painted with oil, must be "washed with hot water and soap once every 14 months."

61. We think that in the case of dressing rooms, two years may be substituted for 14 months, with a proviso that the inspector or sub-inspector of factories should be empowered to direct the limewashing or other cleaning specified by the Act, to be done at any time between the period of 14 months and two years, in any case in which he may see fit to require it.

62. It appears doubtful whether the education clauses of the Factory Act would take much, if any effect in this branch of business.

The education clauses of the Factory Act.

THE LACE MANUFACTURE. WAREHOUSES.

63. Mr. J. Lambert, who employs about 230 persons, states (p. 192), that, "Children "are not desirable in this business, but by far the greater part of the work is done by "females from 13 or 14 upwards."

Mr. J. B. Carter states (p. 191),—"The work is done chiefly by women. Children "are not necessary, and are better out of the place, though he has one or two."

64. The absence of education is, however, painfully, apparent in many of the young women examined; specimens of which are the following:—

"S. A Ford, age 17 (p. 187). Went to Sunday school and chapel for two years, but has left a year. Went to night-school at Webster's, but never to a week-day school. Cannot read at all. Could better once. Remembers the letters. (Cannot spell 'girl.') Never wrote."

"Fanny Wildbore, age 17 (p. 190). Hardly ever went to Sunday school, and never to any other school. Mother was ill, and could not spare her. Can say three letters ('I do,&c.') but cannot sound them into a word. Does not remember what she heard the preacher say at chapel, as she hardly ever went."

"S. A. Marshall, age 17 (p. 192). Was at Sunday school four years, and left a year back; at night school at odd times, and to day school for a few weeks when about 8 or 9. Knows the letters. (Cannot read words of three letters.) Went to chapel when at Sunday school, but never before or since. Does not remember anything she heard, or know who made the world."

65. The few younger children examined are also all nearly as ignorant. S. Ency, age 11 (p. 194); J. Jarvis, age 11 (*ibid.*); C. Lewis, age 11 (p. 192).

The recommendation embodied in s. 286 of our First Report applicable to this case.

66. The recommendation contained in sect. 286 of our First Report, that in all employments to which the Factory Act should be applied "there should be required of "all children employed, on obtaining the age of 13, a certificate of a certain amount "of education, in default of which, attendance at some night school should be required "until the age of 16, or until the specified amount of education were attained," would, if it were possible to adopt it, have a beneficial effect in the case of the children and young persons employed in dressing rooms. We are disposed to look forward to the time when the organization now in progress under the Committee of Privy Council on Education, for individual examination in all elementary schools under inspection, will afford a machinery applicable to the granting of certificates of the kind above described.

Numbers that would be benefited by application of Factory Act.

67. Our tabular returns do not afford us the means of stating with any certainty the number of children and young persons employed in this branch of the lace trade; but as the number of sets of dressing rooms in Nottingham is 30 (§ 15), "not including "the separate rooms sometimes kept by manufacturers themselves on their own premises" (Mr. White, p. 183), as their dimensions are so large, and as one manufacturer alone employs in this branch of business about 230 persons (§ 63), the total numbers are doubtless considerable enough to justify the extension of the benefits of the Factory Act to them.

B.—Warehouses.

68. The warehouses in the Lace finishing trade are represented to be even more injurious to health than the dressing rooms.

Kinds of warehouses.

There are three kinds of warehouses,—

(*a*) Large and handsome buildings, with spacious rooms, for the most part newly erected within the last 10 years.

(*b*) Warehouse rooms of moderate size, some newly erected, but generally old, and converted from other purposes.

(*c*) Rooms in dwelling houses, or in houses once used as dwelling houses, but occupied by the same class of manufacturers and merchants, and used for the same purposes as the warehouses.

Kinds of work done.

69. The kinds of work done in these "warehouses," performed chiefly with the needle and scissors, are—

1. Separating the breadths of lace, generally by drawing out a thread.
2. Mending.
3. Joining lengths together.
4. Completing patterns.
5. Pearling.
6. Grafting.
7. Carding.
8. Setting off, by facings of coloured paper.
9. Clipping (*i. e.* removing superfluous threads from the surface of the lace).
10. Scolloping (*i. e.* removing superfluous threads from the edges.)
11. Bonnet-front making.

70. These several processes are fully described by Mr. White in his report (p. 184). They are nearly all sedentary employments.

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71. Large numbers of females—children, young persons, and adults—are employed in the warehouses in the above processes, but of their total number no exact estimate can be formed. Mr. White states (p. 182) :—

Number of females employed.

"The number of persons described as lace manufacturers in Nottingham alone is between 200 and 300, of whom the greater part have warehouses. . . The largest employs over 450 persons, of whom nearly five-sixths are females, and somewhat less than one-third are children and young persons. The remainder employ each from 300 downwards to perhaps half a dozen. Though only few probably have over 200, and by far the greater part considerably under 100."

72. If the number of warehouses be taken at 250, and the average number of females at each be put at 80, this would give a total of 20,000 employed in warehouses alone; of these, probably one-fourth, or 5,000 are children.

Age of children in warehouses.

73. The age of the children working in warehouses is stated by Mr. White (p. 182) to be generally above 9 or 10; those under that age being for the most part employed by "second-hand mistresses" in private houses.

State of the warehouses as places of work.

74. The state of the warehouses as places of work is, generally, such as to be injurious to health.

The larger warehouses.

75. In the large warehouses, nearly all of which have been built within the last 10 years, the rooms are liable to be filled with impure air in consequence of imperfect ventilation.

76. "A large amount of gas is required for the work. The common mode of heating "is by steam pipes, not always carefully regulated," and the ventilation which is provided is "such as to be disliked, and even stopped by the workpeople." Even in the large and handsome warehouse of the Messrs. Adams, which is described by Mr. White (p. 195), as affording "a remarkable instance of the regard shown by many employers for the welfare "and comfort of their people," and where the general arrangements for those objects are well worthy of attention, a portion of the building,—the bonnet-front department,—where a large amount of heat and bad air is unavoidable, "is defective in ventilation and injurious "to the persons working in it;" the windows cannot be or are not opened, and the girls "allege that they suffer from heat and bad air."

77. Of the large new warehouse of Messrs. Barnet, although in many respects showing proofs of attention to the comforts of the workpeople, Mr. White states (p. 175), that "the working rooms are close, and as it seems without ventilation." The full number in the clipping room is about 90; "in the mending room about 50."

78. The premises of Mr. Hardy are described (p. 214) as "very large and airy, and "heated throughout by means of numerous fireplaces," with the exception of one room, which being from its form less suitable for fireplaces, was heated with steam pipes. Although this room was not in use, the air is described as being "very hot and choking," and the ventilation imperfect.

79. Although the cost of heating such large rooms by open fireplaces is considerable, whereas the cost of heating by steam, when it is on the spot for an engine, or any other purpose, is little more than that of the piping (p. 214), Mr. Hardy adopted the first-named mode for all the rooms but the one above mentioned, "as being far more "wholesome." But the general practice as regards warehouses is otherwise (p. 214, Mr. Riley, steam and general engineer, p. 215), and is likely to continue so in consequence of the great difference of expense. The consequences can scarcely fail to be injurious to health whenever the ventilation is not in accordance with scientific principles, and is not placed beyond the control of the workpeople.

Those of moderate size.

80. If these defects are found in the large warehouses, still more do they exist in those of moderate dimensions where it is more difficult, or where less pains have been taken, to obviate them. Some of these premises are "low and not convenient" (p. 210), some are "very low and narrow" (p. 220), and "very hot" (p. 220), and so crowded as to allow but a small amount of space per head, one affording only 140 cubic feet for each person, of whom there were 40 in the room (p. 220); another, only 86 cubic feet per head, containing 30 persons (p. 203). Portions of the premises of Messrs. Marriott (p. 207), notwithstanding recent improvements, and of Mr. Davis (p. 206), are so arranged as to cause in busy times the amount of bad air to be very great. Others, as those of Messrs. Pratt (p. 208), and Mr. Squire (p. 209), are crowded and close, the mode of ventilation being such as to cause its disuse, in consequence of its either injuring or impeding the work, or exciting a current of air.

The warehouse rooms in dwelling-houses.

81. Still more are the bad effects of heat, crowding, and imperfect ventilation visible in the rooms in dwelling houses which are used for the same purposes of manufacture as the warehouses properly so called and above described. Of these rooms, the following are specimens:—That of Mr. Scott (p. 202), which is described as "merely a house," a small number of hands working in two small rooms. Messrs. Sylvester's (p. 204), "merely "a dwelling house. The work-rooms are small, and with no more window or ventilation

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"than usual in the bed-room of a town house so placed. In a very small narrow attic, "only just large enough to hold the two clipping frames filled by girls on each side, "leaving a narrow passage in the middle, were 18 girls and their overlooker." Mr. Gray's (p. 208), "The rooms are such as are found in a common house, though larger, "but without any apparent means of ventilation beyond the windows. The machines "in use in the several rooms are very numerous, and are heated each by a large supply "of gas." . . "The air is in consequence very hot and oppressive, and the appearance "of the girls seemed to show that they suffered from it." Mr. Hannibal's (p. 220), "This is an old dwelling house, but now used as a warehouse." The small rooms, though not overcrowded at the time of Mr. White's visit, were intended to be used for bonnet-frame making, but were too close for that purpose, and require much ventilation.

Bonnet-front making.

82. Of the various kinds of work carried on in these warehouses, that of bonnet-front making, introduced "within the last few years," . . "and carried on principally by "young girls" (Mr. White, p. 184), appears to be "of a peculiarly unhealthy kind," and is indeed admitted to be so by the manufacturers themselves. The "gauffering" machines, and other machines or presses heated by gas or steam, produce a great heat close to the children at work, the thermometer showing a temperature at those places of 148° to 150°. The quantity of gas let loose into these rooms without the means of escape is very great. The description by Mr. White (pp. 184, 185) is deserving of much attention.

Hours of work.

83. The hours of work from the causes mentioned by Mr. White (p. 182) vary very much at different times of the year. They vary also at different establishments. At the establishment of Messrs. Barnett (p. 197), of Messrs. Bradbury (p. 198), of Mr. Burton (p. 203), of Messrs. Sylvester (p. 204), of Mr. Morrison (p. 204), of Mr. Gray (p. 208), of Messrs. Copestake (p. 210), of Mr. Hartshorne (p. 216), and others, the usual hours of work were at the time of the inquiry from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mr. Squire states generally (p. 209), "The usual hours in warehouses are from 8 to 7." In all these, which appear fairly to represent the trade, the work is got through in ordinary times in 11 hours, including an hour and a half for meals. The ordinary hours at the establishment of Messrs. Adams, the largest in the trade, are from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., but Mr. Adams is in favour of the hour of 7 p.m. as that at which children should leave off work (p. 195).

84. But these ordinary hours are exceeded, at times greatly, in periods of pressure, which occur at different times to different establishments through the whole course of the year, certain periods, however, being times of pressure for all; and, in good times, the pressure continues for some houses "all the year round." For one house the busy time is from March to October (p. 197), for another from March to June (p. 204), for another from March to May (p. 210), for another from February to July, and again in September and October, and occasionally also in winter (pp. 197, 198), for another from Christmas to Whitsuntide (p. 212); and at these times the work continues until 8, 9, 10, 11, and later, frequently for many weeks, sometimes for many months together. And although it is the habit of many employers at those times to send the younger children home at 8 or 9, and rarely to keep them as late as 10, those above 14 are usually kept at work as long as the adults. On this subject, Mr. Cane, general superintendent of Messrs. Adams' warehouse, states (p. 196), "In many warehouses little children are occasionally kept "till 10 or 11 p.m., the rooms becoming hotter and closer all the while."

85. Mr. Morrison states (p. 205),—

"Long hours are very undesirable, and they were in some cases carried far beyond what is good for children. In summer, when his proper hours are from 8 to 7, they are never carried beyond 9, or sometimes 10. The frequency of this depends entirely on the season. In a good season it might be nearly through the whole of it, in a bad, seldom, but the children scarcely ever stay after 9, and there is never overtime more than four nights a week, his hands always having two nights, usually Monday and Saturday evenings, free."

86. A witness (C. D., p. 201) referring to a busy time two years ago, in an establishment in which she was overlooker, having under her 30 girls between the ages of 8 and 14 or 15, states,—

"The proper hours of work were from 8 to 7 p.m., but they hardly ever left off at 7. The general time was 8 or 9, and sometimes 10. Never kept children under 12 later than 10; thought it was a shame. But if the work was not done, the master would find fault with her unless she had asked beforehand not to be obliged to do it. Very many masters will not give leave so, because the work must be done in time. Once they were very busy, and she had to keep the children to 10 p.m. for nearly a week. Worked three days and two whole nights herself, never leaving the workroom from Wednesday morning till Friday night about 11 o'clock. Half the elder girls, *i.e.*, those over 12, stayed at work all through one night, and the other half all through the next. Had her meals brought to her, and ate them as she could at her work."

87. And although recently the hours have been less, in consequence of a depressed state of trade, there can be no doubt that the opinion expressed by Mrs. Wilson (p. 202),

after describing the very long hours of which she has had experience, is correct, that, "if "the trade were again as good as it was, the work would be done in just the same way, "unless there is a law passed to stop it." THE LACE MANUFACTURE. WAREHOUSES.

88. The heat and want of ventilation of the warehouses, and the occasional long hours of work, are almost universally admitted to be the causes of a low condition of health among the workpeople generally, and of consumption and other special disorders. This opinion is thus expressed by the Rev. E. Davies, chaplain to the establishment of Messrs. Adams, as the result of an experience of seven years (p. 196):— State of warehouses, and hours of work, injurious to health.

"Unhappily illness is not unfrequent. Consumption is unusually common amongst the girls here. In the last month I have attended four cases of this disease amongst them, of which two have ended fatally, and there are two or three other cases of a very like character. Cases of weakness of chest and general debility are very common indeed."

89. Accordingly, a very fair disposition is manifested amongst the principal employers towards some regulation of the hours of work, which, while consistent with the employment of the young without injury to their health, would not throw any serious impediments in the way of the trade. Some regulation admitted to be required.

90. On this point Mr. Adams states (p. 195), "There is no doubt that children and "young persons suffer from overwork, *and more especially in private houses, so called*, "and it may be desirable that the Government should step in for their protection."

91. And in this opinion it will be seen that many other employers, large and small concur.

92. Mr. Adams, however, is of opinion that the precise hours appointed as the ordinary hours of work by the Factory Act (from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.) would be incompatible with the work in lace warehouses. In his establishment the hour of commencing work is 8 a.m. in summer, and 8.30 in winter; and he states (p. 195) that it would be impossible to alter those hours because,—

"1st. The greater portion of the hands do not work alone, but as assistants to adults, so that bringing their time to the factory hour of 6 o'clock would compel the attendance of the whole establishment at that time, which would be simply impossible to effect; 2nd, factories are generally situated at the outskirts of the town, and the workpeople for the most part live in their immediate vicinity. Warehouses, on the contrary, are in its centre, and the hands have to come to work from a distance of from one to three miles. It is necessary that they should breakfast before they come."

93. Again, Mr. Adams says (*ibid.*),—

"Whatever may be the number of hours per day that the labour of young persons and children may be restricted to in warehouses, it should be distinctly remembered that business cannot in these establishments commence before 8 o'clock. The necessity for the attendance of all hands, of apprentices, of young men who give out and superintend the work, the nature of the work itself, and the class of people, altogether different from factory hands, render an earlier hour impossible."

94. Mr. Adams then suggests (*ibid.*) that,—

"If the employment of children after 7 o'clock were prohibited, thus substituting 7 for 6, they would be protected from such an amount of labour as would be prejudicial to their health; they would be able to earn a fair day's wages, and they would have time also to attend an evening school."

95. These opinions are concurred in by Mr. Bradbury, employing a large number of hands (p. 198), also by Mr. Hill (p. 208), who states that,—

"The nature of the business is such that it would be impossible to begin before 8, the present hour. The people could not come earlier; it would require the presence of himself or some responsible persons to superintend the business, and the work for the day depends upon the orders coming in by the morning's post."

See also Mr. Heymann (p. 213).

96. Other employers, on the other hand, (Mr. Burton, p. 203; Mr. Wills, p. 211; Mr. W. Keys, p. 212; Mr. Hardy, p. 214,) give an opinion, founded in some cases on their own practice, that there is no difficulty in the way of beginning at 6 a.m., and therefore of conforming to factory hours.

97. But it must be taken to be true that, in the words of one of the witnesses (Mr. Bradbury, p. 198), "the trade generally has found the hours which suit it best." And if a near approximation to those hours could be adopted and made general without materially sacrificing the main objects of legislative interference, it would be desirable to do so for two reasons. First, the evidence shows that the objection to altering the hour of 8 a.m. for beginning work to 6 a.m., is chiefly felt by the owners of the larger warehouses. The tendency which has been manifested during the last 10 years to concentrate the work into large warehouses (Mr. Squire, p. 209, Mr. Sands, 210, Mr. Wills, 211, Mr. Cresswell, 213, Mr. Liberty, 217, 218), is a wholesome one in the interests both of the workpeople and the public. Any regulations, therefore, which might have the effect of counteracting that tendency without sufficient cause are to be deprecated. The precise hours of the Factory Act not desirable in this case.

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is certain that much "of the most improved machinery," and many "of the "most skilful hands" in the trade (Mr. Herbert, p. 216) have of late years been attracted to France; and although the evidence is contradictory as to the danger to the trade generally from the competition of France in the lace finishing business (Mr. Barnett, p. 197; Mr. Morrison, p. 205; Mr. Hartshorne, p. 215; Mr. Liberty, p. 217; J. Bricquot and F. Bricquot, p. 221), it would appear that in certain branches the competition is more close than in others, and that, consequently, "any restrictions on the "labour of the young, so stringent as seriously to hamper the manufacturers here, "would tend to draw away a still further amount of business." (Mr. Herbert, p. 216; see also, Mr. Squire, p. 210.)

The permission given by the Factory Act to work between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. for half the year should be extended to the whole year.

98. The above considerations appear to us, therefore, to justify our recommending an approximation to the hours already adopted by the trade.

99. By the Acts 13 & 14 Vict. c. 54. s. 6., and the 16 & 17 Vict. c. 104. s. 2., it is enacted that "between the 30th of September and the 1st of April following, children, "young persons, and women may be employed, except on Saturday, between 7 in the "morning and 7 in the evening, under certain regulations and conditions. On Saturday "work may commence at 6 a.m. (as there can be no work on that day later than 2 p.m.) "in order that 7½ hours work may be obtained on that day." We recommend that this permission should be extended in the case of Lace Warehouses to the whole year.

100. Our Commission not extending to women, the fact that, in a legislative point of view, they cannot be separated from children and young persons, is our justification for including them in our recommendations.

101. A departure from the regular hours of the Factory Act has already been admitted by Parliament, for reasons special to the trade, in the case of lace *making* (24 & 25 Vict. c. 117. s. 2.). There seem to us to be equally valid reasons for the departures we recommend in the case of the business of lace *finishing*.

These hours could be adopted without material inconvenience.

102. And that the hours of 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. could be adopted by the trade without material inconvenience is plain from the evidence of several employers of high standing. An objection raised by Mr. Adams (p. 195), and some others (Mr. Bradbury, p. 198, E. F., p. 201, Mr. Hill, p. 208, Mr. Hurst, p. 209, Mr. Sands, p. 210), to the hour of 7 a.m. for beginning work, namely, that some of the persons employed are "of a superior class," and would not like to be obliged to go to the warehouse so early, ought not to be allowed to weigh against the general benefit which would accrue from taking any time that might be wanted for work beyond the present ordinary 10½ hours, at the beginning of the day instead of at the end. Several employers say that there is no practical difficulty in so arranging and preparing the work beforehand, in all but exceptional cases, as to enable them to begin work at 7 a.m. instead of the present hour of 8. On this point the statement of Mr. Hurst (p. 209) is important:—

"I do not think it likely that there will ever be sufficient unanimity amongst employers to lead to the adoption of any general system for the benefit and education of the young apart from legislation, however much a large number might wish it. Most masters would, I think, object to work beginning before 8, as the business is generally superintended by themselves, some coming at 8, most from 8½ to 9, and a few later. If it were necessary, however, arrangements could be made for having work ready for the hands beforehand; and this must be done even on the present plan."

Objections to limitation of hours answered.

103. And the old objection of "sudden orders from London by the morning's post," and "shipping orders," to be completed by a certain day, otherwise the order will be countermanded, have been too often disposed of to need any lengthened notice. On these points the following evidence shows clearly that, "as a rule, a fair time is given "to execute orders" (Mr. Liberty, p. 217); that if it is not, employers do not hesitate to tell their correspondents that their orders must "wait a day" (*ibid.*); and in other cases refuse to execute them, so that "the order must go elsewhere" (Mr. Sands, p. 210), and it is a fact not disputed, that there are sufficient means at all times available in this branch of business in Nottingham to execute at any time any amount of orders likely to be received; the only condition being that at such a time of extraordinary pressure the work would be more generally distributed amongst the trade. (Mr. Marriott, p. 207, Mr. Sands, p. 210, Mr. Morrison, p. 218, Mr. Milner, p. 219.) The latter gentleman also states "that there is always a supply of hands ready to answer any demand "when it sets in, without forcing customers to wait." On all these points we beg leave to refer to the following testimony:—

104. Mr. Pratt says (p. 208),—

"The condition of girls and children employed upon lace greatly needs improvement, and I wish that something could be done towards it." . . . "I think it absolutely necessary that some broad principle

should be laid down by law for the good of the children. It must be broad, for any law interfering with the management of trade, if too strict, would be very mischievous, and defeat its own end. Our branch of the trade, being a fancy branch, is more liable to fluctuations than others, still a reasonable limitation of work, if the same for all, would not hurt us. At any rate, what must be done, always can be."

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105. Mr. S. Wills (p. 211) is of opinion that—

"The factory system has done much good and worked well for all concerned. There is nothing in lace finishing, in the nature of the work itself, which would make the same regularity impossible or inconvenient in that also. The occasional late hours in warehouses are caused by sudden pressure for orders, which must be completed by a day named. But if the hours of young people were shortened in the evening, they could be made up by beginning earlier in the morning, the present hour being 8. Work could be got ready beforehand for the workpeople to go on with without the whole establishment being obliged to come, or any but persons to open the place. This is done in busy times, as it is. If this were not sufficient, more hands could be taken on. There are always plenty who are only too glad to get into a warehouse, which is an object of ambition, instead of being under second-hand mistresses."

106. Mr. Dann (p. 206),—

"Is strongly in favour of any measure which would protect young children from excessive labour, and would be glad of a further limitation of hours for young persons, if the same for all employers. He, or any one else, could get through all that was wanted between 6 and 6. If the orders, in consequence, were given earlier, and the work done more uniformly, it would be more profitable for the business, and much better for the health of those employed."

107. Mr. Sands states (p. 210),—

"The work could generally be done on the premises between 6 and 6. If it could not, it could be done by giving it out." . . "Large new premises are now being built. The rooms instead of being low and confined, as some of the present are, will be spacious and airy, and say 11 feet high. More hands can then be taken on, and greater regularity of hours secured. This is one of the objects in view."

108. Mr. Nicholson (p. 219), "much prefers gaining the time in the morning. It "would not at all interfere with the trade if all manufacturers had to let the young go "at a fixed hour, say 7." It would certainly afford the most valuable time for improvement.

109. Mr. Hartshorne (p. 215) and others are desirous that a longer day should be allowed in this business than in the factories, on the ground that there are not the same long continued periods of heavy work that there used to be (p 214), and that they are are now "practically harmless" (p. 216); and that the difficulty is that the hands could not be got to do the quantity of work sometimes required if the hours were shortened (Mr. Dann, p. 206, Mr. Hardy, p. 214, Mr. Herbert, p. 216). Upon these points, however, the general purport of the evidence is, as has been shown, to the contrary, and is thus expressed by Mr. Creswell (p. 213):—

"Though this house in particular, on account of its very great connexions, has been and is exposed to sudden rushes for very heavy amounts of work, I have never, during the whole 25 years that I have been engaged in it, found any difficulty in getting as many hands as were wanted to do the work within reasonable hours, even in the busiest times, and under the most pressing circumstances. It does not happen that all are busiest at just the same time."

110. See also Mr. Morrison (p. 218), Mrs. Brailsford (*ibid.*), Mr. Milner (p. 218). Mr. Hardy, moreover, says (p. 214), that "the character of lace now made is of a kind "that requires more and younger hands than formerly, not only by the increase of the "work but by the introduction of certain kinds of work." This therefore renders the necessity greater for due legislative protection; the frequent long hours of work for the young having led to the conclusion thus expressed by Mr. Bradbury (p. 198), which we believe fairly to represent the opinion entitled to most weight in the trade:—

"Still, as manufacturers, we are of opinion that some legislation, if framed upon equitable principles, and tending to promote regularity, would be gladly accepted by the bulk of respectable manufacturers."

111. And the presumed difficulties in the way are thus dealt with by Mr. Hurst (p. 209):—

"Any general measure regulating the labour of the young, which may be found necessary for their protection, must be right in principle, and if so, any difficulties which may arise from it in the management of this or any other business, will no doubt settle themselves in time, either by customers being obliged to give longer time for the execution of their orders, or by the employment of more hands, or by some other means; provided, of course, that the regulations applied to all employed in the same manufacture, which is indispensable."

Long hours of work bad for all parties.

112. That the excessive hours which are among the prominent causes of ill health, especially to the young, are, in the long run, not advantageous to either employers or employed, is a conviction which happily seems to have become general.

113. Mr. Bradbury states (p. 198),—

"From long experience I am convinced that long hours do not, on the whole, produce more work. After they have been continued for two or three weeks, the people are unable to do in the long hours even as much as they did in the short."

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114. Mr. Marriott (p. 207),—

"There is no profit, in the long run, in hours longer than that (from 6 to 6), because you cannot get more than a certain amount of work out of people. Beyond that the girls work without spirit, and you lose more than you gain."

115. Mr. Wills (p. 211),—

"I believe that nothing is really gained by nightwork. A person who works late at night feels the effects of it next day, is apt to come late, and cannot do the work so well. Besides, if people know that they are going to work late at night they loiter over the work in the day, thinking that they can make it all up afterwards."

116. Again, Mr. Liberty states (p. 217), to the same effect, "What is gained by "long hours of labour is lost by the loss of energy in the workpeople." See also Mr. T. Cane (p. 196), Mrs. Wilson (p. 202).

Rate of payment for overtime very small.

117. And the rate of payment for overtime is so small—from $\frac{1}{2}d.$ and $\frac{3}{4}d.$ to $2d.$ per hour (pp. 196, 202),—that it stands in painful contrast to the amount of injury produced to the health and stamina of the workpeople from the undue continuance of exhausting labour in a close and heated atmosphere. The small amount thus earned is also often obliged to be spent in extra nourishment (C. D., p. 201).

Assertion that many children would be dismissed if Factory Act applied to this business.

118. The facts already adduced are sufficient to show that the provisions of the Factory Act in regard to children, are much required for those engaged in this employment. It is to be apprehended, however, that those provisions would be evaded by the dismissal of all children under 13, in very many cases. A large number of employers stated that it would be "impossible" for them to make use of "double sets of children; "and that the half-time system is consequently inapplicable to the circumstances of the "trade" (pp. 195, 198, 208, 209, 210, 212, 213, 215, 217). Mr. Marriott, indeed, states (p. 207), that "double sets for alternate days would suit very well." And Mr. Squire (p. 209) speaks less confidently than other masters as to the difficulty of obtaining double sets. But the general disposition of the masters is, without doubt, to employ only those above 13, rather than be subject to the restrictions in regard to the education and time of work applied by the Factory Act to those under that age (Mr. Bradbury, p. 198; Mr. Pratt, p. 208; Mr. Sands, p. 210).

119. On the other hand it appears, according to the evidence of Mr. Hardy (p. 214), that "the character of lace now made is of a kind which requires more and younger "hands than formerly, not only by the increase of the trade, but by the introduction "of certain kinds of work."

"For instance, the great demand for edgings requires more drawing, and the patterns formerly produced by embroidery by hand, which required the skill of women, are now made by machinery, the hand being employed only to remove the superfluous threads by clipping. This is work of an easier kind, and can be done by younger girls."

Half-time system would take effect to a certain extent. Need of it.

120. There is ground, therefore, for concluding that the half-time system of the Factory Act would take effect, to a certain extent, if applied to the children working in this branch of the lace trade; and the proofs brought forward by Mr. White of the state of education, both among the young and those more advanced in years, amply shows the need of extending it, if it can be brought to bear.

Additional reasons in favour of the recommendation in §§ 282–6. of our First Report.

121. But, inasmuch as there is a great probability that many employers would release themselves from all obligations of the law in regard to children under 13, by ceasing to employ them, the reasoning in favour of counteracting this evasion by the measure described in §§ 282–6. of our First Report, receives additional strength. Any neglect of education up to the age of 13 would thus be met by the provision that no one between that age and 16 would be allowed to work full time until they could show that they had received the amount of elementary education there defined.

Girls of 14 employed as long hours as adult females.

122. Equally desirable also is it that protection should be afforded to the young persons and adult females in this occupation. Our recommendations upon this point are specified at § 197, pars. 4 and 6.

123. At the age of 14 and 15 girls become in this employment "almost equal to "women" (Mr. Hurst, p. 209), and are employed at times of pressure for the same number of extra hours as adults (C. D., p. 201). But if the restrictions of the Factory Act were applied to children and young persons only, it is evident that many masters would cease to employ any under 18, in order to carry on the extra work by adult females. A witness (Mr. ——) states, p. 219:—

Many masters would employ only adult females if Factory Act applied to children and young persons only.

"If girls under 18 were not allowed to work at night, we might, perhaps, do the work by getting them to come earlier than the present hour, viz. 8. If we could not, we should give up these girls too, and employ only older hands, paying them regular wages in the slack times, and so keep a sufficient number to do our work in the busy time."

124. To the same effect also is the evidence of Mr. Hill (p. 208); and it is stated by Mr. Hurst, as the possible result of restricting the labour of young persons, that older

ones would be employed, and that part of the expense "would be made up by their "superior skill and attention" (p. 209). At the same time, Mr. Hurst says (*ibid.*), that "If they gave the girls more room for improving themselves, they would get the "benefit of it in their greater intelligence."

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If girls better educated the masters would reap the benefit of it.

125. The prevalent absence, among the females, of the common elements of education, and their want of knowledge of domestic duties, are fully illustrated by many of the witnesses.

126. The account given by Mr. Clayton (p. 211) of some young women taken into his employ is, that,—

"They were so ignorant that though they had been in the habit of being paid by the piece, they could not count what their wages ought to be; and some, even young women of 20, could not read their own numbers put on their work."

Want of instruction and want of knowledge of domestic duties.

127. The following statement also portrays very vividly the existing deficiencies in both these points and their injurious results to society.

128. Mr. Pratt (p. 208):—

"The condition of girls and children employed upon lace greatly needs improvement, and I wish that something could be done towards it. We take all the care we can, but the girls are open to very great temptation, even in warehouses, and still more so from the streets and dancing rooms; and as they grow up, as a rule, with no training in household management, the choice of a suitable or even a virtuous wife, becomes so far more difficult. It is of great importance that they should know better how to make home comfortable, and the men would not then seek for their comfort in public houses and elsewhere as they do. The only way that I see to improve the condition of the working classes generally, is to raise the females by education, as they have to bring up the next generation."

129. And Mr. Cresswell (p. 213):—

"But education is more especially important in the case of girls. If they are without it, by the time they are 15 or 16 they come to think of nothing but dress, having no higher taste, and, as in this town they are by that age in a great measure self-supporting, they then throw off parental authority and settle down in houses, generally with friends, where they are not interfered with. I have long paid special attention to the case of those who are most ignorant, and have found that when they leave work they do not go home or to any place where they can improve themselves, but seem to have no desire beyond that of displaying themselves. At the same time, they are unwilling to take part in home duties, which they look upon as drudgery, and thus they never acquire habits which will fit them for the married state, and are unable to cook a dinner, clean a house, or generally make home comfortable. I speak this from my own observation of what I have seen in their houses when I have gone there to make inquiries in cases of sickness, as well as from inquiries which I have made about them in other quarters. The social consequences of this are, as is plain, very serious."

See also A. B. (p. 200).

130. An attempt is made by some of the witnesses to show that "if the hours are "shortened it will not be necessary or desirable to have the Saturday half-holiday. It "must, of course, diminish wages" (Mr. Cane, p. 196). The present hour for ceasing work in warehouses is 5 p.m. (Mr. Felkin, p. 237). Mr. Liberty states (p. 217), that he "has tried the Saturday half-holiday for three years, and finds it answer, and the "hands are perfectly satisfied;" and that it would be generally desirable the following testimony clearly proves.

The Saturday half-holiday practicable and desirable.

131. Mr. ——, (p. 219):—

"If the warehouses were closed at 1 on Saturday it would give the girls the recreation which they want, and enable them to profit by the Sunday schools, and it would not injure the trade."

132. Mrs. Gillesthorpe (p. 223):—

"The hours here used to be from 8 till 7, but some time ago some of the young men in the warehouse, finding the confinement too much for their health, and thinking it caused declines, combined to get a half-holiday on Saturdays for recreation, and the same was done in some other warehouses. Some well-disposed gentlemen, thinking that the girls were even more confined, and suffered more from it, tried to get them a half-holiday, and they got it; but the hands had to work an hour longer every other evening in the week for it. They would sooner do this, however, than lose the half-holiday, because it is so convenient and pleasant for those who have to work all the week. It enables those who have families to get their things at market, and all of them to get a little fresh air and rest, and to get their clothes and things ready for Sunday. However, the master did not like the half-holiday, so now they work till 4½ on Saturday, and add half an hour to each of the other evenings, which they like better than not having any time on Saturday; work being so scarce elsewhere, they must be content. Is sure a little holiday is no loss to the masters, as the people work so much better."

133. Mr. Hurst (p. 209):—

"We give a half-holiday on Saturday. Though the people work by the piece, and so lose their half day's wages, they much prefer this, and would dislike to be without it."

134. The irregular hours at which the meals are taken in times of pressure, and the frequent practice of taking them in the heated atmosphere of the workroom, fully justifies the application of the provisions of the Factory Act in this particular. A. B. (p. 199):— "At these times, too, our meals were very irregular. We got them as we could." E. F. (p. 201), "When we were busy in this way, I used to send out a few of the younger

Factory hours, &c. for meals should be enforced.

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"children to fetch the meals of the others, and the meals were eaten in the working "room as quickly as could be; the work begun again directly." Eliza Hobart, age 14, (p. 212), "dines in the work room." Martha Raven, age 13, (*ibid.*), "has dinner and tea "in the workroom." On this latter point Mr. Cresswell, general manager of the lace finishing department of Messrs. Heymann, says (p. 213),—

"I strongly object to any meals being taken in the work-rooms, where, from the fact of the numbers being employed together, the air necessarily becomes in some degree vitiated. To obviate this a large kitchen has lately been fitted up on the premises, for the use of those who, from being at a too great distance, or any other reason, do not wish to go home for meals."

Lime-washing.

Relaxation of Factory Act as to, the same as described in §§ 52–61.

135. In regard to the provisions of the Factory Acts requiring the periodical limewashing of the work-rooms, &c., Mr. Adams states (p. 195), that there is no "special objection" to it, "but as the nature of the goods requires the utmost cleanliness, it is hardly "necessary to legislate on this matter. It is for the interest of the employer to have the "floors frequently washed and the walls kept free from dust." And respecting the large warehouse of Mr. Hartshorne, Mr. White says (p. 215), that—

"The cleanliness of the place is striking. The whole place, workrooms and staircase, has been whitewashed twice within the year, and the floors are scoured every two or three weeks. Great cleanliness is found to be of importance, not only for the sake of the people, but also of the work itself."

136. Speaking of his practice in this respect, Mr. Hartshorne says (p. 216), "I consider "cleanliness essential, and it has an important moral influence on the people." These are favourable instances of attention to this subject. But Mr. White adds to the above the remark that, "an objection is sometimes made by employers to whitewashing." The large size of many of the warehouses, and the pressure of work, may be expected to operate in many cases to prevent the limewashing and cleansing from being done as often as considerations of health would render it desirable. We recommend, therefore, that the regulations of the Factory Act in respect to limewashing should be applied to these warehouses, with the relaxation as to its frequency above suggested in the case of dressing rooms (§§ 52–61), and for the same reasons.

Further recommendations embodied in the summary, § 195 *et seq.*

137. The other recommendations which we deem necessary will be more appropriately explained when we have described the state of the mistresses' houses, which appear to us to fall entirely within the same category as the warehouses above described. The summary of recommendations which will be found at § 195 *et seq.* includes therefore those already pointed out, and also those which we deem applicable both to warehouses and to private houses.

C.—*Private Houses.*

Can private houses be included?

138. The important question now arises, can private houses in which the processes of lace finishing designated in (*c.*) § 68, are carried on, be included in any measure which may be adopted for the regulation of the dressing rooms and warehouses in this branch of manufacture?

They are of two kinds:—

(*a*) Mistresses' houses where children are employed for wages.

139. These houses, "private," or so called (Mr. White, p. 182, Machine Lace finishing), are of two kinds:—

(*a.*) "Mistresses' houses," more commonly called the houses of "second-hand mistresses," from their taking work at second hand from the warehousemen or manufacturers. These are employers of women and girls for wages in larger or smaller numbers according to the size of their rooms and the fluctuating demands of the trade. And in employing women and young persons, and also children, for wages, they and their places of work are distinguishable from those hereafter to be mentioned in class (*b*) § 158.

General description of the work-rooms in mistresses' houses.

140. Of the workrooms in these "mistresses' houses," Mr. White gives the following general description (p. 184):—

"In private houses, which, where many persons are employed, are nearly always those of poor women, the workrooms are small and close, all strongly lighted by gas placed very low, the room being sometimes one in use also as a bedroom. There are no means of ventilation but by the windows, which cannot often be opened for fear of the damp spoiling the lace, or of the draught. The space allowed for each person in some places is very small, the practice being to put as many into a room as will just leave room for the children on their little low stools, and for the lace on the ground or on the clipping frames, but not for any furniture or for any one to move about. I have noticed one where the space was 67 cubic feet for each person, another about 90, another about 100, and there are others where the allowance is not much greater.

"I am informed by an official person in the War Office that the space now required in barracks for each soldier is from 500 to 600 feet, according to situation, and 1,200 cubic feet in hospital."

"In some cases, in order to keep the lace clean, the children are obliged to sit without their shoes, the floors being often of plaster or brick."

General appearance of those employed in

141. And of the general appearance of those thus employed "in private house work," he draws this painful picture (p. 186):—

"The worn and early aged faces, and frequently the failing sight of those who have left warehouses, and depend on taking work at their own homes, or employing children, show unmistakeable marks of

the labour that they have gone through, and the anxiety which they still suffer from the alternations of high pressure and absolute want of work. Even the children work with a closeness of attention and a quickness which is astonishing, scarcely ever allowing their fingers to rest, or even move less quickly, or taking their eyes off from their work when questioned, for fear of losing a moment. Even the youngest often beg to work over hours, as that gives them the only money, which as a rule, they ever get for themselves."

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142. These outlines may be illustrated by a few of the leading facts recorded by Mr. White in the evidence.

143. The age at which some of the children in this branch of employment began work at the period of the former Commission of 1842 was certainly earlier than was found by Mr. White in the course of his inquiries. Many instances were discovered in 1842 of children employed for wages at the age of 3, some at the age of 2½, one at 2 years, and one under 2 years; the evidence of age in all these cases having been ascertained with such care and precaution as to leave no doubt of its correctness (Appendix to Second Report, 1842, Part I., f. 42). In the course of the present inquiry, few children were found at work under the age of 6. In some instances a calculation would show that the children had begun to work when not 5 years of age, their actual age at the time of their being questioned by Mr. White being 5, 5¼, 6, and 7. (Charlotte Comrie, p. 225; Mary Wood, p. 227; Harriet Gamble, p. 227.)

Age at which the children begin work.

144. Mrs. Brandreth states, p. 222:—

"Mothers very often bring children, particularly on Monday mornings, to ask her to take them. Many are about 5½ or 6, to judge by their appearance. Last week a man (a glazier) asked her to take his child 'a sharp little girl, 5 last Friday.' In the same week a woman brought her child, so little that she could not be above 5. It was the fifth or sixth time that she had brought her. The mother said that she had been out at work before, and that, no doubt, was true, for she took up the scissors and cut away in such a manner that she must, in witness's opinion, have been at it for at least six months. No doubt these children were taken to some mistress who would have them, though, probably, only a few are now taken so young."

145. Mrs. Widdowson, p. 231:—

"Employs girls at drawing and clipping, and gives work out to married women, but has had nothing lately, and does not look for any till January, probably. Her girls are from 12 to 20 in number, and any age from 6 to 20, and the hours from 8 to 8, or if busy, an hour later, perhaps. If the work is wanted, all must stay. Children of 6 years old often begin to 'draw.' In many mistresses' houses it is usual to keep young children till 9 or 10 p.m., which is too long for little ones. Saw a child the other day come into a warehouse to ask for work. The child was going 8, and very little, but had been at lace work for two years. Is sure, working at this early age is quite common. It is also very common to see young children coming out of warehouses at 9 or 10 at night, a score of them together."

146. The usual hours of work in these "mistresses' houses" is stated by nearly all the witnesses to be from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., with an allowance of an hour and a half for meals. But in times of good trade, the hours are lengthened to 9 and 10 p.m., and sometimes to a later hour, from, in some instances, 6 a.m. (Mrs. Holland, p. 231; S. A. Dudgeon, p. 231.)

Usual hours of work.

Extent to which these usual hours are lengthened in times of pressure.

147. On these occasions it is the general habit of the mistresses to send away the younger children at, or soon after the usual time, seldom keeping them after 9. E. Mathers, age 12, (p. 228),—

"Has been at work here five years. The regular hours are from 8 to 8. Sometimes comes at 7, and stays till 9 or 9½ or 10 p.m. Sometimes all have stayed, but generally the younger ones are sent away earlier."

148. Maria Hackit, age 9 (*ibid.*),—

"Has been here three years. Works from 8 to 8 usually, but has come at 7 for a week together. Has stayed till 9 or 9½ and 10 at night, but not often so late as 10, and lately they have not stayed so late. The 'little uns,' *i.e.* about half, are sent home then at 8."

149. Those kept to work the longer hours with the women are commonly the girls from 12 years of age and upwards (Mrs. Bridget, p. 231; Elizabeth Large, age 12, p. 232). E. Glossop, age only 11, states that if busy her hours are from 7 or 7½ a.m. to 9 p.m., and Mrs. Gillesthorpe (p. 223), who employs about 30 "girls of all ages down to 9," and 12 women, states that her usual hours are from 8 to 7½, but when there is an order they must work till 9 or 9½, beyond which time she never keeps the young children, *i.e.* under about 12, and if she can possibly spare them she lets them go as much earlier as she can. The others, however, sometimes stay till 10 p.m., but never later. Miss Goodwin states (p. 230), that,—

In times of pressure girls of 11 or 12 work the same time as adults.

"When trade is good she employs from 12 to 20 girls, from 14 up to 25. . . Scarcely has any fixed hours, but calls them from 8 to 8. When orders come in the girls work late and early, *i.e.* if they will stay, but hardly ever keeps them later than 10 p.m. . . Has had the girls up all night, but not for the last two years, as trade has been so flat."

150. Mrs. Brandreth, who generally employs about two children, six elder girls, and 25 women, states (p. 222) that she—

"Is certain that there are still many places where children are worked for very long hours, sometimes

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from 6 or 7 a.m. till 11 or 12 at night, but probably not so much just now, as trade is so bad, but they are even now, if there is an order, and they would be much more so if trade were good again."

Numbers employed in the various descriptions of mistresses' houses.

151. The number of females employed at the time of the inquiry at the second-hand mistresses having the largest business, varied between 20 and 40 (pp. 227, 222, 223, 226). Others employed from 10 to 20 (pp. 226, 228, 231). And Mr. White found several instances of mistresses employing for wages women, girls, or children, in various numbers below 10, even down to 6 (pp. 229, 231, 232, 233, 234). It is to be inferred from Mr. Felkin's estimate (ss. 6, 7, 8) that the total numbers of children, young persons, and women employed by the second-hand mistresses is very large.

Sanitary state of the mistresses' workrooms.

152. If, as has been shown (§ 68 et seq.), many of the warehouses are more injurious to health than the dressing rooms, where, although the air is hot, it is comparatively pure (Mr. Richards, sanitary inspector of Nottingham, p. 243), the mistresses' workrooms appear as a rule to be more unhealthy than either.

Workrooms more unhealthy than dressing rooms, or warehouses.

153. Mrs. Simpson states (p. 221), that although warehouses are unwholesome from being "heated by steam, and from so many breaths, and the quantity of gas burners," they are yet "better than the private houses, because the girls do not work so close "together."

Cubic feet of space per head.

154. At one room (Mr. Grundy's, p. 224) described as "low, and the air hot and close "like that of a clothes wash-house," the space gives only 120 cubic feet per head for the full number of girls. At Mr. Hawkins (p. 226), the room, if the two frames were in use, "would be far too full for health." At Mr. Jenkins (*ibid.*) the room is a basement, "dark, choked up, and stifling hot," in which 10 young children generally worked. At Mrs. Carver's (*ibid.*) there are two very small workrooms . . "each "with a window, and lighted by gas. The girls who work in these are all learners and "quite young." There were 11 at the time of Mr. White's visit (a slack time), one of 6, seven of 8, and four others. The smaller room of the two, which did not strike Mr. White on entering "as crowded more than the lace mistresses' rooms," gave only 92 cubic feet per head. At Mrs. Jacklin's (p. 227), a boy, 21 girls, all under 13, with an overlooker, work at three clipping frames, in a room so crowded that there is barely space to pass between them, and part of it is scarcely seven feet high. In this room one girl of 7 years of age had been at work since she was $4\frac{1}{2}$ years old; another of 9 years, had begun here at $6\frac{1}{2}$; another, of 7, at $6\frac{1}{2}$; two other children, of 7 years, had lately come. "There were four gas lights at the height of four feet from the ground; "when the lace is clipped on the hand the lights are usually lower." . . A liberal measurement allowed "only 67 cubic feet and a fraction of space for each of the 25 "persons" (the full number at work), but with the numbers in the room at the time of Mr. White's visit, still less. Several other places of work nearly as bad in a sanitary point of view, are described by Mr. White at pp. 228, 229, and 231.

155. Mr. Felkin, to whose full and candid statement (p. 234), regarding the subject now under consideration—the result of 50 years' experience—we shall hereafter advert more particularly, appears to admit that his acquaintance with the workrooms in private houses is not very extensive. In comparison with the warehouses he considers that "the workrooms in private houses are in a more doubtful position." Mr. Joseph White, however, who during a medical experience of 20 years in Nottingham, first as house surgeon to the Dispensary, then as resident surgeon to the General Hospital, and subsequently in private practice, and as one of the surgeons of the Hospital, has had ample opportunities of close and accurate observation, in his short but comprehensive evidence at p. 240, states as follows in regard to the mistresses' workrooms and their influence upon health:—

"Those working in private houses are principally children; and here a number of young girls are daily collected in some small room belonging to the 'mistress,' who procures from the warehouses the lace to be finished by the children; and here they are employed in drawing, mending, and joining the pieces of net which have been recently taken from the machine. The work is carried on in rooms usually overcrowded and ill-ventilated, and in prosperous times during the greatest number of hours that children can be got to work; at other times with much uncertainty and irregularity; but at all times under conditions that tend to the deterioration of the health of all that are engaged in such occupations. Their work is a stooping, unhealthy employment, and they are frequently occupied at it more hours a day than the factory children. It has been at times no uncommon thing in Nottingham to find from 15 to 20 children in a small low room (perhaps not more than 12 feet square) working for 15 hours out of the 24 at an employment in itself exhausting from its tedium and monotony, and, in addition to this, exposed to every cause that can tend to injure permanently the health of those engaged in it. In this manner are frequently sown the seeds of those diseases, from which, in a few years afterwards, so large a proportion of the female population suffer; and it is no difficult matter in the vast majority of cases to trace the origin of the more serious diseases of after life to causes contracted by the injurious occupation of the child."

Meal times irregular.

156. The meal times in these establishments are, as might be anticipated, in busy times both curtailed and irregular (S. A. Scott, p. 232; Mr. Hawkins, p. 233; E.

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Blagden, p. 226), and often taken in the close and heated workroom. "Sitting so long "as they do at other lace work, and getting their meals in the workroom, is very bad" (Mrs. Widdowson, p. 231).

Treatment.

157. It appears that the treatment of the children by the mistresses has improved of late years, although the "long cane" is still the instrument by which the children are kept at their work; its use seems to be resorted to in proportion as the hours of work are protracted; the children becoming by degrees fatigued, and "as uneasy as birds" towards the end of their long confinement to an employment monotonous, fatiguing to the eyes, and tiring from the uniformity of posture. "The mistresses," Mrs. Reddish states (p. 200), "used to be very cruel, but she does not know much about them now. "There are, however, many more mistresses with smaller numbers now, and if children "are ill treated at one place their mothers can take them to another." And Mr. Squire also states (p. 210) that—

"The treatment of children in the private house depends mainly on the disposition of the particular mistress. Has often heard those women spoken of as very kind, and their work easier than that in warehouses; in other cases, as very severe, and their work like slavery."

158. Miss Goodwin (p. 230) "tried children once, but found them too troublesome. "At most places they have to be kept in order by a long cane."

(*b*) Houses or dwelling rooms in which women singly or with their own children, take in the same kind of work as the second-hand mistresses.

(*b*) The second class of houses, "private or so called," adverted to at § 138, are those houses or "dwelling rooms" in which women singly, or with their own children, take in, *at their own homes*, at times of good trade, the same species of work as that done by the second-hand mistresses in larger rooms with women and children working for wages, namely, drawing, mending, clipping, scalloping, joining, &c.

159. According to the observation of Mr. Joseph White, resident surgeon at the General Hospital, Nottingham, it appears that,—

"Those working *at their own homes* are principally lacerunners, persons above 20 years of age (many married and the mothers of families), who are employed in working patterns by the hand on machine-made net. The work is a stooping, wearying, monotonous employment, requiring constant intent watching, and causing great stress upon the eye. The majority of those who work at this occupation for any length of time become short-sighted, and amaurosis, in various degrees, is a disease from which they are frequently found to suffer" (p. 241).

160. Of the employers of clippers and scollopers, the following is an example. Mrs. Minnett (p. 234), says she—

"Is a clipper and scolloper, employing usually, from spring to Michaelmas, from six to eight girls, at the most 12, between the ages of 9 and 20, *in her own house, giving a good deal of work to women, who do it at home with their families.* Can nearly always get as many hands as she wants, either in doors or out."

161. Again, Mrs. Davis (p. 234) "Gives out work to about 12 married women, who "do it at home with their children."

Hours of work for children thus working for their parents are as long as the hours in the mistresses' houses, and the results as injurious.

162. The hours at which children are kept at work at busy times by their mothers, appear to be as long or even longer than those usual at mistresses' houses.

163. Mrs. Widdowson states (p. 231):—

"It is also very common to see young children coming out of warehouses at 9 or 10 at night, a score of them together. This is not only at a particular time of the year, but may be at any time when there is an order. When they leave, even then a bundle of work is often given to them *to take home.* It may be said, perhaps, to be for the mother, but the child sits and helps."

164. Mrs. Simpson (p. 221), describing the long hours of work, adds that "the mistress "had several children of her own, and worked them just in the same way," thus confirming the opinion of Mrs. Herbert (p. 217) as to the probability of the mothers exacting the same amount of work from their own children as the mistresses do from those of others:—

"I do not know that there would be much difference between a mother and a mistress in exacting work from children under her control, if an excessive amount of work were imperatively required. The pecuniary interest of the mother would be at least as strong."

Total number thus employed considerable.

165. The total number of young persons and children employed in this way *by their mothers in their own dwellings* in and around Nottingham must, without doubt, be large, but there are no available means by which an approximation could be made to their exact number. Several of the owners of warehouses, and many of the second-hand mistresses, state in the course of the evidence, that their habit is, especially at busy times, to "give out" work to women *to be done in their own families*, as well as to second-hand mistresses. This point is clearly stated by Mr. Vickers, junior (p. 218):—

"The numbers given in the return of persons engaged in this house give no idea of the numbers actually employed by it. Some hundreds are kept in pretty regular employment out of it, and these again, probably, in busy times, give out work enough to give partial employment to some hundreds more. These persons are spread over a very wide extent of country, some having been at the distance

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of as much as 80 miles from Nottingham. This mode of employment is not confined to this house alone. It is therefore impossible to form any even approximate conclusion as to the total number of persons actually engaged in lace finishing."

Medical evidence in reference to the general results of these employments throughout the whole trade.

166. Mr. White's observations upon the unhealthy appearance of the children and young persons engaged in all the three places of work in which this branch of trade is carried on—the dressing rooms, warehouses, and private houses,—have been already referred to (§§ 12–13). The testimony of those whom he found at work as to the effect of the employment upon themselves, fully bears out Mr. White's statement. To this testimony is to be added that of the members of the medical profession, who communicated to Mr. White the results of their experience. Of these, Mr. E. B. Truman, resident surgeon of the General Dispensary, Nottingham, states that (p. 238):—

"Although he had not had time to draw many general conclusions, having acted in that capacity only a year and a half, he had nevertheless noticed that cases of consumption are found chiefly amongst young females, chiefly between the ages of 17 and 24—some older and some younger—employed upon lace." . . . And "on looking over the books" of the dispensary his attention was drawn "to the "great increase of consumptive cases during the last 10 years," as an average in each year of 686 patients. "The proportion of consumptive patients, in round numbers, was—

In 1852 - - 1 in 45	1855 - - 1 in 18	1859 - - 1 in 9
1853 - - 1 „ 28	1856 - - 1 „ 15	1860 - - 1 „ 8
1854 - - 1 „ 17	1857 - - 1 „ 13	1861 - - 1 „ 8."
	1858 - - 1 „ 15	

167. All other conditions under which the various branches of lace finishing have been carried on appear to be nearly the same towards the end as they were at the commencement of the period comprised in the above table, except that of bonnet-front making, which has sprung up within the last 20 years, but which, according to the statement of Mr. Morrison, the inventor of the "machines now in use for making up bonnet-fronts," (204) had not grown to much extent until the introduction of those machines four or five years ago, since which date it has increased probably fifty-fold." It is to be remarked that the great increase in the rate of consumption shown in the latter years of the above table is coincident with the great increase of bonnet-front making with this machine.

168. Two machines are principally in use in this process; the "gauffering" machine, described by Mr. White (p. 184) as "a small stove highly heated with gas, over or close "to which the girls work, no escape being provided for the gas;" and the "making-up" machine above mentioned, which Mr. White says is stated to be "more injurious than the "former;" and of this "making-up" machine, the inventor, Mr. Morrison, states (p. 204) that "he never found anyone, unless they were very strong, able to stand work-"ing at a making-up machine for any length of time."

169. Accordingly it appears to be a natural conclusion at which Mr. Truman arrives when, among the prominent cases of consumption, he places the use of gas in the machine above described:—

"The assemblage of a large number of persons and the use of gas, must both of them produce a great amount of impure air, which, unless there be good ventilation, which it is very difficult to obtain without draughts, will act primarily upon the lungs, and also produce weakness and headaches. I am not acquainted with the use of gas in other ways than for light, as I understand is the case in bonnet-front making, but any use of gas where a free escape for it is not provided, especially if it be low down, must be extremely injurious, and ought to receive attention. The lower gas is used the more injurious it must be, as being heated it must escape upwards."

170. The communication of Dr. Robertson, for "some years past" physician to the General Hospital, the Dispensary, and the Union Hospital at Nottingham, and of Mr. Joseph White, surgeon, before-mentioned at pp. 241, 242, are deserving of great attention. Dr. Robertson thinks that he "can affirm generally that the larger proportion of "preventible diseases occur in young girls working at home." Mr. Joseph White, taking a more favourable view of the majority of the warehouses in their effect upon health than is borne out by the evidence, considers that the dressing rooms and the rooms in private houses are the most prolific causes of disease; and Dr. Robertson concludes his statement with the following recommendation:—

"I would conclude by expressing a *strong opinion*, based upon some years of careful investigation and practical experience, that in order to carry out any plan having for its object the moral and physical advancement of the rising population of this country, systematic, complete, and skilled inspection should be enforced in all establishments where a larger number than, say, half a dozen workpeople are collected under one roof; and that the same skilled agency should be empowered to report upon and suggest remedies for any defects in the sanitary arrangements of those smaller habitations in the manufacturing districts where such defects are glaring and remediable."

171. The general results of the employments of the district in regard to consumption and other diseases of the lungs are strikingly shown in the following table extracted from a return recently made to Parliament. (Commons' Papers, 12. I., March 1864.)

RETURNS relating to POPULATION and DEATHS during the Decennial Period 1851—1860.

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2.—RETURN of the Population in 1851 and 1861, and of the Death-rates, Male and Female, by Phthisis Pulmonalis, and by other Diseases of the Lungs, per 100,000 living in the under-mentioned Districts and Groups of Districts during the Decennial Period 1851—1860.

Population at all Ages.		Districts.		Deaths per 100,000 living of each Class referred to.													
				Aged 15–25.				Aged 25–45.				Aged 45–55.				Aged 55–65.			
				Males.		Females.		Males.		Females.		Males.		Females.		Males.		Females.	
1851.	1861.	No.	Name.	Phthisis Pulmonalis.	Other Diseases of the Lungs.	Phthisis Pulmonalis.	Other Diseases of the Lungs.	Phthisis Pulmonalis.	Other Diseases of the Lungs.	Phthisis Pulmonalis.	Other Diseases of the Lungs.	Phthisis Pulmonalis.	Other Diseases of the Lungs.	Phthisis Pulmonalis.	Other Diseases of the Lungs.	Phthisis Pulmonalis.	Other Diseases of the Lungs.	Phthisis Pulmonalis.	Other Diseases of the Lungs.
64,923	73,285	438	Basford -	—	—	—	—	377	77	501	91	393	259	283	234	285	746	204	642
26,776	30,479	439	Radford -																
58,419	75,765	440	Nottingham																
63,508	61,726	—	Group A. -	316	15	316	17	304	31	377	29	215	107	281	80	294	183	232	175
84,779	98,880	—	Group B. -	253	29	363	43	322	83	362	55	254	170	276	127	204	401	187	226
122,016	136,417	—	Group C. -	314	31	430	24	427	78	441	44	311	153	259	91	237	319	199	222

172. The evidence that has been now reviewed relating to the so-called private houses of the second-hand mistresses who employ children and young persons, with adult females, for wages, together with that relating to the houses and dwelling rooms, strictly private, in which mothers employ their own children in the various branches of lace finishing already enumerated, lead to the conclusion that any legislative measure—having for its object the protection of children and young persons in this trade from the ill effects of excessive hours of work, in places of work injurious to health from being overheated, badly ventilated, and over-crowded—should, if possible, be made to reach both the classes of private houses above named.

Any legislative measure should include both descriptions of private houses.

173. It is, indeed, the opinion of some of the witnesses who are well entitled to pronounce one, that, in the words of Mr. Hurst (p. 209), a measure applying to warehouses, (and it is to be presumed from the context, also to dressing rooms,) and not including the private houses, would be effective, to a great extent, if it would not give complete protection; "since much of the work usually done in warehouses, "as mending, carding, jennying, and finishing, cannot conveniently be done out of "them." Mr. Squire also gives the reasons for the tendency which, according to many employers, has existed of late years to employ children less in private houses, and more in warehouses, "the manufacturers finding that it answers better to have the "work done on the premises, as they can regulate the work better and avoid loss "by the material being stolen, &c." (p. 209.) And Mr. Clayton (p. 211), refers to an instance in which, instead of work "being given out to women, as usual, rooms "were taken by the manufacturer and women and girls employed in them for the "purpose; and it was found that the work was done at just half the rate paid "before to the women," while better wages were earned by the hands themselves. This tendency is also referred to by Mr. Felkin (p. 237):—

Opinion that a measure applying to warehouses and dressing rooms only would be effective as far as it went, although not giving complete protection.

"There are greater numbers now working in warehouses, in proportion to the entire amount of females employed, than in 1842; but what the respective and total numbers are, it is not in my power to state with any accuracy. They may vary from 50 to 500 in warehouses, and from 30 to 300 at work for each concern out of doors. Some employers give out work in larger proportion, because it may cost less done in this way. Others choose to have the greater part done on the premises, on account of its being of greater delicacy or value, requiring superior skill, cleanliness, and care. If the varied and expensive character of Nottingham and fancy lace continues in demand I expect that the warehouse workpeople will become more numerous."

174. But, on the other hand, some of the largest and most experienced employers in the trade are of opinion that this tendency, so beneficial to the workpeople, would be counteracted to a serious extent, if the so called private houses of the second-hand mistresses were exempt from the provisions of any measure which should be applied to warehouses and dressing rooms.

Contrary opinions to the effect that mistresses' houses must be included.

175. Mr. Dann states (p. 206) that he is—

"Strongly in favour of any measure which would protect young children from excessive labour, and would be glad of a further limitation of hours for young persons, if the same for all employers;"

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176. But he

"Considers it certain that any restrictions on labour in warehouses would drive the work into private houses, where the children are less comfortable, and in the hands of mistresses who work them very hardly."

177. And Mr. Hardy's (p. 214), although not so decided, is, that any restrictions which caused difficulties, or raised the wages of children in warehouses, would tend to send work to private houses.

178. It is satisfactory, therefore, to find that Mr. Adams (p. 195) gives the weight of his authority to the assertion that,

"There is no doubt that children and young persons frequently suffer from overwork in warehouses, and more *especially in private houses so called*, and it may be desirable that the Government should step in for their protection."

179. And this opinion is further supported by Mr. Adams' general superintendent, Mr. Cane, who states (p. 196), that—

"It will be of very little use to make any regulations for warehouses, factories, &c. unless they extend also to the private houses, where much of the lace work is done by girls employed by a mistress. At these houses children, some of them very young, work often very late. Much money has been made in this way by some of the mistresses, who employ sometimes from 20 to 30 girls, though from 12 to 15 is perhaps the common number."

No reason why mistresses' houses should not be included.

180. There appears, indeed, to be no valid reason why mistresses' houses should not be included in any Act regulating dressing rooms and warehouses. These houses are in point of fact as much places of manufacturing industry as the warehouses. The same species of work is carried on in them by children and young persons, and women, working for wages. They are well known; they are in the same localities as the warehouses; and as places of work, are as easily accessible. The number of girls employed varies, according to the trustworthy testimony of Mr. Cave (p. 196), from 12 to 15 (the usual number) up to 20 and 30. These houses therefore, cannot, properly speaking, be called private, in the sense of establishing for themselves a claim to be exempt from any supervision or regulation which the Legislature may think fit to apply to warehouses in this manufacture.

181. It may be argued that, although the usual number of children and young persons employed in these mistresses' houses is, as has been seen above, from 12 to 15, some mistresses employ a much smaller number, and that instances are given in the evidence of mistresses employing for wages at this work four, three, two, and even one girl only; and this being so, to legislate for persons employed in this manner would be inconvenient and fruitless, as dealing with numbers too minute for notice. To this it is to be replied, that the Legislature has already, in more instances than one, dealt with cases in which only one person was likely to be affected under each individual master. It seldom happens that a master sweep employs more than one boy, yet the Legislature did not refuse to recognize the right of each boy to be protected from a barbarous and injurious species of labour. The Bakehouses Regulation Act, 26 & 27 Vict. c. 40., (July 1863), forbids the employment of youths under 18 between the hours of 9 p.m. and 5 a.m.; and the fact that the instances are rare in which more than one youth under 18 is employed in any individual bakehouse, was no obstacle to the passage of an Act which protected youths under that age from night work, and its injurious consequences. And in both these instances the fact of only one boy or youth being employed by an individual master is the rule; whereas the cases are exceptional in which only one girl is employed by a mistress in the lace-finishing trade, the great majority of mistresses employing, as has been seen, from 12 to 30 girls, chiefly young children.

182. Mr. Felkin, in his comprehensive view of this as of the many other questions relative to the lace and hosiery trade, which he has illustrated in his interesting communication to Mr. White (pp. 234–238), intimates an apprehension that if warehouses were placed under an Act of Parliament, "the salutary tendency to improvement," which he notices, would be checked, "and more of the work would be sent to private houses, "where, although the children are not taken to work quite as young as formerly, and "the hours of labour are not quite so severe, the sanitary condition is still for the "most part unfavourable." This improvement has certainly gone to a great extent, a quarter of a million sterling having, since 1851, been expended in new warehouses (in Nottingham) for finishing and mending lace:—

"In the construction of these, ventilation has been sought to be so ordered as to conduce to the health and comfort of those who labour in them. I am not yet convinced that these results have been secured to the extent desired and anticipated. The vexed question of the best way to heat rooms where numbers of people are constantly at work, seems as far from a satisfactory answer as ever. Nevertheless, the probable increase of employment in warehouses renders all that relates to pure air, warmth, cleanliness, separation of sexes, and attention to the claims of decency and morality, of more importance. These demand, and are in most cases receiving, due consideration from employers" (p. 236).

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183. Mr. Felkin notes also (*ibid.*), the "gratifying advances" made since the inquiry of 1842, by many owners of warehouses in bringing moral influences to bear upon the young persons employed, which are by degrees establishing a broad line of distinction between businesses carried on upon those principles, and the reverse, much to the advantage of the former in the command of the best hands; and he thinks that in proportion as work in warehouses increases, "there will be a further pressure on those who "take work out" to improve their sanitary arrangements for their hands, otherwise "they "will in ordinary times leave them for the higher wages and greater comforts of the "warehouse."

184. Nevertheless, reserving his final conviction on this point until the result of this inquiry should be before him, Mr. Felkin contemplates the possibility of legislation being required, and suggests "that if any legislation were to be introduced wherein the "question of the sacredness of the dwelling might be touched, it would be well to "confine it, at first at all events, to registration by 'mistresses,' as to place, numbers, "and hours of labour in their work-rooms" (p. 237).

185. As to the propriety of this, Mr. Felkin adds, that "Until the general facts that "may come out in evidence on this inquiry shall be made public, and can be judged of "as a whole, he would rather not offer any decided opinion." But he very properly concludes that the "constitutional maxim that 'an Englishman's house is his castle,' "cannot be reasonably made to bar the door to inquiry, and, if need be, periodical "inspection and registration of work-rooms."

Children working for their parents in this trade should also be protected.

186. Having in the preceding page given our reasons for our opinion that the mistresses' houses in this trade should be treated as warehouses, and included in any measure deemed necessary for the latter, the important question remains, whether, if on the ground of public policy "mistresses" are to be forbidden to employ children and young persons for wages beyond a certain number of hours, children working for their parents in precisely the same description of labour are to receive no protection?

187. Of the "thousands of girls and young women" spoken of by Mr. Felkin as engaged in "drawing," "clipping," "cutting," "scolloping," "folding," &c., the various kinds of lace goods "in and around Nottingham," there are considerable numbers, as has been shown by the evidence, working with and for their parents, and kept, from the earliest age at which they can draw a thread or use the scissors, at this sedentary work for as many hours, at busy times, as their strength will hold out, to the ultimate injury of their health, more certainly, in many cases, than if they had been in the employ of strangers.

188. If these parents should inflict injury upon their offspring by the application of physical force, or by neglect, or any other species of direct ill-treatment, they are punishable by law. Are not these same children as entitled to the protection of the law against such abuse of parental power as results in the gradual undermining and ultimate destruction of their health, and the bodily suffering which is its consequence?

189. The injury in the case of undue physical force is indeed more immediate and visible than that resulting from the abuse of parental power in exacting from a child an undue amount of labour; but injury in the latter case is not less certain, or less directly traceable to its cause.

Children and young persons have a right to claim the protection of the Legislature against the abuse of parental power.

190. As, in earlier times, when the only injuries likely to be inflicted by parents upon their children were those resulting from the abuse of physical force, the law protected children against parents who, exceeding the just limits of parental authority, might happen to inflict such injuries, so when, with the gradual growth of trades and manufactures, children, as apprentices, began to pass at an early age out of the hands of their parents to those of masters, they were and continue to be shielded from the misuse of the power and authority of their masters, by special provisions in their favour. The vast development of our manufacturing industry within this century has brought with it, except in a few branches of manufacture, no corresponding measures of protection to the young, although it has exposed them to tenfold greater sources of injury to their health, their minds, and their morals, than any previous condition of society in this country had rendered them liable to. The severity of competition in some trades and employments, of which the lace finishing manufacture is one, and the fluctuations of demand for labour, which, in this manufacture are so frequent, cause the earnings of the children to be often of much importance to the parents, and consequently expose the latter to the temptation of overworking their children, to their great injury. The evidence relating to this manufacture, also abundantly shows, that in too many cases the children are over-worked by parents who have no need of such accession to their own earnings, but who only thereby acquire greater means of self-indulgence. (Mrs. Reddish, 200; Mrs. Simpson, 221; Mrs. Brandreth, 223; Mrs. Grundy, 224; Mrs. Jacob, p. 232.)

191. The children and young persons, therefore, in all such cases may justifiably claim

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from the Legislature, as a natural right, that an exemption should be secured to them, from what destroys prematurely their physical strength and lowers them in the scale of intellectual and moral beings. And the Legislature, in granting them that security and protection, would greatly add to the national power, by giving full and free development in all such cases to the great source of that power, the vigour and intelligence, the religion and morality of the labouring classes of the community.

A law limiting the hours of children in private houses would be enforced by public opinion.

192. That the injury is inflicted under the domestic roof need be no bar to adequate proof. The master, who in regard to his apprentice is "*in loco parentis*," is punishable for ill-treating his apprentice, and the acts so punishable, and which have often been established by proof, are such as must from their nature in most instances occur in the dwelling-house of the master.

193. The places in which this oppressive domestic work is done in this trade, the kind of work done, and the persons concerned in causing it to be done, are all such as greatly to facilitate proof, and indeed to make the continuance of the abuse improbable, if the Legislature should declare it illegal.

194. The parents who work in this manner with their own children are in general "mere lodgers," occupying a small room, "often a garret," in the same or in neighbouring houses with the "mistresses" who employ children, young persons, and women at the same species of work for wages. Their hours of work, therefore, are open to the observation of all their neighbours. Also, the mother must go to the warehouse for the work, and the time at which it is to be returned finished is specified by the employer. It is known to him whether, if the work is to be got through in that time, it would be necessary for the woman, with her children and young persons, to work extra hours (Mrs. Wilson, p. 202; Mr. J. Scott, p. 202); and in Mr. Felkin's opinion, extra hours are likely to be more frequent in the trade in consequence of "the more rapid means "of intercommunication" . . . leading to "orders being smaller, more frequent, and "requiring more rapid execution" (p. 237). If extra hours in this species of work for children and young persons were declared illegal, the evidence shows that the public opinion of the employers would second the Legislature, and that they would abstain from requiring such work to be done.

195. On this portion of the subject the following extract from the evidence of Mr. S. Wills (p. 211) is important, as illustrating the manner and the times at which work is got through in private houses, and the reasons why a legislative enactment forbidding extra hours to children and young persons would be seconded by the private interests of the employers:—

"Notwithstanding there is risk, that if anything like the factory regulations were applied to warehouses, work would be taken more into private houses, where women and children work at a cheaper rate, and for longer hours than the women and girls in warehouses would do. Here, for instance, they object to long hours, and expect to leave at 7. But in private houses, in a good time of trade, work is carried on far into or even through the whole night, though probably not now while trade is so bad. In busy times I could always find women who would offer to do a large piece of work at however short a notice, so short, that it seems necessary that part of the work must be done in the night, and by many hands, in addition to the woman who takes the work.

"In spring and summer it is a common thing to see women leaving warehouses in the morning with large bundles of lace, which they have to get finished by a fixed time, often very short, as the next day, but they manage to get it done somehow, no one knows how. I have understood that the wages paid by them to their girls are very small. There is, however, an objection to giving work to be done out, if it can be helped, arising from the risk of loss by dishonesty. The goods, in many cases, are brought packed up into bundles, and so cannot easily be looked over again in the warehouse, and any loss of quantity could only be discovered in case of the customers complaining. In flat times the work is usually done in."

196. Considering all the facts above detailed, we are led to the conclusion that, as regards these children and young persons working for their parents in this branch of the lace trade, some protection is both desirable and practicable, although not to the same extent as we deem practicable in regard to the same description of persons working for wages in the "mistresses" houses.

Recommendations, summary of, including both warehouses and private houses.

197. We submit that enactments to the following effect would meet these two respective cases.

Private Houses.

As to children and young persons and women employed in Lace Finishing in private houses.

1. That it should be unlawful to employ any child under the age of 8 years in "mending," drawing, joining, clipping, scollopping, folding, facing, or any other process of Lace Finishing.
2. That it should be unlawful to employ any child under 13 years of age in any of the processes above specified more than six hours in any one day, or before the hour of 6 a.m., or after the hour of 7 p.m.

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3. That every child or young person or woman employed in any of the processes above specified should be entitled to the same meal hours as are secured to those working in manufactories under the regulations of the Factory Act.

4. That it should be unlawful to employ any young person above the age of 13, and under the age of 18, or any woman, in any of the processes above specified more than $10\frac{1}{2}$ hours in any one day, or in the night, *i. e.* between the hours of 7 p.m. and 6 a.m.

The above four regulations should be carried into effect by the Local Authority.

Warehouses.

5. That every *workroom* in which any of the processes above specified are carried on under a "mistress," or under any other person or persons employing children or young persons or women, *for wages*, should be deemed to be a *warehouse* in which lace wares are finished.

6. That *every warehouse* in which lace wares are finished by any of the processes above specified, should be placed under the regulations of the Factory Act, subject to the following deviations from the requirements of that Act; namely,—

(*a*) The provision specified at § 99 of this Report, which suggests that the permission given by the Factory Act to work between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. for half the year should be extended to the whole year;

(*b*) The provision regarding limewashing, described at §§ 52 and 135 of this Report, which suggests that the time within which warehouses should be limewashed should, in certain cases, be extended from 18 months to two years.

Provisions as to the registration and inspection, and proper ventilation, &c. of ware houses.

198. 7. And whereas warehouses in which lace-wares are finished are often ill-ventilated and over-crowded, to the injury of the health of the children and young persons, and other persons working therein; and whereas the Factory Act gives no power to the Inspectors of Factories to require such alterations to be made in regard to the ventilation and sanitary condition of places of work under their inspection, as may remove causes of injury to the health of the persons working therein; and whereas certain Acts have passed within the last sixteen years, giving to the "Local Authority" powers of sanitary regulation in cases analogous to the one under consideration, but those powers depend for their exercise on the voluntary action of the officers of the local authority, or of other persons, and do not specifically include the case in question; namely—

199. The Act 11 & 12 Vict. c. 123. (the Public Health Act, 1848), by s. 1 *on complaint made* by two householders, "That any dwelling house or any building used "*wholly or in part* as a dwelling house, is in such a filthy and unwholesome condition "as to be a nuisance to, or injurious to the health of any person," empowers the local "authority to take measures to remove the nuisance complained of.

200. The Act 14 & 15 Vict. c. 28. (the Common Lodging Houses Act, 1851), by s. 2, declares, that the expression "common lodging house" includes, in any case in which only part of a house is used as a common lodging house, the part so used of such house;

201. And by s. 7 directs that the local authority shall "keep a register in which shall "be entered the names and residences of the keepers of all common lodging houses "within the jurisdiction of the local authority, and the situation of every such house, "and the number of lodgers authorized according to this Act to be received therein;" and by s. 9 the local authority is empowered to make regulations respecting common lodging houses within its jurisdiction "for all or any of the purposes respecting the "same for which the Local Board of Health by the Public Health Act, 1848, are "authorized to make byelaws;" and by s. 12 the keeper of a common lodging-house shall at all times when required by any officer of the local authority give him free access to such house, or to *any part thereof;* and by s. 13, shall thoroughly cleanse all the rooms, passages, stairs, &c. thereof, as often as shall be required by, or in accordance with, any regulation or bye-law of the local authority.

202. The Act 18 & 19 Vict. c. 121. (the Nuisances Removal, &c. Amendment Act, 1855) provides, by s. 29, that on a *certificate of the medical officer* to the local authority that any house is so *overcrowded* as to be dangerous or prejudicial to the health of the inhabitants, and *the inhabitants shall consist of more than one family* "the local authority may take proceedings to abate the same;" and by s. 13, the Justices on proof that nuisance exists, may order, among other things, *sufficient means of ventilation* to purify any premises which are a nuisance or injurious to health, "or such part thereof as the Justices may direct in their order."

203. The Act 18 & 19 Vict. c. 120. (the Metropolis Local Management Act, 1855) enacts by s. 132, that:—

"Every vestry and district board shall from time to time appoint one or more legally qualified medical practitioner or practitioners of skill and experience to inspect and report periodically upon

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the sanitary condition of their parish or district, to ascertain the existence of diseases, more especially epidemics, increasing the rate of mortality; and to point out the existence of any nuisance or other local causes which are likely to originate and maintain such diseases, and injuriously affect the health of the inhabitants, and to take cognizance of the fact of the existence of any contagious or epidemic diseases, or to point out the most efficacious mode of checking or preventing the spread of such diseases; and also to point out the most efficient modes for the ventilation of *churches, chapels, schools, lodging houses, and other public edifices* within the parish or district, and to perform any other duties of a like nature which may be required of him or them."

204. The Act 21 & 22 Vict. c. 98. (the Local Government Act, 1858), provides by sec. 34 that every Local Board may make byelaws, among other things, (3) with respect to the sufficiency of the space about buildings, and with respect to the *ventilation of buildings*.

205. And whereas the principles embodied in these Acts apply to the case in question in the following particulars, namely,—

(*a*) That they take cognizance not only of private dwellings, but of parts of private dwellings.

(*b*) That they require certain private dwellings to be registered and inspected.

(*c*) That they impose restrictions upon the number of persons who, with due regard to sanitary conditions, can be received in such private dwellings.

(*d*) That they subject private dwellings in certain cases to the byelaws framed by the local authorities.

(*e*) That for sanitary purposes, they require private dwellings and *parts* thereof, to be cleansed periodically or when ordered by the local authorities.

(*f*) That, under certain circumstances, they prevent over-crowding in private houses.

(*g*) That they give power to the local authority to order sufficient means of ventilation, to purify premises injurious to health, or any part of such premises.

(*h*) That inasmuch as the Act 18 & 19 Vict. c. 120. (the Metropolis Local Management Act), sec. 132, designates "churches, chapels, schools, lodging-houses, and other public "edifices," as places in regard to which, for the sake of the public health, the medical officers of health are required "to point out the most efficient modes" of ventilation, there appears to be no valid reason why the said officers should not, on the same grounds, have the same powers in regard to lace warehouses; inasmuch as it is clearly proved that such warehouses are deficient in ventilation in proportion to the numbers employed therein; and it is deducible from the evidence that they are at least as injurious in that respect as the churches, chapels, common lodging-houses, and other public edifices in the same locality are likely to be.

For these reasons, we recommend that warehouses in the lace trade, in which lace wares are finished, or in which, or in parts of which, any of the processes of lace finishing are carried on, should be subjected to the provisions of the Acts above mentioned, in regard to registration and inspection by the local authority, with the view of securing sufficient means of ventilation, and the prevention of over-crowding.

206. In all other respects the provisions regarding these warehouses would be carried into effect by the Inspectors of Factories.

207. To this point—the division of the duties of inspection between the Local Authority and the Inspectors of Factories,—we shall have occasion to advert more at length in our Third Report, with special reference to the numerous small manufactures in the metal trades of Birmingham and the surrounding districts.

208. A division of duties to this extent would, considering the great number of the smaller places of work, much reduce the costs of inspection. At p. 195 of the Appendix to this Report we have given an extract from the "notification" issued by the Local Government Act Office, London, showing what bodies are respectively the "Local Authority" in different districts throughout the country.

209. The duties which we think could be satisfactorily performed by the Local Authority in respect to these lace warehouses are the following:—

A. That within three months after the passing of the proposed Act, the local authority should, and from time to time thereafter the local authority may, give to the owner or occupier of any warehouse in which lace wares are finished, already or hereafter within the jurisdiction under this Act of the local authority, notice in writing of this proposed Act, and shall give such notice by leaving the same for such owner or occupier at the warehouse, and shall by such notice require the owner or occupier to register the warehouse as by this proposed Act provided, and such notice may be in the form in the Schedule to this proposed Act annexed, or to the like effect. (See Appendix, p. 195.)

B. The local authority shall keep a register, in which shall be entered the names and residences of all the owners or occupiers of lace warehouses within the jurisdiction of the local authority, and the situation of every such warehouse, and the number of work-people authorized according to this proposed Act to work in each room thereof.

C. The medical officer of health or other person appointed for the purpose, by the local authority, shall, as soon as conveniently may be after issuing such notice to register, inspect such lace warehouse, and shall measure the cubic contents of each room in such warehouse in which any process of lace finishing is carried on, and shall deliver a notice in writing to the owner or occupier, specifying how many persons may be employed in each room, allowing not less than 300 cubic feet for each person, the minimum thought necessary by the medical officers of health of the metropolis for sleeping rooms or work-rooms (see letter of Dr. Ballard, Appendix, p. 191), and such notice, written or printed in legible characters, and fixed on a moveable board (each particular notice being signed by the Inspector) shall be hung up in such room, and so placed as to be easily read by the persons employed. THE LACE MANUFACTURE. RECOMMENDATIONS. PRIVATE HOUSES. WAREHOUSES.

D. The medical officer of health, or other officer of the local authority, shall have the same powers for enforcing the adoption of sufficient means of ventilation in lace warehouses as are given to them by the Public Health Act, 1848, or by the Nuisances Removal Amendment Act, 1855, or by the Local Government Act, 1858, and other Local Acts, and the owner or occupier of such warehouse, and every other person having or acting in the care or management thereof, shall, at all times when required by any officer of the local authority, give them free access to such house, or any part thereof.

210. Should the above recommendations (197 to 209) be carried into effect, protection would be given to the children and young persons employed in lace warehouses, and also to a certain limited extent to those occupied in precisely the same work by their parents in their own dwellings, and who, as has been shown, are at least in as much need of protection from overwork and its consequences as those employed in the larger warehouses, and in the houses of mistresses where they work for wages.

211. Also if the above recommendations should be assented to their effect would be to encourage the transference of the work of lace finishing from the small so called private houses under the "second-hand mistresses" to the larger establishments, similar to those already existing; inasmuch as the difficulty and the cost of complying with the sanitary arrangements would be such as not to permit the small private houses readily to adopt them. Such a result would be, as has been shown, in furtherance of a tendency already existing and largely acted on in the trade, and would, as has also been distinctly proved, be eminently beneficial to the persons employed. The small so-called private houses in this trade have hitherto exercised the functions while they have escaped the liabilities of large manufacturing establishments, in all that relates to the influence upon them of public opinion or legislation. As they are in point of fact manufacturing establishments as truly and precisely as the large conspicuous buildings to which the terms "manufacturing establishments" or "factories" have hitherto been, in the common acceptation of the words, confined, any measure which places them in their proper relation and attaches to them the liabilities which, from their nature and character, properly belong to them, is justifiable and desirable, involving as it does the health, the lives, and the well-being of such large numbers as are occupied in this branch of manufacture. Effect of recommendations in regard to mistresses' houses.

D.—*Pillow Lace Making.*

212. Of this branch of the lace manufacture, Mr. White states (p. 185) that,—

"The labour falling under the third head, pillow lace making, is carried on principally in two rural districts of England; one, the Honiton lace district, running along the eastern portion of the south coast of Devonshire, for 20 or 30 miles, and a few miles inland, and including a few places in North Devon; the other, extending over a greater part of the counties of Buckingham, Bedford, and Northampton, and the adjoining parts of Oxfordshire and Huntingdonshire." District of.

213. It is made "chiefly in the villagers' cottages, though not entirely in the houses "of the lace makers themselves."

214. Although in some parts the employment of making pillow lace has much declined partly, probably, from the improvement of machine made lace, partly from changes of fashion and temporary causes, and was depressed at the time of the inquiry, the numbers employed, chiefly children and young persons exclusively females, are very large. "One "manufacturer alone employs 3,000 persons, and others are spoken of as in the same "rank of business" (p. 185),— Numbers employed.

"The work requiring great manual dexterity and experience, but very little muscular strength or size, children are put to learn it at a very early age, 6 being thought the best by some teachers, though many begin at 5 and even younger.

"For this purpose they usually go to work at a school kept by a woman in her cottage. These rooms are generally the living rooms of small cottages, with the fireplace stopped up to prevent draught, and sometimes even in winter, the animal heat of the inmates being thought sufficient; in other cases they are small pantry-like rooms without any fireplaces, and in none of these rooms is there any ventilation beyond the door and windows, the latter not always made to open, or, if it will open, not opened. Places of work: lace schools.

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"The crowding in these rooms and the foulness of air produced by it are sometimes extreme. I have noticed in one place as small an amount of space as under 25 cubic feet for each person. The inmates are also often exposed to the injurious effects of imperfect drains, sinks, smells, &c., common at the outsides or the narrow approaches of small cottages."

Age and hours of work.

215. At these lace schools, at which the children are employed at learning to make lace, they commence at the early age of 5 or 6, "and sit at work for the first year or two, "from four and six to eight hours;" but, after that age,—and until they leave the lace school, at from 12 to 15 years of age, to work in their own homes,—they work "some-"times from 6 a.m. till 10 p.m., but in most places not beyond 8 p.m.;" long enough to lay the foundation of ill-health "from the closeness of the confinement and bad air." (Mr. White, p. 185; Mrs. Godolphin, p. 246; Mrs. Davey, Mrs. Croydon, Mrs. Stevens, p. 247; S. Miller, A. Wealsman, p. 255.)

216. The following are examples of the small, crowded, unventilated rooms in which these lace schools are held:—

Examples of cubic feet of space per head at lace schools. Effects upon health.

217. At Mrs. Clarke's lace school, Sidbury, Devonshire, there were 18 girls and the mistress, in a room affording only 33 cubic feet for each person (p. 249).

218. At Mrs. Besley's, Seaton, Devonshire, (p. 252) "the room was offensively close;" without a fireplace, and giving 38 cubic feet of space for each of the 10 persons usually at work there.

219. At Mrs. Driver's, Beer, Devon, a room in which eight persons worked, gave 80 cubic feet for each person (p. 253.)

220. At Mrs. Woodleigh's, Newton Poppleford, Devon, "the smell from the crowded "state of the room was almost unbearable, even without the full number present" (p. 254). The cubic space per head for the full number of 18 persons was 24½ feet.

221. At Mr. Ash's, at the same place, the space allowed is less than 70 cubic feet for each person.

222. At Mrs. Smith's at Wilshampstead, Bedfordshire, the cubic space for each of the usual number present would be only 28½ feet (p. 262).

223. At Mrs. Cox's, at the same place, the space for the usual number present, 21, would be 52 cubic feet.

224. At Mrs. Church's at Cotton End, Bedfordshire, the estimated space for the 16 persons found in the room, was only 18 cubic feet (p. 263).

225. At Mrs. Burridge's, Houghton Conquest, Bedfordshire, the entire space for 27 persons was under 36 feet for each (*ibid.*).

226. The effects upon health are thus well described by the following witnesses:—

227. Mrs. Gay states (p. 251),—

"Children in this place are delicate, and from always working at lace are not so strong as if they were running about. When little things are brought to sit by the hour so long their constitution is broken up. It is very trying to them, and every year as they grow older their hours increase, and they are obliged to work more and more."

228. The Rev. M. Gueritz, vicar of Colyton, Devon, states (p. 251)—

"I am convinced that the effects of lace-making, as carried on here, are very injurious in several ways. In the schools it is unhealthy from the small size and crowded state of the rooms, the air of which is stifling. But, apart from this, the work itself, which involves such long continued sitting and stooping over the pillow, injures the chest. Consumption is prevalent amongst the people, and to a greater degree in later life."

229. The Rev. C. Glascott, vicar of Seaton and Beer, states (p. 252)—"The employ-"ment is injurious to the bodily health, owing to the confinement in small close rooms "with no fire-place or ventilation, and the consequent impurity of the air."

230. D. Wood, Newport Pagnell, states (p. 259)—"Sitting in a lace school does not "suit a great many, there are so many breaths. You never see any very strong that "are at lace long."

231. The same account of the ill effects upon health is given by a witness who describes her experience of lace making in Northamptonshire, as has been given by those conversant with the employment in Devonshire and Buckinghamshire.

232. M. A. Sumter, Broughton, Northamptonshire, states (p. 261)—

"I believe that lace-making is very injurious to the health. Many times it brings on consumption; at first girls complain of a pain in their side, after that in their stomach, and when it gets there they soon suffer in their head too." ... "Besides that, the confinement and crowding of so many into one room is bad. I have often thought so when I have had as many as 20 girls in this room, sitting nearly as close as can be, though when I was at school myself there were 30 in a room of the same size."

233. After leaving the lace schools, "generally between the ages of 12 and 15" (p. 185), the children and young persons "commonly work at home, or congregate in "neighbours' houses for the sake of company and mutual help, and to save light. "Under these circumstances they work what hours they please, often very late, and "sometimes all night through" (*ibid.*).

234. The lace schools above described, are all clearly within the same category as the mistresses' houses in the lace finishing trade. They are equally places of manufacture, equally frequented by large numbers of children and young persons, and equally injurious to health from over-crowding and neglect of proper means of ventilation. The recommendations therefore which we have made (§§ 198 to 209) in regard to the registration and inspection of mistresses' houses, and the limitation by the local authority of the numbers to be allowed to work in each room, according to its cubic contents, are equally applicable to these lace schools.

Lace schools should be placed under regulation.

235. Indeed, considering the large proportion of the female population which devotes the early years of life to the work of pillow lace making in the numerous towns and villages which are the seats of this manufacture, it would seem that the interests of society as regards the health and stamina of the population, even more require, in this case, that the conditions of health in these lace schools should be a matter of public concern.

236. In such places as in Honiton, "most of the young females in the town are engaged "in lace making." (The Rev. J. A. Mackarness, p. 248.) At Sidbury, "nearly three "parts of the girls in the place are lace makers." (Mrs. Clarke, p. 249.) At Branscombe, "nearly all the girls in the place are at lace work." (The Rev. L. Gidley, p. 250.) At Colyton, "the greater part of the female population are engaged in lace making." (The Rev. M. Gueritz, p. 251.) At Seaton and Beer, "the female population are largely "employed in lace making." (The Rev. C. Glasscott, p. 252.) At Otterton there are "several lace schools in the place." (Mrs. Hayman, p. 254.) In Buckinghamshire three or four large employers keep at work large numbers of children and young persons; one about 3,000. (Mr. Gilbert, p. 257.) In Bedfordshire, Mr. Lester states (p. 262) that his firm employs lace makers in almost every village, and in some of these in almost every house within a circle of 10 miles from Bedford . . "In most lace villages there "is one school, in the larger more; in some probably five or six; a common number of "scholars is from 20 to 25; in a few schools there may be double that number." . . . The number must depend on the size of the rooms, which, as it is, are often very small and crowded.

237. The work carried on, and to so great an extent, in these lace schools, "mistresses' "houses," and other places of a like kind with which we shall hereafter have to deal, has hitherto been commonly called a "domestic manufacture," and it has consequently been commonly thought to be, *ex vi termini*, beyond the province of legislative supervision. This common impression appears to have rested partly on the tacit assumption that no evil accompanies it of a nature sufficiently grave to involve the general interests of the public; partly that, even if such evil existed, the law could not reach it.

Interference with domestic manufactures justifiable if evil sufficiently grave.

238. The assumption that no evil exists sufficiently grave to involve the public interests is negatived by the ample proof furnished by the evidence of the injury to the health inflicted on the large body of young females engaged in the employment, and especially in the tendency of the employment, as carried on under its present unfavourable sanitary conditions, to encourage the growth and spread of consumption.

239. The other impression that even if the evil existed the law could not reach it, may be considered groundless, since the Public Health and the Local Government Acts have placed under the direction of the local authorities all over the kingdom administrative officers who only require to be armed with specific power to deal effectually with cases such as these now in question.

Incidental advantage of placing these schools under regulation.

240. An incidental advantage might also be looked for from placing these lace schools under regulations as to the numbers to be permitted to work together in proportion to the cubic space in each room. Such regulations could not fail to direct the attention of the labouring and middle classes generally in these districts to the subject of over-crowding, and want of proper ventilation, inattention to which subjects is now recognized as one of the chief causes, if not the chief cause of typhus and other fevers, and of that lowering of the system which predisposes to other diseases.

The children, &c. working at pillow lace in their own homes come within the recommendations 1, 2, 3, and 4 of § 197.

241. The children and young persons working at pillow lace making in their own homes, for the long hours that are described in the evidence as common when trade is good, although not directly working for their parents, inasmuch as they sell the lace they make to those who collect it, must, from their tender and immature age, be considered as virtually so employed; their earnings making a part of the income of the family. That being so, their case falls equally within the recommendations 1, 2, 3, and 4 (§ 197), from which, if they should become law, these children and young persons would receive protection from the long hours which now undermine their health and deprive them of the means of early education.

We do not think that legislation could be carried further in this case than the simple declaration, as in case of the Bakehouses Regulation Act, that it shall henceforward

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be unlawful to employ these children at an earlier age or for longer hours than are adverted to in the above paragraph; the duty of causing the enactment to be observed together with the provisions relating to ventilation &c., being imposed upon the local authority.

The truck system.

242. The low earnings in this branch of employment are in some of its districts further diminished by the prevalence of the truck system. It has been sufficiently proved by the investigation of a Committee of the House of Commons, and other inquiries, that no relief can be expected from amendments of the present law upon that subject. The law as it stands is capable of being put in force, and is frequently put in force, with the effect under certain circumstances of checking that system.

243. But, under the circumstances in which the pillow lace manufacture is carried on, the best remedy against the loss to the workpeople arising from the truck system is that prevailing, as is seen by the evidence, in Buckinghamshire, where the whole trade is in the hands of large employers who pay for the lace in ready money. It would be a work of great benevolence towards the pillow lace makers of Devonshire and elsewhere, if persons of influence would aid in introducing the system of purchasing their lace, which is of so much advantage to the lace workers of the county of Buckinghamshire.

The Hosiery Manufacture.

For Evidence, see our First Report, Appendix, pp. 182–294.

244. At the time of the former inquiry by the Children's Employment Commissioners of 1842, hosiery was entirely made by hand.

245 About the year 1846 the steam-worked "round" frames were introduced, "making "at great speed knitted socks that require only to be cut and shaped and sewn "up into hose by women and children." (Mr. Felkin, p. 235.)

246. A larger machine was afterwards added,—the steam "rotary," "of great width and "rapid movement," and employed in adding largely to the production of cheap articles (*ibid.*).

247. The "warp" frame, also worked by steam, "makes various kinds of hosiery" (*ibid.*).

Statistics of.

248. There were in the trade in 1852, 1,500 "round frames," 1,500 "rotaries," and 800 "warp" frames, all moved by steam; in all 3,800.

249. The addition to the productive power made by the applications of machinery in the manufacture of hosiery, may be seen from the fact that in 1844, two years previous to the invention of the steam-moved "round frame," the returns of the hosiery trade were 2,560,000*l.*, whereas they had increased in 1860, "the last year of average "business, to 6,480,000*l.*, consisting of 2,630,000*l.* cost of raw materials, and of 3,850,000*l.* "for wages, finishing, and profits" (*ibid.*).

250. Mr. Felkin gives the total number of hands employed directly and indirectly in the English hosiery trade as about 120,000 of both sexes. Of these, according to the last returns presented to Parliament (Commons Papers 23, 11th February 1862), the total numbers under the Factory Acts were 4,063.

251. The great mass, therefore, of the persons engaged in the hosiery manufacture are still employed in such a manner as not to come under the operation of that Act.

How employed.

252. They are engaged—

A. In warehouses in Nottingham, Leicester, Loughborough, &c. (Mr. White, p. 265), similar in size and character to the warehouses in the lace finishing trade, and in similar species of labour, namely, "cutting," "mending," folding, marking, packing, &c. (p. 265).

B. In working the hand frames "in houses, or in small attached shops spread over "250 parishes," in the three midland counties of Nottingham, Derby, and Leicester.

C. In "winding," "mending," "seaming," "stitching," &c., in private houses in the same small towns and villages (Mr. White. p. 264.)

Hosiery warehouses.

A. The Warehouses in the hosiery trade are principally in the towns of Nottingham, Leicester, and Loughborough, with a few also in smaller towns, as Belper or Hinckley. They are not numerous; "some are large new buildings of the same character as the new "lace warehouses," (Mr. White, 265). They are described by Mr. White as having in nearly all cases sufficient space for the persons employed in them, and a moderate temperature; the exceptional cases not being such as to make it requisite, if the hosiery warehouses stood alone in their respective localities, to place them under legislative regulations on the ground of unhealthiness.

THE HOSIERY MANUFACTURE.

253. But the reasons which would justify their being placed under the regulations of the Factory Act are two:—

Should be placed under regulation.

First, their hours of working would be more beneficial to the children and young persons employed in them, if they were assimilated as nearly as possible to those of the Factory Act.

Secondly, being places of work of the same nature as the warehouses in the lace trade, and in the same localities, it is undesirable, even in the opinion of many of the owners of these hosiery warehouses themselves, that they should be omitted from any legislative measure which might be applied to the lace warehouses; especially as they could be included without danger to the trade.

Factory hours more beneficial to the young.

1. Although the hours in the hosiery business are usually less than the factory hours, being, for the most part, from 8 a.m. to 6 or 6½ p.m., or, in other cases, from 9 a.m. to 6, 7, and 8 p.m.; yet longer hours are not uncommon, ranging from 8 a.m. to 8, 9, or even 10 p.m.

254. At Messrs. Dent's warehouse (p. 268) Maria Skelton, age 13, stated, that she had been there three years; and that, "for about half the time the hands are busy, "and stay till 8 or 9, sometimes to about 10." At Messrs. Morley's, Nottingham (p. 269), the hours for about eight months in the year are from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. At Mr. Ashwell's (p. 267)—a gentleman who expressed himself averse to long hours—a child aged 11 stated, that his hours were in winter from 9 to 8, and in summer from 8 to 8. At Messrs. Ward, Hurst, and Sharp's, Belper (p. 280), where there were "three children under 13, "and three a little over" and six young persons, (the total numbers employed being 70 females and 30 men), the usual hours are from 8 a.m. to 6½ p.m.; but "in a time of fair trade," when they are busy, for two or three months, or sometimes less, the work-people stay "to 8 or 9, and perhaps till 10 p.m.," "but as a rule, the younger leave "earlier." The honorary secretary for Leicester attached to the deputation on the subject of the hosiery trade, &c. to the French Chamber of Commerce (Mr. W. Rowlett, junior), states (p. 290), that the hosiery warehouses in Leicester "are hardly ever open after "8½, and are generally closed by 8, even in busy times." The hours in his own warehouses are from 8½ a.m to 7 p.m., "with a dinner hour and no tea. The younger ones "rarely stay after 7. We have a few under 13; the greater part between 15 and 25; "and altogether about 50."

255. The obvious and acknowledged objection to the practice of ending the day's work at varying hours is that it renders attendance at evening school almost impossible; and exposes the young to greater temptations by necessitating their absence from home at late and indefinite hours.

256. A remarkable instance, although one which ought not to be followed as an example, of a praiseworthy effort to attend evening school, notwithstanding the difficulty, is given in the evidence (p. 281). Mary Winterbottom, age 13, states that she has been in the employ of Messrs. Cartwright, Loughborough, three years. Their usual hours in their warehouse are from 7½ a.m. to 6 p.m. in summer, and from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. in winter. She had never staid later than 8 p.m.; but last winter, "in order to get time for going to "night school, she was allowed to make up the time lost by leaving earlier, by giving "up her dinner hour. She dined at 5 minutes to 2, and finished dinner in 5 minutes."

The Saturday half-holiday.

257. There is the same experience in regard to the Saturday half-holiday in the hosiery trade as has been described (p. 20) in regard to the lace trade. Many employers have adopted it voluntarily, and have found that "it works well, and does not diminish the "work done" (Mr. Wilson, p. 268; Mr. Musham, p. 269). But as it is not general (Mr. Hogg, p. 270; Mr. Hanford, p. 282), or to the extent as to time required by the Factory Act (Mr. Felkin, p. 237), legislation is necessary to make it uniform.

Hosiery warehouses should be placed under the same regulations as have been suggested for the lace warehouses.

2. It is satisfactory to perceive, from the evidence of many employers of superior position in the trade, that the existing arrangements of hours are not essential. "There "is nothing in the business itself which would prevent earlier work." (Mr. J. Pearce, Manager for Messrs. Dent's, Nottingham, p. 268.) Throughout the trade indeed a very fair disposition is manifested to conform to the factory hours, or to such modifications of them as may be deemed suitable in the case of the warehouses of the lace trade; and reference is made by several of the witnesses to the fact that the time of work has already been altered from the long hours which formerly prevailed, not only without injury to the trade, but with much satisfaction to the employers, who would not if they could return to the former long hours.

258. These points are made clear by the following testimony (Mr. T. Ashwell, Nottingham, p. 267):—

"Hours as long as the factory hours would be long enough for a warehouse, unless for very exceptional cases, and there is but little irregularity in the business throughout the year. If the hours were

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not enough, we should get a few more hands, and if we had many young persons and could not keep them beyond 6 or 7 p.m., we could easily make arrangements for beginning earlier in the morning, as is done in one or two hosiery warehouses that I know, where they do begin at 6½ a.m. when unusually busy. There is nothing at all in the nature of the business to prevent it.

"It is not necessary to have the young at work for long hours at all, and even if preventing it were any inconvenience to employers, it should be submitted to rather than that the young should be injured."

259. Mr. J. Fann, Nottingham (p. 269). Some years ago the hosiery warehouses were often open till 11 and 12 at night. "This was in order to send goods off, but now the "railway will not take them after a certain time, and they have to leave the warehouse "by 7, and the day's work is then considered finished. We have not found any sub-"stantial inconvenience from this change, and would not care to have the time altered "back again, in fact should say 'No,' if there were the choice."

260. To the same effect is the evidence of Mr. Pratt, Belper (p. 280). "The hours "used to be from 6 to 7, but the present shorter hours have not diminished the amount "of work done, or but very little."

261. And the same result from the same cause as at Nottingham has ensued at Leicester.

262. Mr. J. Cooper (p. 290):—

"The hours in Leicester have been very much shortened in the last few years. This has come from a change made by the railways. Carriers would wait for goods any time up to 12 at night, or even up till the morning, and it was general then for warehouses to be open later. Now goods are generally sent from a warehouse at 5½, and for London or anywhere they must leave not later than 8. This prevents late work, and people work harder earlier in the day.

"I think that great benefit has arisen from the trimmers (bleachers, &c.) and dyers being regulated by the late Act. Young people used to be kept very late then. There was some complaint of the Act at first, but it works well now. The goods come back to us from the trimmers as promptly and regularly as before. The only difference is, that more hands are employed by them if they have not enough. This is more beneficial than for a few to work overtime, as the additional wages made by overtime are seldom well applied."

263. Mr. W. Musham (p. 269), who states that "any law would have but little to "operate upon," adds—"But any legislation upon the subject would probably be strongly "opposed at first, and approved of shortly afterwards. It was so in the case of the "bleachers."

264. And Mr. J. Hadden Nottingham, (p. 266), after stating that "it would be much "better for the children, and not at all detrimental to the trade, if up to the age of 14 "they were not employed at all," and that "if any serious inconvenience arose from any "restrictions on the labour of those under the age of 18, it could be easily avoided "by employing only those above that age," proceeds to say that although he considers that "the hosiery warehouses do not in themselves need any regulation, and that any "interference with them would be objectionable, still, if other establishments of a like "kind, in the same place, such as lace manufactures, were regulated, it would not do "to make distinctions between them" (p. 266–7).

265. Of the same opinion is Mr. W. Biggs, Leicester, (p. 289.)

"There is but little pressure in any branch of the hosiery business, such as to require over hours in warehouses here. Regulations applying to the labour of young persons in them would not occasion much practical inconvenience, and, when understood, would probably be conformed to without much opposition or difficulty. Probably, however, they are not much required in hosiery warehouses, but if it were necessary to regulate warehouses of other kinds, it would not be well to make distinctions between them."

Hand frames, statistics of.

B. Of "hand frames," in the hosiery trade, there were, in 1844, according to Mr. Felkin, (p. 235), in Leicestershire, 20,861; in Nottinghamshire, 16,383; and in Derbyshire, 6,797; together, 44,041. In other parts of England, 4,572; in Scotland, 2,605; in Ireland, 263. Total in the United Kingdom, 48,483.

266. The invention of the steam-moved "round," "rotary," and "warp" frames in 1846 and subsequent years, while adding greatly to the production of cheap hosiery, has had the effect of discouraging the makers of new hand frames; and although some of the finer kinds of hosiery are at present, and according to some opinions, are likely always to be made by hand frames, in consequence of the great cost of machinery compared with the results that could be produced, invention has been so rapid in overcoming the difficulties of several branches of the manufacture, that the old hand machines are not generally renewed as they wear out. (Mr. Wilson, p. 267; Mr. W. Musham, p. 270). That being the case, although it appears that there are no more recent statistics of the number of hand frames than those of 1844, it is probable that their number may have decreased since that time.

267. They may probably now be taken for the counties of Leicester, Nottingham, and Derby, in round numbers at 40,000.

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268. Each frame is worked by a man, or a boy, or girl, or a woman.

269. Each frame also gives employment to "winders" and "seamers."

270. In some cases the men wind for themselves, (p. 271), in others, one boy winds for four, five, six, seven, or more frames (p. 273). The seaming is done in most cases by the wives and children (p. 273). In some cases one frame gives employment to two females (p. 279).

271. These facts seem to have formed the bases of Mr. Felkin's calculation (p. 235), in which he estimated the number of persons working at, or in connexion with, the hand frames in the whole kingdom in 1844 as follows:—

Engaged (partially employed) in working the hand frames - -	50,000
Women and children, partly or wholly engaged in connexion with the hand frames in—	
1. Working at frames 2. Winding - - 3. Seaming - - } - - - - - - -	50,000
Total - - - - - - - -	100,000

272. And it may be gathered from the evidence that these numbers have not materially varied up to the present time. (Mr. Felkin, p. 235; Mr. Hadden, p. 267; Mr. J. Kennedy, p. 281; Mr. Musham, p. 270).

Places of work.

273. The places of work are,—

(*a.*) Shops, or, as they are sometimes called, small factories (p. 273), consisting of one or more rooms, and containing from 10 to 20, 30, 40, or even nearly double that number of the wider frames, owned and superintended by masters.

(*b.*) Cottages or small rooms in private houses containing a few frames worked by the man and his family, who also wind the bobbins for the frames in the same confined space. In the same rooms the "seaming" is often done by mothers and their children. (Mr. White, p. 264.)

274. Of these places of work Mr. White says (p. 263), that, "as a rule, the small shops "as well as the houses are unfit as places of work for the young.

"Such a shop is generally just long and broad enough to hold the number of frames placed in it in a single or double row, with bare passing room, often not more than 6 or 7 feet high, and without means of ventilation, and dirty from accumulated rubbish and dust, as well as close. But often from one to four frames are in the only living room, poverty not allowing the cost of double fire and light, where, as in some cases, there is a second room. Many of these rooms are squalid far beyond what is usual in the country dwellings of the poor, and of necessity in these, crowded as they are with frames, meals such as can be had are cooked and eaten, infants nursed and put to sleep, and other home work done, of which, however, cleaning seems to form but a rare part.

"Seaming is done by the family in the same room, and also in houses without frames, and therefore less crowded and noisy, but sometimes even poorer."

275. The small shops in Leicester are thus described by Mr. Marsh (p. 291).

"The small shops in most cases adjoin to small houses, but do not form the living rooms as is the case in poor places. Still, there is a general deficiency in the ventilation, &c., of stockeners' shops here, though they are much better than in the country, and there is more attention now paid to these things in new buildings; but of the others there are not many over 7 feet high, and in a shop of that height and 30 feet long by 17 broad, there would perhaps be 20 people. There is no ventilation, and the gas makes the air very hot and unhealthy in the evening. A light is wanted for each frame."

276. The observations also of Mr. Moore, surgeon, Leicester (p. 292), are to the same effect.

"I am medical officer of health for the borough of Leicester, house-surgeon to the union workhouse, and also examining surgeon to the borough and county police.

"In the course of my duty I am constantly in the stocking makers' shops in the town. The older of these are almost invariably low, and their ventilation in every way imperfect, but the newly built are better in these respects and larger.

"The nature of the work requires a large amount of light, which, in nearly all cases, is furnished by gas. I have observed by the thermometer that the temperature is raised at night many degrees, and the air also becomes impure. This, no doubt, is caused in great measure by the gas. The gas in burning deprives the air of so much of its oxygen that it does not leave the proportion indispensable to health. This alone is so serious a mischief that it is scarcely necessary to enter upon any other effects which the gas might be supposed to have."

Hours of work.

277. The hours of work in all these places, for old and young of both sexes, are irregular and excessive. The cause is due partly to the habits of the men, whose almost invariable practice it is, in good and bad times alike, to idle away the Monday, and often the Tuesday also (T. Oscroft, p. 271; W. Palmer, p. 271; M. Thorpe, 274), partly to the time at which the orders are received from and the materials supplied by the warehouses or their intermediate employers. It appears that this has arisen from the manufacturers now "working so much more to order instead of to stock," which is now

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said to be universally the case with all the branches that depend upon fashion. (Mr. Dane, p. 292.)

278. These long and irregular hours are common to the young in every branch of the manufacture, and from the earliest age.

1. Children working at frames.

1. Boys, and even girls, of from 12 to 14 years of age, often work at frames, and work the same hours as the men, *i.e.*, beginning on Tuesday morning at 6 or 7 o'clock, and for the remainder of the week working till 8, 9, and 10 o'clock, and on Friday nights sometimes even later, and boys even all night. Some boys and girls have begun at this work when only 10 years old.

"A great many girls and women work in frames. His two daughters there began at about 13 or 14. Knows one young woman who was put in at 9 years old, and used to work all through the day. But she has grown up since, and has a family of children. Some it does affect and some it does not."—(G. Kirby, p. 283.)

S. Mabe (p. 284).—"Began a frame at 10 years old, and in about a fortnight was able to make hose. Works in a frame at her grandfather's, making feet for the legs made by him and two others. Before she was 12 has sat up at the frame all through the night, up till daylight, and then till dark again without sleep. You are forced to do as much as you can as soon as you know how to do it. After sitting all night she can go on next day, but not so well. 'It's very hard work, Sir, but there 'is a many has to do it.' There is no time to go to bed till Saturday night, because they have to clean and get ready for Sunday. Sits up on 'finishing nights' only. They may be any night in the week, according to whom you work for; but she has never sat up the whole night more than once in a week. This is the general way of work through the place, for those who can get it."

J. Cawthorne, (p. 277).—"Began to work in a frame at 12 years old, and knows many that began by 10, and after two or three months they can do a full day's work."

J. Taylor (p. 273).—"Works in a frame here (an adult). The age of beginning in a frame depends more upon the circumstances of the parent than upon the age of the child. Some of the poorest begin very young. Has seen one begin as young as 8; at 9 is not uncommon, or, rather, was not when trade was good. The parents cannot help putting them in early. A boy might properly begin a small frame at 12 years old."

Thomas Cassidy (p. 279).—"Began working in a frame at 10 years old, and was nearly a year before he worked for a whole day, and then worked about 10 hours; would not pass 12 hours, *i.e.*, not counting meal-times, till he was 17 or 18."

R. Moore, age 16 (p. 272).—"Works in a shirt frame at Mr. Thorpe's, and began at 14. When at full work comes at 6 in the morning, and leaves at 8, 9, or 10 at night, but has no set time. Works for himself, and has done so for a year. After paying all expenses has earned in a good week 11*s.*, coming at 5 or 6 in the morning, and leaving at 10 at night, and doing his own winding. Gives the boy there (Joseph Rockley, age 11,) 8*d.* a week to wind for him now. About 10 'is the regular give 'over.' At first he learned for his father, and used to work for the same times, from about 6 in the morning to 10 at night, and 'going in night,' or when 'throng,' till 12 regularly: once till 1, and on that day began at 5 in the morning. When they were 'throng' 5 was the common time."

2. Boys working as winders.

2. Winders (boys) begin to wind in their father's cottages as early as 6 or 7 years of age; at 8 or 9 they go out to wind (Mr. Thorpe, p. 272). The ages and hours of work of the winders are well described by the following witnesses.

279. J. Rockley (p. 272), age 11,—

"Has been a winder for glove frames at Thorpe's shop for half-a-year, and was a winder at Peck's for half-a-year some time before. There were eight frames there, and one other winder, a little older than himself (9 then). They used to go at 7 in the morning, and leave at 10 at night usually, all the time he was there. Some weeks were more busy than others, and they were 'throng' at the ends of the weeks, and some nights, chiefly Fridays, he stayed till 11. Sometimes, however, he left at 6 or 6; when not winding he did odd things, and nearly always had something to do.

"Winds at Thorpe's now for the seven-glove frames, and sometimes for a shirt frame there also. Goes at 7 or 6 in the morning, and leaves at 10 and 11 at night. Those are his usual hours, except at odd times. Has stayed twice till 12 at night. Has about half-an-hour for breakfast, an hour for dinner, and half-an-hour for tea, but at no fixed hours. He goes home and back again as he is wanted, if they are 'throng.' Has 3*s.* a week now; had 2*s.* 6*d.* at Peek's."

T. Kirby, age 12 (p. 283).—"Went out at 9 to wind for four and five frames. At the end of the week he was wanted by 6 or 6½ in the morning, and stayed till 11 at night."

3. Females working as seamers.

3. The "seaming" is done "at the men's own homes, by their wives and children, or "given out to other women." . . . "The girls begin seaming very young, when they ought "to be at school—as young as 5," (Mr. T. Oscroft, p. 271). Instances are given in the evidence of girls having begun seaming at 4 years of age (E. Rogers, p. 284), and even at 3½ (M. Thorpe, p. 274). As by far the largest portion of the "seaming,"—a process required to complete most articles made by the frames,—is done by the wives and children of the men who work the frames, and also the largest portion of the winding, it follows that the parents are the persons most answerable for the over-working of children of the tender age above shown, and of the young of both sexes, between 13 and 18.

280. The evidence abounds with illustrations of this fact; of which the following are examples (M. Thorpe, p. 274):—

"Little children here begin to work at stitching gloves when very young. My little sister was 5½ years old; can stitch a good many little fingers, and is very clever, having been at it for two years; *i.e.*, began when she was 3½ years old. She used to stand on a stool so as to be able to see up

to the candle on the table. I have seen many begin as young as that, and they do so still, because it makes them cleverer if they begin young. Parents are not particular about the age if they have work, as they must do it.

"Little children are kept up shamefully late, if there is work, especially on Thursday and Friday nights, when it is often till 11 and 12. They have to make two days out of Friday. Children younger than 7, but not younger than 6, are kept up as late as that. Mothers will pin them to their knee to keep them to their work, and, if they are sleepy, give them a slap on the head to keep them awake. If the children are pinned up so, they cannot fall when they are slapped or when they go to sleep. I have often seen the children slapped in this way and cry. The child has so many fingers set for it to stitch before it goes to bed, and must do them.

"Many women, and girls too, will sit up at work all through the night till 7 in the morning. Girls as young as 13 or 14 will do that, and girls of 11 and 12 will sit up till 1 and 2, but not beyond that. However, the times will depend upon the mothers, who are different as to this. I have sat up myself stitching all through the night, after being at work at a factory all day, and others will stitch after their day's work, in the same way." . . . "When the men work late, the winders, young boys, must also, but not so late by an hour or two, as they can get ahead of the men. Still, if they do not wish to work unseasonable hours, they can take scarcely any times for their meals on the late days, as they have so many 'slips' (skeins) set them to wind, and must finish them, but, anyhow, they will have to stay some nights till 11. If a man has a few frames, and no child of his own suitable, he employs a boy to wind, and keeps him on Thursdays and Fridays till 10 and 11 p.m., *i.e.*, as late as the parents will allow; though parents will sometimes keep children of their own winding till 1 or 2."

Mrs. Cawthorne (p. 277).—"A girl under 13 would not sit up past 1, but at 14 or 15 many sit up till 3 and 4, and even all night, the night before going in. There are different-going-in days. Has many a time sat up himself all through the night. It is quite common. Believes that many in the town make it a regular practice to keep their children up in this way if they are old enough to help. If a child can do only a hose an hour it is a great help. This lassie (her daughter), who is 7, would just do that. Kept her up lately with herself seaming hose, but it made her (the child) bad for two or three days, and cost her (the mother) a shilling."

Mary Rogers (p. 284).—"Has eight children, six girls and two boys; the eldest 14, the youngest an infant. The age at which girls begin seaming is just according as people are circumstanced. The common age is 5. Those who can afford it keep their children from it longer. A girl of 5, after two or three months, could earn 1*d.* or 2*d.* Her little girl (Mary, age 7) could get 6*d.* or 9*d.* in a week seaming all day. We have kept her at it till 10. Sometimes she has a bit of sleep, and I have to wake her. 'Hears tell of people pinning their children to their knee to keep them up and to keep them 'from going away from their work. I never pinned my own.' Dares say that some girls begin to work on till 12 p.m. before they are 8 years old."

281. John Corbett (p. 287), gives the following account of his treatment of his two daughters, one near 7, the other aged 8:—

"His daughter Alice, aged 6, and near 7, has been a seamer 2 or 3 years, and her sister Annie, aged 8, began at about the same age. 'There's a many begin at 4 and 5.' Does not know whether any begin under 4. 'They do begin very young, but you see we're so used to it we take no notice.'

"Alice and Annie would each do 6 or 7 pairs of hose in a day, working till 8 or 9 at night, and running out at times. On Friday night they both of them stop at work till 11 and 12. All go to bed together. Annie has been up seaming all Friday night with mother many times, and not gone to bed till Saturday night. She did so last winter, and has done so at times for this long time, for this two or three years. Should think it is as long ago as that. It is general in the town to work in that way, especially on Thursdays and Fridays; Fridays most. Those who can be up must be up."

282. The fact that the parents in this trade are, in the words of the last witness, "so used" to keep their children at work in this manner, that they "take no notice" of it, is the only one that can be urged in excuse of the manifest cruelty.

283. It is not always want which causes this sacrifice of their children. Witnesses state that "there is most sitting up when trade is good, but it has been very bad and "irregular lately." (E. Ward, p. 277.) "There are few that work evenly through the "week, even if they have work to do, and they are even more irregular in good trade "than in bad, because in good trade they know that they can make enough anyhow, and "in bad, they are more anxious." (T. White, p. 285).

284. The effects on the health of both young and old of this irregular and excessive employment "in crowded and unhealthy rooms," are that disease, especially consumption, is engendered" (Mr. Rowlett, junr., p. 290, Mr. Dare, p. 293,) and the growth stunted." Beginning so young as many do, weakens the eyes and stunts the bodies. You never see one that begins so young "grow any," so as to make men and women. (J. Lakin, p. 285.) "I can see round here many who have been stopped from growing into healthy "men from their working too young, and being 'clammed' (starved.)" (B. Smith, p. 273.) "As a rule I have observed that stockeners are a small and slender race, and "inferior in bodily condition to the other classes. Even their arms, which are in constant "use, are deficient in muscle. Their employment is to a great extent hereditary, the "son of a frame-work knitter naturally taking up his father's work and frame, and the "race thus gradually deteriorates more and more." (Mr. Moore, surgeon, Leicester, p. 292.)

Effects on health of overhours, &c.

It may be true, as is alleged, that "as a rule, with, of course, exceptions, men of this "class are very ignorant, and scarcely know they are doing anything wrong in keep-

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"ing them up at work so late as they do" (Mr. W. Marsh, p. 291); but the need is not the less in the public interests, that the rising and future generations should be protected by the State from the consequence of such ignorance, if it be possible to do so.

285. The vicious system under which the hours of work in this trade are now regulated (especially by the men themselves) is maintained only because the parents are able, without check or control, to exercise this arbitrary and mischievous power over their young and tender offspring.

Legislation necessary.

286. We submit that in this, as in the previous cases dealt with in this Report, a case has been exhibited fully justifying and imperatively calling for the interference of the Legislature.

287. The work both in the "shops" (§ 273 (*a*),) and in the "cottages or small "rooms in private houses," (*ibid.* (*b*), is in its nature domestic work, and in a legislative point of view they cannot be separated from one another. They fall within our recommendations regarding the lace trade, § 197.

288. In all probability, public opinion in the districts concerned would second such legislation.

289. "Parents must not possess the absolute power of making their children mere "machines to earn so much weekly wage." (Mr. Dare, p. 293.) With regard to the overworking of young children, writes the Rev. H. Brewster, Bulwell Rectory, Nottingham (p. 276):—

"I think that making the head of a family punishable for gross cases of such overwork might, and probably would, have an indirect influence in gradually checking the practice. It could not act quickly or very directly, because of the extreme difficulty there would be in obtaining evidence in most cases. But suppose a small fine were imposed, half of which were to go to the person giving information, there would always be some few cases brought to light, either through children who run away to escape ill usage, or through discharged servants and 'nurse girls,' or, in the worst cases, through the indignation of better thinking neighbours. The fine must be small, or the attempted remedy would defeat itself, for the people, through long habit, have become hardened to the evil, and in their poor condition a heavy fine would arouse popular sympathy with the person fined. Let the fine be, say, not less than 5*s*., nor more than 40*s*., the higher sums to be imposed where the offence is repeated."

290. And that this system of overworking the young can be stopped without injury to the trade is evident from the opinions of some of the most intelligent of the persons engaged in it.

"When very busy I have two sets of hands, each working 10 hours. Five or six years ago I had two sets regularly for six months, working from 4 a.m. to 12 p.m., but even then I do not keep the young ones after 8 p.m., but put on other hands. I am a great advocate for boys and girls being in bed in time; they ought to be. If I were under the same regulations as factories it would not inconvenience me." (Mr. Pembleton, p. 273.)

291. Mr. Edward Beer states (p. 283),—"It would be much better if they had factory "hours." Mr. Dare (p. 294), having large experience for many years in the Leicester district, thinks that "all workshops should be like factories, under inspection." (See also Mr. Cooper, p. 290.)

Employers should allow sufficient time for work.

292. It is to be observed that the employer who gives out the orders and the material to the workers in the frames at such a time and in such a quantity as to make it, within his own knowledge, impossible for the person employed to return it within the time usual in the trade for collecting the work done, without rendering overwork for children and young persons indispensable, is greatly answerable for the injury to the young which ensues. "The employers know in how long a time the hands can do a given quantity of work." (Mr. T. Oscroft, p. 271.) "Since trade has been so bad the orders and material have, "I believe, been given out later from warehouses, often not till Wednesday or Thursday, "and yet the things are wanted back in two or three days, and that makes pressure." (Mr. T. Pembleton, p. 273.) "If they could get the stuff from the warehouses more re-"gularly they would all have more time." (J. Marcett, p. 278.) It is to be hoped that the employers themselves may be induced to consider the means of correcting this obvious source of evil.

Leicester Board of Health.

293. It is worthy of observation that the Local Board of Health at Leicester "has "been turning its attention to the ventilation of workshops, which they say 'is a very "'difficult subject.'" (Mr. W. Rowlett, jun., p. 290.)

"The frame-shops are very defective in this respect, and in the old buildings the frames are crowded together in the smallest possible space, without any ventilation. A great deal has been done in other respects in improving the condition of the town, which, from one of the unhealthiest, has now become one of the healthiest of manufacturing towns. Lung diseases, however, are prevalent. The population is about 70,000."

294. It is creditable to the Local Board of Leicester that they have made an effort to grapple with this subject, — the improvement of the ventilation and sanitary condition

of the workshops. We do not find in the evidence transmitted to us in relation to the numerous other trades and manufactures with which we have to deal, that the Local Boards of Health have originated inquiries similar to that undertaken by the Board at Leicester. Neither is it to be expected that Local Boards of Health generally will do so. Local influences must be expected to be in most cases too strong to dispose medical officers of health or other persons, whether connected or not with the Local Board, to originate such inquiries. The persons to be affected by the results of such inquiries will, in most cases, be the principal employers, in position or in numbers within the district. The duty of exposing defects, which would require an outlay of capital to remedy them, is an arduous and invidious one ; and the recommendations would, in all probability, run counter to the habits and opinions both of the employers and of the work-people, whom it would be the intention most immediately to benefit. It cannot be expected that the officers of the Local Boards generally will deal with these subjects until they are armed with the specific provisions of an Act of Parliament, which they would be required to carry into effect in the manner indicated at §§ 197–209 of this Report.

THE HOSIERY MANUFACTURE: RECOMMENDATIONS.

Their example not likely to be generally followed until specific provisions imposed by Act of Parliament, as proposed at §§ 197–209.

295. To the evidence relating to the hosiery manufacture, Mr. White has appended a short account of a cognate branch lately sprung up, that of the elastic web manufacture. The facts adduced by him (p. 294), show that it should be included in any legislation relative to the hosiery manufacture generally.

Elastic web manufacture.

THE STRAW PLAIT MANUFACTURE AND SOME MISCELLANEOUS EMPLOYMENTS.

296. Mr. White in his Report upon pillow-lace making, to which we have directed attention above (§ 212), states that the pillow-lace manufacture extends over "a great "part of the counties of Buckingham and Bedford." Where, in those two counties, the districts of the *pillow-lace schools* terminate, those of the *straw-plait schools* begin, and spread from those counties over a great part of Hertfordshire and the western and northern parts of Essex.

Extent of district.

297. The conditions under which these two manufactures are carried on are so similar that it would have been desirable, had time permitted, to have included the evidence relating to the straw plait in our first Report, immediately after that relating to pillow-lace making.

298. We now insert it, together with Mr. White's Report upon it, in the Appendix to this Report (p. 196), and proceed to add in this place the few remarks that will be necessary, instead of interrupting the course of reference by inserting them immediately after our Report on pillow-lace making (§§ 212–243), to which they form a sequel.

299. According to the Census of 1861, there were engaged—

Numbers employed.

In straw-plait making,—		
Males of all ages - - -	2,128	
Females - - - - -	27,739	
		29,867
In straw-plait making up (straw hat and bonnet manufacture),—		
Males of all ages - - -	1,687	
Females - - - - -	16,489	
		18,176
		48,043
Of these there were females under 20,—		
In straw-plait making - -	10,271	
In straw-plait making up - -	4,642	
Total females under 20 - -		14,913
Males under 20,—		
In straw-plait making - -	1,561	
In straw-plait making up - -	277	
Total males under 20 - -		1,838
Total of both sexes under 20 -		16,751

Of these, Mr. White estimates (D. 21) that there were in round numbers 6,000 children and 7,000 young persons ; total, 13,000. And to these are to be added many children under 5 years of age, probably not returned in the Census as so engaged (D. 22).

300. A gentleman conversant with this manufacture states that it gives employment to

THE STRAW PLAIT MANUFACTURE.

between 50,000 and 100,000 persons (D. 9, d. 41). It has been seen that the Census confirms the first number. It is probable that in times of good trade the numbers approximate to the larger sum. But the gentleman referred to, included also persons engaged in other employments.

The conditions the same as pillow lace.

301. The straw-plait manufacture consists of two distinct branches,—

Straw-plait making (in straw-plait schools).

Straw-plait making up (in warehouses and workrooms).

302. The straw-plait making is carried on upon just the same system, in places of just the same kind, and by persons of like age and sex, as the pillow-lace making (D. 2).

303. In like manner, the "making up of the plait into the articles for which it is used," *i.e.*, the straw bonnet or hat manufacture, "corresponds closely, as to system, places of "work, and persons employed, with the employment of lace finishing," and with some varieties of wholesale millinery (D. 3).

Practical conclusions the same.

304. Accordingly, Mr. White states (D. 4) that, as far as he can judge, "any practical "conclusions formed with reference to the employment of pillow-lace making would "be equally applicable to that of straw-plait making, and any with reference to those "of lace finishing and wholesale millinery equally applicable to that of making the plait." The evidence entirely bears out this opinion.

STRAW PLAIT SCHOOLS.

Age, and hours of work.

305. "Children are taught plaiting in these schools usually at 4 years old, some at $3\frac{1}{2}$, "and they can clip the loose straws off younger, when about $3\frac{1}{2}$ or 3. Lizzie Ibbins there, "who is between 2 and 3 years old, is clipping some plait made by her sister elsewhere. "Lizzie Cook, who was 3 last month, I think, can clip her 'ten' (yards) in a day" "(d. 7). People reckon to set children down to plait at 4 years old and after" (d. 2). "Some begin plaiting a few weeks before they are 4, but 4 is the age of most for beginning."

These young children remain at the plaiting school from 9 a.m. to 1, and from 2 p.m. to 4. When about 7 years old they return at 5 p.m. and work till 8. The younger children will therefore have six hours of work a day, and those 7 years old 9 hours. There is rarely any attempt at education. The school proper is spoken of by the children as "the reading school," or the "natural school" (d. 16, d. 21), in contradistinction to the plait school, the office of which latter is simply to keep the children at work, or to see that they accomplish the task required of them by the parents. "The "children have so many yards to do, and then their mothers sell the plait (d. 2). "Though my place is called a school, I do not teach plaiting, but merely keep the "children to their work, and see that they do the number of yards set to them by their "parents, which is according to their age and the kind of plait they are taught by their "friends before they come to me. I used to teach them some reading too, but found "that too much, and do not do it now" (d. 13). "Many will do a score yards in "a day, and sometimes two score, but they do not like to do so much often. About "30 yards seem counted the most proper day's work, to take the bigger ones" (*ibid.*); "the straw cuts their fingers and their mouths too, as they draw it through their mouths "because it breaks off if it is not damp" (*ibid*). "They are set so many yards by their "mothers, and the mistresses who get the most work out of them are most patronized" (d. 24); "but if they do not finish at school the number of yards set to them their "mothers make them do it at home, so it would be all the same. If they think the child "can earn 6*d.* they make it. Children have been kept at work at home very late; up "till 10, 11, and 12 * *. It's ruining the children when they are driven so. As they "grow up they do not care so much about their parents, and leave them. The parents "do not study their children's welfare, but only seem to see how much they can get out "of them" * * (d. 25).

Moral effects of such employment.

This is the life of these children up to the age of from 12 to 14. It is not surprising, therefore, that ignorance and vice abound among a population so reared; and it may be anticipated that Parliament will be disposed to give effect to the opinion expressed in the following paragraph by the Rector of Toddington (d. 23).

"Hardly one young man or woman can write even her own name. The marriage registers can prove this, Very few can read, judging by the congregation at church, very few of whom use a prayer book. Vast numbers of young men and women are to be seen and heard loitering about the lanes at night, and especially on Sundays. Their morals are at a very low ebb. A large average of the women have illegitimate children, and some at such an early age as quite to startle even those who are at home in criminal statistics. I greatly feel the necessity of something being done to keep the straw-plaiting within bounds, and sincerely hope something effectual may result from the consideration taken in this matter in Parliament. I have seen a great deal of England, and have spent some considerable time, from a month to a year, in many parts, north, south, east, west, but nowhere have I met with such lamentable ignorance as I meet with here, and an ignorance which very little on the

part of the clergy can be done to counteract; ignorance which I can attribute to nothing else than straw plaiting."

THE STRAW PLAIT MANUFACTURE.

Physical effects of, in rooms so crowded.

306. The extremely crowded state of the straw-plait schools affords an additional reason for applying legislation to them. We have referred above (§ 209) to the collective opinion of the medical officers of health of the metropolis, that 300 cubic feet of space is the *minimum* that "ought to be allotted to each occupant of a sleeping room or work "room" (*see* Dr. Ballard's letter, Appendix, p. 191). This will afford a gauge of the injury to health likely to be caused to these children, confined as they are 6 to 10 hours a day, in small low cottage rooms, in such numbers together as to afford no more than 12⅔, 17, 18½, or under 22 feet of cubic space to each, as in the instances referred to by Mr. White (D. 26). The smaller of those numbers represents, as Mr. White points out, a cubic space "less than half what a child would have if shut up in a box "three feet each way" (D. 26). "The window in this school was shut on a hot "summer day, but the door open. The air was of course close and heavy, with a strong "smell" (d. 1). In the winter draughts must be excluded as the children cannot work if they are cold (d. 13), and "in some places they have to sit so close into the "fire-place that the fire cannot be lighted, so that they have coal or wood in earthen or "even tin pots." * * * "These make a disagreeable smell, and I should think "that the fumes must be unwholesome." (Evidence of Mr. William Horley, d. 24.) The straw-plait schools are more crowded and afford much less cubic space per child in ordinary cases than the lace schools already described (§§ 217–243). They come in all respects within the principles, in regard to legislation, which we have ventured to lay down in regard to lace schools; and we therefore recommend that the straw-plait schools should be included in any measure deemed applicable to the lace schools.

Straw plait should be included in any legislation with lace schools.

STRAW-PLAIT MAKING UP.

307. The places in which the straw plait is sewn or made up into bonnets or hats are, as in lace finishing,

1. Factories or warehouses.
2. Houses, private or so called.

Many of the factories or warehouses are of considerable size "employing 200 or 300 "persons. One employs 350 females," nearly all adults (D. 8). Some, especially those in London, are described as clean, roomy, and comfortable; others are "like the smaller "Nottingham warehouses." The factories generally are said to be "healthy places," "the worst time being in the winter when there is gas, and they cannot have fresh air so well (d. 43). But in these factories the hours are objectionable, being usually from 9 a.m. till 9 p.m., and for about three months in the year till 10, "with about "an hour at 12 for dinner, and half an hour for tea;" and even those hours are in many cases exceeded (d. 44, d. 43). The hours of work were formerly longer, and have been reduced without detriment to the trade. Mr. Charles Lutes states, that when he first came to the town (Luton) "warehouses were open till 12 quite commonly, "but there is quite as much or more work done now without working so late" (d. 43). In the "sewers' workroom," where small employers have under them only a few young persons or adult females, the hours are liable to be longer, "from 7 or 6½ a.m. till "10 p.m., and some will be up till 12 or till 1 a.m." * * "for one or two nights in "a week, or perhaps a week in a month" (d. 44). "The little ones work for their "parents, and if they work longer than usual their parents take it all." * * "If any "work all night with their parents, it would be only on Thursday and Friday nights, "and under their parents." The absence of the regulation of the hours of work by Act of Parliament leads to irregularity of hours and overtime. "Sometimes they will be idle "a day or two, and then they have their work to make up by the time; indeed I "have known many leave two-thirds of their work till the last day" (d. 26). The numbers employed in these small cottage sewing rooms is doubtless very considerable; "There are an immense number of persons in the town and in villages round who "employ small numbers, some only tens and fives, and some of them no doubt work "at younger ages" than 16 (d. 41), "and for longer hours than in the factories." "Besides those who work in the large factories there are great numbers employed in "smaller places; and even private families sew, block, and finish bonnets and hats "entirely at home. In such places persons I believe are employed much younger "and work longer than in the large factories" (d. 40). The facts regarding the factories or warehouses, and the houses, private or so called, in the plait sewing trade being plainly analogous to those of the warehouses and the private houses, where children work for wages in the lace trade, we have no hesitation in recommending that they should

The facts are the same as those of the lace finishing

the same legislation required.

be included in the measure of which we have already submitted the outlines in the portion of our report above referred to (§§ 197–209).

Lace and Embroidery Work in Ireland.

Limerick lace manufacture.

308. Limerick lace is made "by embroidering net or muslin with the hand and needle" (d. 63). "There are three factories and a few smaller places of work for lace of this "kind in Limerick," but the numbers employed, which were 1,500 females six years ago, have since much declined (D. 34). The evidence shows that when trade is good it gives rise to long and irregular hours of work; and there appears no reason why these factories should not be placed under the Factory Acts. The manager of the Messrs. Forrest's manufactory states, that "for about three months in last summer they worked "over their time as long as it was light enough, perhaps till 9;" and he adds, that "an inquiry like the present is very necessary, and I am very glad to see it. It is "necessary that the young people should be looked after; and there is no necessity that "children should work as they do" (d. 63). Another factory in Limerick visited by Mr. White consisted of "three adjoining uninhabited dwelling houses, communicating "inside." * * "The rooms had a neglected appearance, and a fire-place was bricked "up (d. 66). There had been as many as 548 persons working there (d. 67).

Should be placed under the Factory Act.

Sewing schools.

"Some of the sewed muslin work, of which there is a great deal in the north of Ireland, "is much the same" as some of the Limerick lace (d. 63); it is called *appliqué* work, and is made by muslin applied to net and embroidered.

At Donaghadee, on the north coast of Ireland, there are many sewing schools, *i. e.*, houses in which girls sew, or rather embroider, muslin, under the charge of a mistress (d. 49). Mr. White describes them as "at times crowded in the same way," the children sitting "huddled close together" (*ibid*); and the witnesses concur in stating that it is very unhealthy work, from sitting so long. "Scarcely any girls have any "health at it;" and that "it is very severe work for the eyes;" * * * "their eyesight "fails very early if they are brought up to the sewing from quite children" (d. 50). The hours are often very excessive, both at these sewing schools and at home with their parents. A girl of 13 states (d. 51):—

"I went to a sewing school at 7 years old. In summer we worked from 8 a.m. till 8 p.m., and in winter, from 8 a.m. till 4 p.m., and again from 6 p.m. till 9 p.m. We had an hour for dinner at 2, and breakfast before we went, but we did not get out at all between 8 and 2. No, Sir! we didn't ask. If we'd not done our task the mistress sometimes kept us in till 10, but never kept us from a meal; and sometimes she'd a-brat us, sir, with a rod, a 'sally' rod."

"In summer I sit at work from 6 a.m. till 8 p.m., and in winter from 8 a.m. till later in the evening; sometimes it has been till 10, 12, and 2 a.m. If I begin at 6 in the morning, in winter, it is at home, not here. I have worked from 6 in the morning till 2 the next morning, but not very often, and was off a bit, stopping about an hour twice in the day.

"When you sit so long your eyes grow weak. I have had weak eyes for two or three years, but I can see well.

"Have been at three sewing schools in the place besides this, and had about the same hours at all as here, and all girls, both big and little, had the same."

Jane Wallace, aged 16:—

"Have sewed on till 2 a.m., but at home, and begun again at 7 a.m."

Eliza Johnstone, age 16:—

"Have sewed till between 2 and 3 a.m., and begun again at 7 a.m."

There is much other testimony to the same effect (d. 55, d. 60). The Rev. John Hill, Rector of Donaghadee, states that, "here, as in other places, they work almost "exclusively in their own or neighbours' dwelling houses." * * * "Girls begin work at "an early age, from 7 upwards." * * * "Their health also suffers from the confinement "at a sedentary work for long hours in small and sometimes crowded rooms; for the "young children often work in sewed muslin schools, to which they are put by their "parents, so as to be under the charge of other women, to teach them the work and to "keep them more closely to it than the mothers themselves can do. Such a woman "receives the benefit of a girl's work for a short time, perhaps the first few months, in "return for her teaching, and afterwards a small sum, usually 2*d.* a week, for her super-"intendence and house room, &c. The profit of the child's work goes to the parents. "It is now very small, for a young child probably not more than 1*d.* a day, and elder "workers, who some time back could make 1*s.*, now do not make more than 4*d.*" (d. 62).

The facts the same as in the lace schools in England, and same legis-

It is clear that these sewing schools in Ireland require the same measure of legislation as was recommended for the lace schools and straw-plait schools of England.

Crochet schools, which used to employ large numbers of females in Ireland, appear now to have been almost entirely abandoned (d. 71), and it does not seem that any legislative interference is necessary in regard to what remains of crochet work, or the hair-net

work which has taken its place, or the lace making in convents and industrial schools (d. 71–73). lation required.

Hand-loom Weaving and Hosiery Manufactures in Ireland and Scotland.

309. The portion of the hand-frame hosiery manufacture carried on in Ireland and Scotland is very small, and is confined almost entirely, in Scotland, to the towns of Hawick and Dumfries. In Ireland it is "altogether unimportant" (E. 2). The evidence presents little variety of feature from what has been already given in regard to the same branch of manufacture in England (*ibid*). "The hand frames at Hawick all work from 6 a.m. to "8 p.m., with no special times for meals." * * "The children must work as long as the "men" (e. 30). The small shops, generally stocking makers, work in summer from 6 a.m., and sometimes 5½, till 8 p.m., and in winter from between 7 and 8 a.m. till between 9 and 10 p.m. (E. 33). In Dumfries, "the only other hosiery district in Scot- "land of any importance," * * * "there is no difference whatever as regards the "system of work (e. 32, e. 33), which is "precisely the same in every respect as in the "Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire hosiery districts" (e. 30). There is the same habit of working long hours towards the end of the week. In the small shops the men get out the yarn on Monday, do but little on Tuesday, and work late on Thursday and Friday nights, up to 10, 11, and 12 o'clock. "Friday we generally work till 10 "here" (e. 33). "The sooner," therefore, in the words of Mr. John Laing, "there "is a special hour for all these classes of workers the better. If they were fixed for the "boys, the men would no doubt conform to them also. I consider 10 hours a day is "as much as any man can work properly" (e. 30). Hosiery.

Hand-loom weaving in Ireland and Scotland, Mr. White states, (E. 8): Hand-loom weaving.

"Resembles the English hosiery manufacture in being to a great extent a domestic employment carried on in dwelling houses or small shops attached to them, and in villages and scattered country places as well as in towns; and also in Scotland, though not in Ireland, in its tendency in large towns to be transferred to large shops or factories. In some cases these large work-places from part of premises in which power also is used for the manufacture, and therefore fall under the factory regulations. In dwelling-house shops four looms seems the most usual number; sometimes there are only one, or two, or three. Several factories have from 100 up to 500, and I visited one with 300 and no power."

In his review of the extent and prospects of hand-loom weaving, Mr. White points out the probability of its continuance for some time to a great extent (E. 4–6). The age at which children begin to weave is sometimes as early as 9, and in exceptional cases at 8; but usually between 10 and 12 (E. 11). They begin to wind "at from six "years old upwards" (*ibid*); many females weave in small private shops, and in some country places their proportion appears considerably to exceed that of males (E. 13). The entire population engaged "must be very large indeed," as the manufacturers of linen, woollen, flax, jute, and hemp and spread more or less thickly over the prosperous parts of Scotland, south-east of the Grampians from Aberdeen or least Brechin to Ayrshire and the south-west, as well as over the district near the Tweed, and towards Carlisle, and over the north-west of Ireland as far inland as Armagh" (E. 15).

Although the greater size of the looms "does not admit of any crowding as in the "hosiery shops," the general description given by Mr. White of the places of work shows that the health and comfort of the work-people would be promoted by their being placed under inspection and sanitary regulation (E. 19). The weaving machine in these branches of manufacture is called a loom, in the hosiery branch it is called "a frame" (E. 20), the nature of the work being necessarily the same. The winders, generally children, sit in the same room, on a small stool, and turn a light wheel with one hand. Where the workshops are low, dirty, and damp, as so many are, "and made with windows "which do not open at all, or have only one pane which does," sanitary supervision is the more important to the health of all employed, especially when the long hours of work are taken into account (E. 35). Sanitary regulations desirable for the places of work.

The hours of work in some of the large shops or factories coincide, or nearly so, with the factory hours. In others, and in the small shops, the hours are subject to the same irregularity as has been described above in the case of those employed in hosiery work; namely, long hours and much night work towards the end of the week, to make up for time needlessly lost in the early part of it (E. 24, 25, e. 13, e. 42, e. 46). It appears therefore most clearly that, were factory hours made imperative for all, as they unquestionably ought to be, no one would work a less number of hours in the whole week, but they would be evenly distributed, greatly to the benefit of all; the men also having become aware that they earn more with moderate and regular hours of work than they do in the long and irregular hours (e. 89); on this point Mr. White remarks: Hours of work. Factory hours should be made imperative.

"It will probably be thought worthy of notice than in two such essentially manufacturing towns as Dundee and Hawick, one also a seaport, in both of which trade is now represented as particularly

HAND-LOOM WEAVING AND HOSIERY IN IRELAND AND SCOTLAND.

prosperous and employment full, persons with ample opportunities of judging of the advantages and disadvantages of both regulated and unregulated labour, as exhibited in these places, particularly some of the manufacturers in the latter town, express a strong opinion in favour of regulation, especially as regards the employment of children" (E. 40, see also e. 67, 68, 35, 36).

Warehouse work.

As to warehouses. They should be placed under the same regulations as proposed for warehouses in the lace trade.

310. It does not appear that warehouse work is very extensive in exclusive connexion with the branches of hosiery and hand-loom weaving now under consideration, but the same processes of folding and lapping, principally by females, occur, as have been already placed under regulation (e. 13, and Mr. White's note e. 15). The warehouses therefore in connexion with these two branches of industry would fall within the principle of our recommendations regarding the lace and hosiery warehouses in England. (§ 197–209.)

Hand-loom weaving and hosiery work.

As to hours of work.

Hand-loom weaving and hosiery work in a transition state.

Half-time system not at present applicable.

Factory hours and sanitary regulations should be made imperative.

The disposition manifested by several leading manufacturers and others as shown in the evidence (e. 2, 35, 36, 67, 42, 19, 11), in favour of extending not only the factory limitations as to age and hours of work, but also the education clauses of the Factories Act to these employments, is a very satisfactory indication of the progress of opinion in that respect. We are of opinion, however, that in the present transition state of these two employments it would not be desirable to go beyond the limitations of the hours of work, and the provisions of sanitary inspection and regulation, which we have above referred to in regard to the lace manufactures in England (§ 197–209). The transition from hand-loom weaving to steam power is shown in the evidence to be in rapid progress. But the vast number of hand looms still existing in cottages and small workshops over the wide districts of country enumerated above would render it impossible to enforce, by any machinery, the school attendance of children under 13 under the half-time system. To impose this school attendance upon the portions of these employments now carried on in factories where steam power is used would place them at a disadvantage as compared with the large portion which would be exempt from the regulation, and might be expected to operate as a discouragement to the salutary change now in progress throughout both trades towards the almost universal adoption of steam power. For the limitations of the hours of work, and for sanitary regulations, it may be gathered from the evidence that public opinion in both these occupations is pretty well prepared, and it would appear that no great lapse of time will be required for the very wide operation of the present tendency to substitute steam for hand power, and factories for isolated cottage work (E. 4–6). Mr. Thomas Laidler of Hawick, states on this point "my opinion is hand-loom weaving will dwindle away. For "weaving, all manufacturers prefer power; but hand-loom frames for hosiery will remain, "as there is not sufficient gain in using them to make the change pay" (e. 36).

Mr. James Paterson of Glasgow states that he believes "power will become very "general, but the hand looms will be always used for certain purposes" (e. 49).

Mr. Joseph Johnstone, of Dundee, states, "power looms are encroaching on hand "looms; weaving in houses is greatly done away with in this town." At Kettle in Fifeshire, Mr. D. Beveridge states that "power looms are on the increase," and "the "difficulties of weaving linen by power looms are constantly disappearing" (e. 86). A similar transition period was passed over in a few years in the case of the lace manufacture of Nottingham, and in 1861 it became easy to place that manufacture under the full operation of the Factory Acts.

THE PAPER TUBE OR "SPOOL" MANUFACTURE.

Summary of Reports and Evidence of Mr. Longe.

311. A desire that the manufacture of paper tubes or "spools" should be placed under the regulations of the Factories Acts has found expression on two or three occasions in Parliament. The report of Mr. Longe (a. page 7), and the evidence attached, show that there is no reason why that desire should not be complied with.

The chief seat of the manufacture is in the neighbourhood of Bradford, where there are "about 10 separate places of work." The tubes are made at other places, but, Mr. Longe believes "not to any great extent."

The 10 places of work near Bradford employed at the time of Mr. Longe's inquiry, when trade was dull, about 250 children, chiefly girls, from 7 and 8, up to 13 years of age.

These children are liable to be worked in busy times from half past 6 o'clock in the morning, until 7, 8, and 9 p.m., meal times excepted.

They are Mr. Longe states, "far too young to be employed for many hours day after "day at the same monotonous and incessant labour," while they are necessarily deprived of almost all education.

Some of the masters are desrious that the regulations of the Factories Acts should be extended to these children, and they consider that the half time system would be "very "beneficial to the children as well as advantageous to themselves, if all in the trade were

"compelled to observe it." Mr. Longe states that the work is simple and uniform, that it could be easily carried on by relays, and the effect of working with relays would, in the opinion of one of the employers (9 a. 9), be, that "more work would be done by the "fresh lot in the afternoon than is now done by the children who have been working in "the morning."

It appears that occasionally "children who have been at work in the factories up to "6 p.m., have gone to work at the spool shops after they have left the factory" (8 a. 2), thus affording an additional reason for placing the spool manufacture under regulations."

The state also of the places of work, as described by Mr Longe (7 a. 7), and by Mr. Earnshaw, one of the certifying surgeons under the Factory Act for the district (9 a. 13), shows the need that exists for the sanitary regulations of the Factories Acts Extension Acts to be applied to the workshops of this branch of manufacture.

This manufacture should be placed under the Factory Acts Extension Act.

The inconvenience anticipated by Mr. Stevenson, manager of Mr. W. Hanson's factory, from having to comply with the regulations of the Factory Act, would not occur. Mr. Stevenson states that in "leaving at night each child has to be settled with "separately, and it takes about half an hour to settle with all of them." The Children's Labour Act 1853, (16 & 17 Vict. c. 104.) s. 1, provides that "no child shall be *employed* "in any factory before 6 o'clock a.m., or after 6 o'clock p.m. The detension described for the purpose of settling with each child the amount of work done during the day, would not be "employment." We are informed that on pay day "it is sometimes 2·30 "p.m. or 2·45 before all the factory hands leave the premises."

For all the above reasons therefore we recommend that the spool manufacture should be placed under the Factories Act Extension Act (1864).

Report upon the Manufacture of Wearing Apparel.

312. This Report, including England, Ireland, and Scotland, relates to one of the most numerous classes of persons engaged in industrial occupations. In its widest application it would embrace every form of "needlework" prosecuted for pecuniary gain, and this, whether carried on by hand labour or by the sewing machine. But, for the purpose of the present inquiry, it will be necessary to introduce some very important limitations, although when even thus reduced the number of persons employed will be very considerable. As to sex, the present Report has reference exclusively to females. In some branches of these trades boys and youths are it is true employed; but the number is usually very small; and as we shall in a subsequent Report have occasion to inquire into the labour of male persons under 18 years of age occupied as tailors and boot and shoe makers, we deem it to be more convenient on this occasion to restrict our observations to females only. The importance and the nature of this Report, and the limitations we propose to observe, will appear from the following statement:—

Extent of this Inquiry.

313. Under the title we have selected, "Manufacture of Wearing Apparel," the following are the principal branches to be considered:—

1. Dress-makers and milliners, including mantle-makers.
2. Seamstresses, as shirt-makers, collar-makers, ladies' outfitters, stay-makers, skirt (crinoline) makers, neck-tie, belt, and brace-makers, tailors, hatters, cap-makers, bonnet-makers, boot and shoe makers, and glovers, &c. (See Mr. Lord's Report, pp. 68. 83.)

Number employed.

314. According to the Census returns for 1861, the number of milliners and dress-makers in England and Wales amounts to 286,298; whilst, according to the same authority, nearly 300,000 females find employment as seamstresses, shirt-makers, boot-makers, tailors, glovers, &c.; making a total of persons occupied in the manufacture of wearing apparel of nearly 600,000. (Mr. Lord, pp. 68 and 83.) To this large number must be added those employed in Ireland and Scotland, in both of which countries, and especially the former, these occupations have in late years been extensively developed. In Ireland, it appears from the Census returns, that the number of milliners and dress-makers amounts to 50,854, and the seamstresses to 61,771, the total thus being 112,625, to which a small number of other persons employed in needlework must be added. In Scotland there are 33,066 milliners and dress-makers, and 18,345 seamstresses, shirt-makers, &c., making a total of 51,411.

WEARING APPAREL.

315. The following is the summary of these returns:—

—	Milliners and Dress-makers.	Seamstresses, Shirt-makers, &c.	Total.
In the United Kingdom - -	370,218	380,116	750,334
„ England and Wales - -	286,298	300,000	586,298
„ Ireland - - - -	50,854	61,771	112,625
„ Scotland - - - -	33,066	18,345	51,411

316. The following tables, extracted from the Census returns of 1861 for England and Wales, show the numbers and ages of females employed in the several departments of the manufacture of wearing apparel:—

ENGLAND AND WALES.

At different Periods of Age.	All Ages.	Under 20.	Under 15.
Straw hat and bonnet makers - -	16,489	4,642	1,470
Bonnet-makers - - - -	5,756	1,362	238
Cap-makers - - - -	4,827	1,497	404
Tailors - - - -	27,386	5,759	863
Milliners and dress-makers - -	286,298	62,877	5,759
Shirt-makers and seamstresses - -	76,015	10,791	2,014
Stay-makers - - - -	10,598	1,541	244
Glovers (leather) - - -	22,271	6,622	2,579
Shoe-makers - - - -	119,007	18,892	2,646
Miscellaneous - - - -	4,733	1,259	343
	573,380	115,242	16,560

LONDON.

Tailors - - - - -	12,377	2,379	362
Milliners and dress-makers - -	54,870	10,651	1,039
Seamstresses - - - -	28,074	4,139	633
Shoe-makers - - - -	22,508	1,948	298
Miscellaneous - - - -	9,302	1,946	408
	127,131	21,063	2,740

Limitation of this Inquiry.

317. The preceding estimates include all persons engaged in needlework, whether working for themselves or hired at wages by other persons standing in the relation of employers. But as the present inquiry concerns the question of legislative regulation of the hours of work and other details, our investigations have essentially been limited to females working for wages,—a restriction which will most importantly reduce the numbers concerned, although to what exact extent it is impossible, in the absence of the necessary data, to determine.

Division of the Inquiry.

318. A glance at the Reports of the Assistant Commissioners and the Evidence appended to them will suffice to indicate that in the several branches of the manufacture of wearing apparel there are none of those broad distinctions seen in other great departments of industry separating one from another; there are no such obvious divisions as those characterising the manufacture of cotton, of wool, or silk. On the contrary, many of these occupations are, so to speak, blended together; thus silk mercers and drapers often combine the business of milliners and dress-makers, especially in London; again, the business of bonnet-making is often a distinct branch, although milliners more or less are engaged in completing, though not in making bonnets; but what has more specially bound these various trades together, is the introduction of the "sewing machine," which is employed in a great variety of ways in the manufacture of wearing apparel, and which promises to introduce a complete revolution in every species of needlework. (Mr. Lord, p. C. 68; Mr. White, p. B. 12.)

Wearing Apparel.

319. But, although there is a difficulty in limiting the different branches of this manufacture, on carefully considering the features by which they are characterised, we have arrived at the conclusion that, for the purposes of this Commission, it will be advantageous to divide the manufacture of wearing apparel into two distinct classes. The first comprises the business of dress-makers, milliners, and mantle-makers: the second class includes the several occupations of seamstresses, shirt-makers, collar-makers, ladies' outfitters, glovers, tailors, shoe-makers, &c. In the case of dress-makers and milliners, the great distinction is, that as a rule the work is carried on in the premises of the employer by persons living in the establishment, and also by what are called "day workers," who, although working on the premises, are paid by the day, and who live at home. In the other great division the work is variously carried on; in many instances a larger or smaller number of workers are collected together in what are in reality factories. Thus Mr. White visited an army clothing factory, employing from 1,000 to 1,200 persons, nearly all females; in a boot factory he found nearly 1,300 hands, nearly half being children and young persons; and in several other establishments of the same kind from 50 up to several hundreds are employed, the tendency being to convert all these sewing trades into a wholesale manufacture (p. 11.) In other cases the work is given out by the manufacturer to small masters or mistresses, who employ a limited number of hands in their own houses; but in all these branches, with very limited exceptions, the workers are not boarded or lodged with the employer.

We propose, in the first instance, to consider the occupation of dress-makers and milliners.

PART I.—REPORT ON DRESS-MAKERS, MANTLE-MAKERS, AND MILLINERS.

Part I. Milliners, &c.

320. In order to obtain full and satisfactory information the Assistant Commissioners have instituted very extensive inquiries in London; in the larger and smaller provincial towns; and in Ireland and Scotland. As might be anticipated, although the essential characters of the employment are uniform, the exact mode in which the business is carried on is somewhat modified in these different localities. The facts set forth in the reports and evidence will, however, we believe, be found to present a truthful exposition of these occupations as conducted at this time. Partly owing to the fact that the persons principally concerned are mostly young women, and partly in consequence of the peculiar relations existing in these branches between the employers and the employed, some difficulty was experienced in obtaining evidence; and from these circumstances it also has been deemed necessary in many cases to withhold the names of the witnesses. Speaking generally, however, it is due to the employers distinctly to state that they afforded every facility for prosecuting the inquiry; several gave most important evidence, and, in not a few instances, valuable suggestions for improving the existing system were made by the heads of large establishments.

I. Age.—Sex.

321. Children under the age of 13 years are very rarely employed, even in the humbler establishments, as dress-makers and milliners, although to this there are some exceptions, as will appear below. In the case of apprentices the age is usually 14 or 15; and in fashionable houses at the West End it is rare to find any young persons under 17 or 18. But in regard to this last class, it must be explained that many girls who may have entered the business in the country at 14 or 15, at a later age come to the London houses to improve themselves. Where sewing machines are used, girls of 11 and 12 are occasionally employed as assistants to the machinists. In consequence of so many persons setting up in business for themselves, marrying, &c., comparatively few above 30 years of age are found in the regular establishments. (Mr. Lord, p. 69; Mr. White, p. 12.) From the table given above (p. 2), it would appear that in London, out of a total of 54,870 dress-makers and milliners, 1,039 were under 15 years of age, 10,651 under 20, and the remainder, 43,080 above 20 years of age. In England and Wales the number under 15 amounts to 5,759, under 20 to 62,877, and above 20 to 217,662. But these numbers include the whole class, whether employers or employed, and whether working for themselves, a most numerous body, or for wages.

322. It has already been explained that, with a few limited exceptions, none but females are employed in this business (Mr. Lord, p. 69).

II. Hiring and Wages.

323. It will be convenient to divide the persons employed in this occupation into two classes; 1, residents; 2. day workers.

1. *Residents.*

324. Milliners and dress-makers are usually apprenticed at about 14 years of age for two or three years, in some instances under regular indenture; in others there is no such document. It is not usual to insert any stipulation as to the limitation of hours, though those who have considered the point conceive that such a condition would be a great protection, and should be observed (White, p. 12). These in-door apprentices reside with and are boarded by their employers, and pay a premium varying from 20*l.* to 50*l.* A second class of inmates are called "improvers;" these are young persons who have already been some time in the business, usually as apprentices, and who come to London more especially for improvement for six months or a year; for this a large premium is often paid. There is still another class of inmates, consisting of paid assistants, who, in addition to board and lodging, receive salaries varying from 8*l.* to 16*l.* a year in ordinary establishments, and as much as from 30*l.* to 70*l.*, and more in some cases. These last payments particularly apply to the first and second hands only.

325. Thus it appears that of the residents in the houses of business two classes pay for instruction; and there is no doubt that this peculiar feature is one influential cause of that helpless condition which is so generally felt by these young persons, and which compels them, from fear of a heavy pecuniary sacrifice, to comply with the demands made on their labour, however severe these may be. The consequence is, that employers frequently, when there is extra work, place it on these residents rather than obtain additional day workers, whose labour of course would have to be remunerated (Mr. White, p. 12).

2. *Day Workers.*

326. The second class comprises those who are engaged and paid by the day; they reside and are boarded at home, except that tea is often provided by the employer. The wages vary very much according to skill, locality, &c. At the West End of London they receive from 8*s.* to 12*s.* a week; a few as much as 18*s.* to 20*s.* When paid by the piece their earnings are much higher. In provincial towns some day workers earn only 5*s.* 6*d.* to 6*s.*; others as much as 11*s.* and 12*s.* For extra work there is extra pay.

Machinists.

327. In late years the sewing machine has introduced a great change in this business, and promises to lead to more fundamental modificatiens, in fact to metamorphose the whole trade, more particularly the commoner kind of needlework. As in all similar cases, this substitution of machinery for hand labour has benefited the employed, superior skill and increased production being involved. "Machinists, as a rule, earn much more "than hand workers." Middling hands earn from 14*s.* to 20*s.*, and some very good hands 35*s.*, working 12 hours a day, or more. In some cases the wages are much below the above (Mr. Lord, p. 70).

III. State of the Place of Work and Nature of the Occupation.

328. It would be superfluous to enter fully into details to illustrate the nature of an occupation so familiar to all as needlework. But as in the course of this inquiry a large amount of valuable information has been obtained, and as there is at this time among all the principal houses of business a strong desire to improve the existing system, the evils of which are so generally recognized, we are anxious to explain what, according to our investigations, appear to be the special causes of the great bodily suffering and of that undermining of the general health so fully described in the medical and other evidence.

1. *Work Rooms.*

329. The testimony of a large number of competent witnesses shows, that although some improvements have been introduced, the condition of the work-rooms is on the whole most objectionable.

Thus Mr. Lord, observes:—

"The fact however remains, that too many work-rooms, particularly in 'private' houses, are, in the season, so overcrowded as to render useless any mere window-pane or chimney-valve apparatus:

in not a few ventilation is wholly disregarded; while in others it is so ineffectually carried out as to excuse, if not to justify, the very common practice of workpeople to block the ventilators up for fear of the tooth-ache and face-ache, which are certainly very common among that class. To persons unaccustomed to sedentary pursuits in crowded and ill-ventilated rooms, the dislike to 'fresh air' manifested by those who work under such conditions seems almost incredible; the explanation furnished by the superintendent of one of the Homes (No. 84), is no doubt the true one, namely, 'that working 'constantly in close rooms does render them very prone to catch cold, if there is the slightest draught.'" (P. 70.)

330. In some, but what we hope are exceptional cases, these rooms appear to be in a most deplorable state; thus one witness says she "had seen the steam running in "water down the walls when the gas was lit;" another says, that "the heat from "the hot irons kept over the gas fires was very oppressive." At Southport, in a leading house of business "everything was dirty;" at Torquay, "the room was very small; "they used to come upstairs in the evening quite beaten with the work, and go into "hysterics from exhaustion and the heat of the gas." In Scotland it appears that rooms in the basement are often occupied for work, so that gas must be used to a much greater extent, and in some places during the winter all day. This is particularly the case at Dundee, where they are spoken of as "cellars" (pp. 13, 71, No. 43, p. 107, No. 40, p. 105, &c.) Instances of a similar kind were also met with in London, Cheltenham, and other parts of England (pp. 70, 123). The evils of such a state of things as is here described, are thus depicted by Dr. Sutherland, Commissioner for improving Barracks and Hospitals, after very comprehensive inquiries in England and other countries:—

"It is this putrescing air poison which occasions the close foul smell of unventilated inhabited rooms, especially sleeping-rooms. It saturates every wall and ceiling, and covers the furniture. It can be scraped off and examined. It is absorbed into the blood by respiration, and then it causes loss of vigour, blanching, blood disease, tuberculosis, and consumption, in many cases predisposition to fever, and to general nervous ill health. In such a state of the atmosphere little good work can be done, and of all the 'negligences and ignorances' which afflict the workers, this neglect of the state of work-rooms is the most costly to the employer.

"There is no escape from this law, or from its consequences." (P. 181.)

2. *Bed Rooms.*

331. It is almost needless to remark that the state of the bed-rooms has given rise for much comment; although, speaking generally, the Assistant Commissioner has satisfied himself by personal inspection, that the descriptions given by the girls themselves must be taken with some qualification (Lord, p. 71). It appears that the sleeping accommodation is better in the provinces than in London; and in the establishments of silk mercers and milliners who have shops, than in those of court milliners and dress-makers who live within the precincts of the fashionable world. Several painful instances of most objectionable arrangements are given by the witnesses. Thus Mrs. Cotton, for whose truthfulness her present employer vouched, says of a West End private house, "the bed-rooms "were shocking; in the height of the season three sleep in a bed; one bed-room was so "damp that the water would run down the walls: I had to leave that situation through "ill health; the doctor said it would kill me to go on so: two of the girls died of "consumption; my health will never be what it was" (No. 39, p. 105). In another "house notorious for long hours of work, "the bed-rooms are very close and wretched" (No. 47, p. 107).

3. *Defective Ventilation and Over-crowding.*

332. Although the prolonged labour is the most obvious feature in this business, and is in itself a most serious evil, it is, we are satisfied, secondary to the mischief produced by the long-continued respiration of a deteriorated, foul, and heated atmosphere: no kind of bodily labour induces an exhaustion of the vital powers comparable to that resulting from the habitual breathing of air contaminated by the over-crowding of human beings. The continual complaints of fainting, head-ache, giddiness, &c., experienced by these young women, and especially the lung diseases to which they are prone, are the results, mainly, not of muscular exertion and fatigue, which induce another class of ill consequences, but of a poisoned atmosphere. The following case, among a multitude of others, will place this in a striking point of view:—

"With regard to the number of persons who can without injury to their health be safely put into one work-room of a given size, I received some very useful information from Mr. Stuart, of the firm of Stuart, Taylor, and Co., wholesale milliners, Old Change; that gentleman stated that they had area enough for nearly 400 persons in their three work-rooms, but had found that when so many as 130 were in one, several fainted; they had therefore limited the number to 100, there being one or two more occasionally, and thereby raised the proportion of cubic feet per head from 203 to 264; since that regulation had been in force no fainting had occurred." (Mr. Lord, p. 72.)

Mr. Lord prefaces his account of ventilation by the following general remarks, to

Wearing Apparel.

Part I. Milliners, &c.

which we are anxious to call the attention of employers, since they indicate, what is well known to all acquainted with the subject, that by suitable measures the existing defects are remediable.

"The work-rooms ordinarily used by milliners and dress-makers, whether in wholesale or retail trades, would be in most cases unobjectionable, were precautions taken to provide such ventilation as would ensure the escape of the foul air and the admission of fresh air without causing draughts. In many of the larger establishments of silk mercers and others of that class, contrivances for this purpose have been more or less successful, especially the invention of Mr. Watson, which, although applied in most cases to large rooms, such as those of Messrs. Shoolbred, has been at Messrs. Howell and James' adopted with great benefit to ventilate a number of ordinary apartments, which open on to a common well staircase. This result is effected by having the chimney of the ventilator placed at the top of the staircase, which acts as a kind of shaft, communication between each room and the common staircase being maintained by means of a panel over the door moving on a horizontal pivot at the centre". (p. 70).*

It appears from a careful admeasurement of several work-rooms taken by the Assistant Commissioner that the cubic feet allowed varied from 80 to 156 per head; and in the bed-rooms from 178 to 252 cubic feet (p. 72).

333. Dr. Ord, in his report, gives some tables, from which it appears that in 34 work-rooms examined, the allowance was in 20 from 100 to 250 cubic feet; and in the other 14 from 250 to 500 cubic feet and upwards; in 37 bed-rooms a considerably larger space was allowed, as in 27 rooms out of 37 the space per head was from 300 cubic feet and upwards. Dr. Ord remarks that "in some of the large houses ventilation by "special apparatus is carefully attended to; but in the commoner work-rooms ventilation "is certainly disregarded; and it is not uncommonly found that ventilators, even when "provided, are obstructed either wilfully or of neglect. For instance, in one room "occupied by 20 persons, with 150 cubic feet for each, and with nine gas jets burning, I "found that four ventilators were provided, but the two opening into the chimney were "immovable, whilst one in the window was pasted over with a sheet of paper."†

4. *Proper Allowance of Cubic Space.*

334. The signification of the dimensions above mentioned will appear from these facts; that for sleeping-rooms, when properly ventilated, Dr. Sutherland says it has been found in the case of barracks used as sleeping rooms to be absolutely necessary to allow 600 cubic feet per head; whilst in sedentary occupations, such as dress-making, 500 cubic feet with active ventilation should be allowed. At the Pentonville Convict Prison, each cell measures 800 cubic feet and the air is renewed rapidly; even with regard to the crowded common lodging-houses of London, where it is so difficult to insure space, 300 cubic feet per head has been assumed by the medical officers of health as a minimum, although this allowance is made rather for what is practicable than desirable (No. 402, p. 181, No. 416, p. 191). No actual space is prescribed by the Poor Law Board; but we are informed that the architect invariably insists that the minimum allowance for each individual shall be in the dormitory 300 cubic feet, and in the sick wards 500 cubic feet.

5. *Renewal of Air necessary.*

335. It is not only necessary that there should be an absolutely large cubic space per head, but, as it is now universally recognized, a means for its rapid and constant renewal, owing to the active deterioration caused by respiration.‡ As to the exact amount of this deterioration, and the quantity of carbonic acid and other poisonous exhalations generated in a given time, wherever human beings are aggregated together, it

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* The apparatus of Mr. Watson is described in a subsequent section.

† Sixth Report of the Medical Officer of the Privy Council, p. 367.

‡ In consideration of the supreme importance of this subject the following facts are submitted, illustrative of the great activity of the lungs, and the consequent atmospheric deterioration. At every time the heart beats, it sends at least 2 ounces of impure blood into the lungs to be there aërated; the heart beats 72 times in a minute, so that 150 ounces of blood are propelled through the lungs in that period of time; 562 lbs. in one hour, and 13,488 lbs., or about 24 hogsheads, in 24 hours. The quantity of air respired is proportionally great, for at each inspiration about 20 cubic inches enter the lungs; and as there are about 20 inspirations in a minute, 400 cubic inches of air enter in that time, nearly 14 cubic feet per hour, or about 36 hogsheads per diem.

In illustration of the same point, Dr. Sutherland says, that when the carbonic acid generated by respiration, added to the other noxious products generated by that process, amounts to half per cent. of the total mass of the air, it produces mischief; adding, that as an adult gives off, by the process of respiration alone, that is, independent of the cutaneous action, nearly a cubic foot of carbonic acid per hour, in an unventilated room, allowing 300 cubic feet for each inmate, this dangerous state of the atmosphere would be produced in 1½ hours (p. 181). According to other and recent observations, 50 volumes of carbonic acid per 1,000 produces fatal results; whilst 15 to 20 volumes per 1,000 produces severe headache.—Manual of Practical Hygiene, by Dr. Parkes, p. 87.

is necessary to state that only general or approximate estimates can be given, as, independently of the errors which are liable to occur in all such delicate experiments, the extent of atmospheric contamination by respiration is subject to great variation according to the age, the sex, the relative purity of the respired air, &c. In the Appendix will be found some valuable observations of Dr. Sutherland on the "Principles of Room Ventilation," to which we beg to refer (p. 181). According to the recent researches instituted by General Morin for the French Government, relative to the ventilation of the public buildings of Paris, it was determined that in barracks 2,120 cubic feet of air should be supplied per head per hour by night, and 1,060 cubic feet by day, and in the hospitals even a larger quantity;* the best mode for effecting this renewal will be considered in a subsequent section.

6. *Floating Corpuscles in the Air of Work-rooms.*

336. Exact and extended observation, joined with direct experiments, have in late years revealed, in regard to health, a source of mischief in a great number of industrial callings previously not suspected. We refer to the existence, in the atmosphere of work-rooms and shops, of minute particles, consisting of dust, shreds, and other like objects, but also including much more deleterious agents, consisting of the effete or cast-off organic materials of the system, microscopic in character, but recognized by the best observers as a powerful means of inducing disease through the medium of respiration. With the exception of some well-known instances, as those of the Sheffield grinders, potters, miners, and others, there is, we conceive, no occupation in which this cause of mischief is more likely to operate injuriously than in the work-rooms of dress-makers and milliners, overcrowded as they usually are, unventilated, and abounding in floating particles.† At present the subject has not, in regard to needlework, attracted the attention it demands, but there can be no doubt that a large amount of the lung diseases so prevalent among needlewomen is directly dependent upon the excess of these floating particles, acting, some as mere mechanical irritants in the air passages, but others, being absorbed into the system, operating most actively as organic poisons. This being so, it is satisfactory to know, that by proper medical superintendence and advice, this great evil may be greatly reduced, inasmuch as by means of efficient ventilation these noxious particles may be drawn off and removed.

7. *Injurious Effects of Gaslight.*

337. Next to overcrowding, the prolonged use of gas, in those establishments where the work goes on through a large portion of the night, exerts a most deleterious influence on health, and this in three ways:—1. By the rapid deterioration, or poisoning of the air. We are indebted to Dr. Letheby, professor of chemistry, and medical officer of health of the city of London, for some valuable observations, the results of his own experiments, showing the amount of aërial vitiation by various illuminating agents, and from which it appears that a common gaslight giving the light of 12 standard sperm candles, vitiates 50·2 cubic feet of air per hour, consuming 3·30 cubic feet of oxygen, and producing 2·01 cubic feet of carbonic acid (p. 184).

338. 2. By the excessive heat induced. Among the distressing results of all this prolonged labour, the most urgent complaints are made of the high temperature of the work-room, arising especially from the extended use of gas. This, as a general fact, is universally recognized; but the amount of the mischief is not so well known, and therefore we may state that, according to Dr. Letheby, one common gaslight will in one hour raise the temperature of nearly 700 cubic feet from the ordinary temperature of 60° to the uncomfortable temperature of 80° (p. 184).

339. 3. By the glare and flickering motion. As the question of the influence of prolonged needlework upon vision has attracted great attention, we have obtained, through the

* Quoted in Statistical, Sanitary, and Medical Reports of Army Medical Department for 1861, p. 312.

† Upon this important subject many valuable researches have been recently made in this country, and on the continent. By means of the contrivance called an "aspirator," the air of any apartment can be drawn off, and, as it were, filtered by being carried through water; and if to this be added a solution of the permanganate of potash, the presence of organic matter is made manifest to the eye, whilst the microscope reveals a multitude of atoms of various kinds. In his valuable Report for 1862, Dr. Parkes, Professor of Hygiene in the Army Medical School, observes: "It is remarkable what quantities of substances are thus "shown to be floating in the air, even in well-ventilated wards; bits of wool, cotton, particles of hair, and "epithelium from the skin are the most common." (Statistical Reports of the Army Medical Department, 1861, p. 309.) In this volume (p. 380) will be found a most instructive paper on this subject, with microscopical drawings by Messrs. Hewlett, Stanley, and Reed, staff assistant-surgeons. Dr. Greenhow has also pointed to the mischief caused by the dust, &c., in various trades, as producing bronchial irritation and lung disease. (Third Report of Medical Officer of Privy Council, p. 102.)

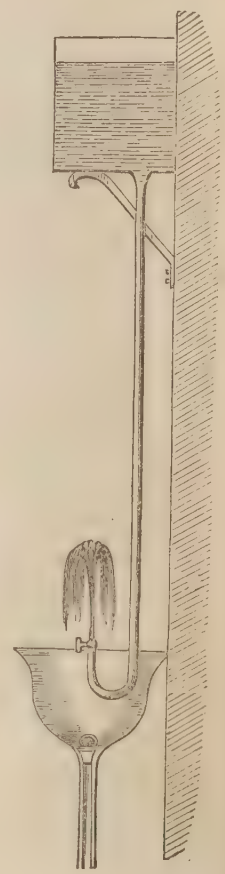
kindness of several of the most distinguished ophthalmic practitioners of London and the provinces, a large body of valuable evidence, to which we beg to call special attention (p. 184 to p. 194). The concurrent testimony of these gentlemen shows, that whereas within moderate limits needlework is not injurious, the work, when prolonged, and especially by gaslight, is one of the most powerful and general causes producing impaired vision, by exhausting the accommodative power of the eye, by overstimulating the retina, by inducing inflammation of the more important internal parts of the organ, &c. The largest amount of the evil is, however, experienced among the lower class of dress-makers and seamstresses, whose physical condition is often most depressed (p. 77). The mischief may be and is induced by the simple prolongation of the work, exhausting the powers of the retina and at length leading to permanent defects of sight. But the evil is greatly aggravated by the flickering unsteady motion of the gaslight, and also by the deficiency of the blue ray. Upon this point the medical evidence is very precise. Thus Mr. White Cooper, surgeon oculist to the Queen, remarks, "Gaslight is worse than daylight; the "injury to the eye arises partly from the flickering or unsteady motion of the flame, and "partly because the gas is deficient in blue rays; it is, in fact, too red, and therefore too "exciting to the eyes" (p. 185).* Mr. Holthouse, surgeon to the Westminster Hospital and the Surrey Ophthalmic Hospital, gives similar evidence as to the injurious results of gaslight, especially in working on dark colours or black materials (p. 184). Mr. Hunt, surgeon to the Manchester Eye Hospital, says, "Fine needlework of itself is not injurious, "but becomes so when too long continued, particularly at untimely hours by gas, lamp, "or candle light, and in close and heated apartments" (p. 194). Mr. Lawson, assistant surgeon to the Royal Ophthalmic Hospital, Moorfields, gives a very careful description of these injurious effects. "The bright yellow glare of a room so lighted by gas that "fine work may be conducted, acts as an irritant to the eye, and speedily induces "fatigue;" the eyes become congested, and the flickering motion tires the accommodative power of the eyes, so that the worker is obliged to rest the organ from time to time in order to recruit the exhausted power (p. 186).†

340. The result of all this is that the eyes become most seriously affected; and, although in most cases the mischief is checked or removed by rest of the organ, the sight is sometimes irretrievably lost, of which Mr. White Cooper and Mr. Lawson mention instances (pp. 185, 186).

IV. Meal Times. Holidays.

Food.

341. Many of the young persons complain that the food is often coarse and unsuitable; and, in a more limited number of instances, insufficient in quantity. But a good deal of this may arise from the want of appetite and debility, induced by long hours and a contaminated atmosphere; and we believe it is the fact that, as a general rule, the quality of the food, though plain and sometimes not very suitable to delicate stomachs, is good, and the quantity sufficient (Mr. White, p. 15; Mr. Lord, p. 73). But there are many exceptions; and we would upon this point call attention to the valuable statement



* Although not connected with the present subject, it may be useful to direct attention to the observations of Mr. White Cooper on the prevention of ophthalmia in public institutions, a subject which has lately attracted much notice in consequence of the prevalence of this complaint in some pauper schools. The only effectual mode of guarding the inmates from infection is *perfect isolation*, so far as the eye is concerned; when, as in the ordinary system, the children are allowed to wash in common, the disease is most difficult to eradicate; for, as Mr. Cooper remarks, it may be communicated by using the same towel, or by washing in the same basins. In the Appendix (p. 185) will be found a description of a simple, but efficient, method for isolation and prevention of infection devised by Sir William Wilde, of which we append a figure. An excellent arrangement has also for several years been in operation at the Royal Naval School, Greenwich, with 800 boys, by which each boy washes separately and has his own towel. Formerly, great trouble was caused owing to the prevalence of ophthalmia; but since the plan was adopted, some 20 years ago, the spread of the disease has been entirely prevented. (Report on Metropolitan Workhouses, by Dr. Arthur Farre and Mr. Grainger, 1850, p. 21.) We have ascertained, by recent inquiry, that the method continues to be entirely successful.

† Mr. Lawson some time since called the attention of the public to the danger arising from the explosion of cheap and bad percussion-caps; and in his evidence he mentions several cases where the eye was lost by this cause. Mr. Lawson also stated that he had known similar results from the spicula flying off in the manufacture of steam boilers, which is the more to be regretted, as he suggested a preventive, in the shape of a mask to be worn by the workmen; a plan, however, to which the employer made an objection.

of Mr. Radcliffe, illustrating the injurious influences exerted upon health by the bad and unsuitable food supplied in some establishments, and by the hurried, hasty meals (p. 189). It is proper to add that when the work is carried on longer than usual, extra meals, tea, coffee, &c., are often, though not always allowed, and that in some establishments the principals are careful to provide superior food and even delicacies. On the whole, Mr. White concludes that in the great majority of cases the employers are anxious to do all in their power to promote the comfort of the young women (p. 15). The poorer class of needlewomen, it is notorious, are unable, owing to their miserable wages, to obtain proper food; thus, according to Dr. E. Smith, needlewomen form the lowest-fed class in all the trades he investigated.*

Meal Times.

342. But, whatever may be thought of the food, there is no doubt that, as a rule, the time allowed for meals is altogether insufficient, and much less than in any other large industrial calling. Several witnesses describe dinner as a mere scramble, about 10 minutes being devoted to it (No. 38, p. 104; No. 39, p. 105; No. 94, p. 123). To this of course there are many exceptions; thus in one establishment 20 minutes is allowed for dinner (No. 60, p. 111). In another instance half an hour is the time (No. 73, p. 114). Another lady has her meals with her assistants, so that they may be made comfortable (No. 25, p. 101). Mr. White states that from a quarter of an hour to half an hour are allowed, adding, that there seems to be no fixed amount of time for meals (p. 15). Mr. Lord says that in the season too short a time is allowed for dinner, and many examples are given of this in the evidence (p. 73). Mr. Longe reports as to the towns visited by him, that there is very little regularity as to meal times, 20 minutes or half an hour for dinner and 20 minutes for tea being allowed (p. 2). In contrast with this most insufficient allowance in an occupation, where, as the labour is so excessive, longer intervals of rest are demanded, it may be proper to mention that in the great departments placed under the regulations of the Factory Act, in which the hours of work are for women and young persons limited to 12, 1½ hours out of them are secured for meals.

Holidays.

343. It is customary for all in-door workers to have a holiday of two or three weeks after the busy season. In some few places, as at Manchester, the half-holiday on Saturday is granted (White, p. 15).

V. Hours of Work.

344. It is satisfactory that we are able to state that, although this business is still unfortunately too much distinguished from other occupations by excessive hours of work, there has been some improvement throughout the country since the inquiry of our predecessors in 1841-42, especially among dress-makers and milliners in provincial towns and in the wholesale city houses. Upon this point we would refer to the evidence of Miss Newton, who, from being the manager of the Association for the Aid and Benefit of Dress-makers and Milliners, has had great experience (p. 121, No. 87).

Fashionable Season.

345. It is familiarly known that in this business, and in the fashionable houses of London especially, there is, during the three or four months constituting "the season," an immense demand on the resources of the establishment; in fact the larger part of the business of the year is compressed into these few months; and it is this peculiar feature which, according to the experience of all familiar with the facts of the case, creates a large part of the evil, and which has always been regarded as the great obstacle to improvement. The general allegation of the employers is, that in the season they have a sudden influx of orders, which they must either execute at whatever cost of labour and suffering, or lose their customers; that it is very difficult or impossible to procure in these emergencies skilful and efficient extra hands, for it is alleged these do not exist; that consequently they are obliged to keep up a very expensive establishment all the year round, so that they may be sure of retaining superior workwomen, who alone in fashionable houses have the necessary skill; and that, however much they may regret the evils resulting from these inordinate demands, which are for the most part fully admitted, they have no effectual means for rectifying the mischief.

* Sixth Report of Medical Officer of the Privy Council, p. 223.

Short Notice.

346. An additional, and by no means an unimportant cause of the long hours, is the short notice so often given by ladies for the execution of their orders. The fact is established by a large mass of evidence, though, for obvious reasons, there is a great disinclination among employers to allow their names to be attached to such statements. Upon this point Mr. Lord speaks positively, and then observes:—

"Many of such cases, no doubt, are attributable to want of thought rather than want of feeling; many to pure ignorance; but the titled lady, who sent three times before morning service on Sunday for a dinner dress, must have had a limited wardrobe, and not much regard for the observance of the day of rest" (p. 82).

Long Credit.

347. It is also alleged by many employers that the long credit often demanded and given in this business adds to the evil by crippling the means of the principals, thus compelling them to exact more labour from their assistants, so as to economize their expenditure; but upon this point, as may well be supposed, the parties most interested are unwilling to disclose their names as complainants. After noticing this, Mr. Lord adduces the evidence of Miss Bramwell, whose statement is valuable, as she is the superintendent of "the Home," Great Marlborough Street, where 70 young women reside, who are almost all employed as saleswomen in shops, or as milliners and dress-makers in fashionable West End establishments:—

"One witness, however, has no such motive. Miss Bramwell holds a very peculiar position, which makes her independent alike of employers and customers, and at the same time affords peculiar facilities for communications of a confidential nature both from the girls and their mistresses. To the evidence of this lady I must refer you for confirmation of my previous remarks. She thus concludes her observations on this subject:—'I know that one lady of title has owed her general dress-maker—not her 'court and fashionable dress-maker—70*l.* for three years, and actually has not given her a single 'order for the whole of last year. They often have not money enough to pay their quarter's rent, or 'even the day workers at the week's end, though hundreds of pounds are owed them.'" (No. 82, p. 118.)

Want of System.

348. Those acquainted with the details of this business allege, and with justice, that a chief cause of the long hours is the want of proper arrangements and management. Sometimes the forewoman is at fault; sometimes the principal; frequently the young persons themselves, "who dawdle away their time in the morning," make mistakes, &c. (p. 81).

In-door Hands.

349. The very extended evidence in the Appendix demonstrates that, speaking generally, the hours of work during the fashionable season are still often excessive, though there is a vast difference in many of these establishments:—

"It is in the West End of London, and for the most part in the private establishments of fashionable dress-makers there, and not at the houses of silk mercers who have a dress-making department, however fashionable their connexion, that oppressive hours of work are still the rule for the three or four months between March and July, of which the London season consists.

"The evidence which I have taken upon this point, and which is considerably more than that which I lay before you, bulky as that is, has fully satisfied me that the usual hours in such private houses during that period are at least 14 and more commonly 15 a-day, from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m., while many work longer than even that. In the week before a drawing-room, of which there are three or four in a season, these are exceeded constantly to the extent of two and three hours for several nights, and on the day and night immediately preceding the drawing-room it is a common thing to work for 20 hours, and not unfrequently the whole night through" (Mr. Lord, p. 74).

350. In individual instances these hours, long as they are, have often been exceeded; thus one young person occasionally worked from 8 a.m. to 3 the next morning, "night "after night for weeks together." Another witness says, "we were always up by 6 a.m., "and never in bed before 12, from April to the end of June; and often we were later." "The girls in the house worked till 4 a.m. for three nights, and till 3 a.m. on one "night;" this was before a drawing-room (p. 74).

351. In many of the provincial towns the evil of long hours seems to be as great as in London. Thus in one establishment in Cheltenham, Mr. Lord says, they worked from 8.30 a.m. to 11 p.m. for five weeks every night except Saturday; in Exeter one girl worked from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m., sometimes to 1 and 2 p.m.; in Bath twice or three times a week from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.; at Southport from 8 a.m. to midnight for a month (p. 74). Mr. White also reports of the different towns he visited that "the usual hours "for in-door workers to begin is 8 a.m. or soon after; in some they habitually work

"till 11 p.m., in others only in the season; but the work is occasionally continued "much longer." In one house at Manchester they worked regularly for five or six months in the summer from 8 a.m., and often from 5 or 6, till 12 p.m., sometimes till 1, 2, and 3 a.m., and three times all night. At Edinburgh one employer states her hours to be for the greater part of the year from 8 a.m. till 11 p.m.; in another house they worked regularly for three weeks till 3 a.m. (p. 14). From a document presented by Mr. R. Denholme it appears that in one of the first-class millinery and dress-making houses in Edinburgh, which it is said is a fair sample, the young persons were employed more than 22 hours per week longer than what females are allowed by law to work in factories (p. 38, No. 73). In Glasgow, according to the statement of Mr. James Belford, secretary to the "Glasgow Milliners and Dress-makers Association," the in-door hands begin at 8 a.m., or often in the season at 7 a.m., and for half the year go on to 11 p.m., frequently till 12; in the dull season they leave off at 9 p.m. (p. 42, No. 94). In Ireland it is stated that generally the hours are far more moderate (p. 14, p. 51, Nos. 148, 149).

352. It also appears that in the case of most silk mercers and drapers in London, who have added to their ordinary business the manufacture of dresses and millinery, even in the height of the season, they rarely exceed 12 hours (p. 75).

Day Workers.

353. As a general rule, the assistants who work by the day have moderate, stated hours; they also have usually an hour for dinner; but to both of these statements there are many exceptions, so that at times of pressure they go on till midnight, or even later. In one large mourning establishment the day-workers, according to Miss Bramwell, the manager of "the Home" in Great Marlborough Street, work from 8 or 9 a.m. till 11 p.m. all the year round. The superintendent of another Home, where 60 young women reside, says the hours do not usually exceed 12; but to this there are exceptions. Mrs. Chevallier, the superintendent of the Home, Great Ormond Street, says that at the West End, especially on occasion of weddings, mourning, &c., the hours are sometimes very late (pp. 14, 74, 118, Nos. 82, 83, 84).

354. The hours of work, as might be expected from what is explained above, are for all classes much more moderate out of the fashionable season, at which period many employers, anxious for the health of the young persons, grant a holiday for some considerable time. It is, however, to be regretted that in not a few establishments "the hours are 14 for nearly the whole year round, and some frequently work in the "autumn and winter 15 and 16 hours a day" (p. 74).

355. In the Appendix will be found many details as to the hours in some of the more peculiar branches of the business, as mantle-makers, wholesale milliners, &c. (p. 75).

VI. Effect of Employment on Physical Condition.

356. In a preceding section we have described the influence of the prolonged hours of work, and especially of gaslight, on vision. We have in this place to refer to the effects produced on the general health, upon which subject a large amount of medical and other evidence will be found in the Appendix.

357. The evils of these prolonged hours are, it is familiarly known, greatly exasperated by the sedentary nature of the occupation, and even by the constrained, stooping position assumed for so long a period consecutively, by which all the functions of life are impeded, and particularly the respiration, as late researches in the somewhat analogous instance of the tailors have shown.* The most painful results are thus occasionally induced; and even the simple act of long standing may cause much suffering, of which the following is an instance:—

"As for standing, some there have stood day after day for weeks at trimming the trains or ball dresses till they got very ill; their legs swelled and their feet blistered. I have myself stood for three whole days. I was not so bad as they were, but my feet were badly blistered and my legs swollen too." (P. 107.)

358. There is no subject upon which there is a more general accordance among medical practitioners than that, as a class, needle-women suffer most seriously in their health, and especially from consumption and other pulmonary complaints, derangement of the digestive organs, of the uterus, &c. It is, however, necessary to explain that, although all are liable to and more or less do suffer from this sedentary occupation, the women

* Sixth Report of the Medical Officer of Privy Council. Dr. Smith (p. 418) remarks that the sitting posture assumed by tailors for so long a period each day greatly impedes the breathing, which is indeed, in this class, reduced almost to a minimum.

engaged in the commoner sort of work, seamstresses, shirt-makers, &c., are those who principally fall under medical observation in dispensaries and hospitals. The higher class of dress-makers and milliners suffer less, partly on account of their superior condition as to food and lodging, and partly because a large proportion among them come to the fashionable establishments only for a limited time, and then either set up for themselves in business, or return to the country.

359. Although this question has attracted considerable attention, accurate and comprehensive statistics, showing the exact influence of employment on sickness and mortality, are at present, so far as regards females, still wanting. In the absence of this more precise information, in addition to the inquiries of the Assistant Commissioners, we have availed ourselves of the valuable statements of several medical practitioners, as well as of the views of those who have given the subject more especial attention. In order to prevent repetition, we propose to consider in this place the question of health as concerns all who are engaged in the manufacture of wearing apparel, whether dress-makers, milliners, or ordinary needle-women.

The following extract from Mr. Lord's report presents, we are satisfied, a correct general view of the whole subject:—

"But it is not the weakly ones alone that fall victims to the conditions, whether of late hours or of unhealthy apartments, under which this business exists. The poor girl at Ryde 'who was quite 'observed there for her good looks and health,' dying of consumption after a year in London (No. 141); the two who had been very well in Plymouth, utterly broken down by one season at the West End (No. 136); the painful iteration throughout this evidence, 'my health has suffered; my constitu-'tion has been very much impaired; very many suffer; I was myself very strong;' leave no room for doubt. 'They are continually ailing; their appetite fails with long sitting in close rooms; coughs 'and face-aches are very general, and head-aches too; they often faint at their work; it is so usual that 'no particular notice is taken.' (No. 40.) 'I do assure you it was quite sad,' says a day-worker, speaking of the residents where she worked last season, 'to look at their pale faces, and see 'them walk quite crippled with swelled feet by standing so long at the trains. *The servants were 'far healthier than the young ladies in that house.*' (No. 42.) 'No doubt,' remarks a very superior first hand in one of the most fashionable houses in the West End, 'needlework does affect you in 'the course of years. It is not so much that dress-makers get really ill, but they become gradually, 'almost imperceptibly, weaker. *A little thing soon knocks them down.*' (No. 13.) In that last sentence the whole effect of their work upon their health is briefly epitomized" (p. 77).

360. Mr. Simon, the medical officer of health of the Privy Council, in his last report for 1863 (p. 23), as the result of extended investigations has arrived at this general conclusion as to in-door labour; "that in proportion as the people of a district are "attracted to any collective in-door occupation, in such proportion, other things being "equal, the district death rate by lung diseases will be increased."

361. The interesting inquiry with which we have been favoured by Mr. Radcliffe, honorary secretary of the Epidemiological Society, affords the best illustration of this principle. This gentleman found by personal inquiry, that among 20 young women employed in the higher class of West End houses of business, who considered themselves to be quite well, in onlyone case could the health be called good; in all "the "remaining instances, the health was more or less disordered" (Appendix, p. 188).

362. Mr. Flintoff, surgeon to the Association for the Aid and Benefit of dress-makers and milliners, who has thus had the most favourable opportunity for observation, says:—

"My experience during the many years that I have been connected with the dress-makers' and milliners' institution, as medical attendant, is, that owing to the long continuous sedentary employment that the young women are subjected to in the West End houses of business, chest complaints generally prevail, also defective action of the liver, and dyspepsia; hence, in many instances, they are not able to take sufficient to sustain the vital functions properly. From the long and continuous straining of the eyes during working hours they become bloodshot, frequent head-ache is induced, and from this diversion of the proper nervous action to the nerves of the stomach and liver, the maladies before mentioned are brought on" (p. 187).

363. In the Appendix will be found an interesting statement of Dr. Letheby, who has during nine years classified every death in the city of London according to age, sex, and occupation. So far as the available data extend, it would appear that among the needle-women in the city, but who as a body belong to the humbler class of seamstresses, there is an excessive mortality, and especially from consumption and continued fever (p. 183).

Several distressing instances of death from consumption are mentioned by the witnesses. Thus Mrs. Cotton, who had been a first hand at a West End private house, where they worked 18 hours a day, says two of the girls there died of consumption (p. 105). The superintendent of a Home says that in less than two years three of their inmates died of consumption (p. 120).

364. The general conclusion arrived at by Dr. Ord in his inquiry is that "according "to the evidence of persons qualified to form an opinion, dress-makers undergo a slow

" but well marked physical deterioration, which appears for the most part to be due to " the length of the hours of work, the impure atmosphere of work-rooms; and, in " the case of many of the day-workers, a deficiency of food."*

Dr. Lankester, one of the coroners for Middlesex and medical officer of health for St. James' Westminster, in whose district therefore so many of the principal of these establishments are situated, and who has carefully considered the question of the public health, says, " there is no better established fact in the history of the causes " of disease than that phthisis is produced from want of fresh air." " It is popularly " attributed to cold; hence the very efforts that are made to keep it off are those which " produce it." " The sailor, the butcher, the labourer who work in the open air are least " exposed to it; whilst the shopkeeper, the milliner, the tailor, and those engaged in " sedentary occupations are liable to it."†

365. The medical evidence shows the same evil results in the large provincial towns. Thus Dr. Falconer, physician to the United and General hospitals, Bath, remarks that milliners and dress-makers, coming as patients, were " in a languid, sapless condition; were " anæmic; and that among them consumption, if not caused by the occupation, " was at all events brought by it into activity " (p. 193). Mr. Cottle as to Cheltenham, " considers that milliners and dress-makers suffer from dyspepsia and chlorosis, as a " class, more than other young women, attributable in a great degree to want of exercise " and bad air" (p. 192).

366. As to the influence of the sewing machine upon the health of the operatives as compared with other needlework, the evidence upon the whole is favourable. This is the conclusion of Dr. Ord, Dr. Tripe, and of Mr. Lord. The last-mentioned gentleman states, however, that in addition to the fatigue, the eyes in some particular kind of work suffered (p. 170). In his report Mr. White also says " it is the general opinion that the " use of the sewing machine is more favourable to health than that of the needle, on " account both of the position being less stooping, and also of the greater variety and " exercise." Mr. White adds, that after inquiry on the point of medical men, as well as of workers, he did not find any special effect attributable to the machine beyond fatigue (p. 16, p. 90). We shall have occasion to call special attention to the sewing machine, in describing the second class of needle-women, by whom this machine is very extensively employed.

VII. On the Late Hour System, and Opinion of Employers.

1. *The Fashionable Season.*

367. We have explained in the section of the hours of work, the peculiar feature of this business, which, according to all concurrent testimony, is, in the metropolis especially, and in a less degree in many of the provincial towns, the main cause alleged for the excessive and prolonged labour; we refer to the " fashionable season " and its consequences.

Another great source of pressure, and of more general operation, proceeds from sudden and large orders in the case of mourning, weddings, &c. That as this business is at present carried on, this influx of orders causes great demands on the resources of the establishment, may be true enough, but there is ample testimony from the principals of many large and fashionable houses of business to show that by carefully considered arrangements, and by a good system, the necessity of long and exhausting hours may be obviated. The pressure and inconvenience caused by a sudden accumulation of orders is moreover by no means confined to dress-makers and milliners; it is very common in other trades from shipping orders and other disturbing incidents, and yet even here, where frequently great mercantile transactions are involved, the moderate hours of the Factory Acts are found in practice to be perfectly compatible with the most active and successful industries.

2. *Regularity of the Season.*

368. It is also important to call attention to the fact, that although there is this unequal demand at different periods of the year, the exact time when the pressure will arise is known beforehand; it recurs with great regularity every season, and consequently could by suitable means be more easily provided for than in many other trades where the fluctuations are uncertain and cannot be foreseen. In the case of mourning and wedding orders, there may be more irregular demands; but in the former, it is well

* Sixth Report of Medical Officer of Privy Council, p. 371.
† Seventh Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health, St. James's, Westminster, p. 16.

known the houses most extensively employed devote themselves to that branch of the business exclusively, and are consequently better prepared for these emergencies.

3. *Late Hours unprofitable.*

369. The evidence of many principals, with which we have been favoured, and of many first hands or superintendents, distinctly proves that these long hours are not profitable even to the employer. Thus Mr. Lord observes,—

"The disadvantages of late hours is very generally recognized. 'My own experience,' says M. Thomel, 'is, that if young ladies work too late, they are quite fagged and useless the next morning. 'It is to the interest of all to have the hours of labour as short as is consistent with the proper 'carrying on of business.' This witness considers that work from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., with two hours for meals, would be a reasonable limit, 'for 12 hours of work are quite enough.' (No. 23.)

"Madame Thomel also remarks, 'I am quite sure nothing is gained by sitting up late at night. 'One hour in the morning is worth three at night.' (P. 99.)

"A similar opinion is expressed by Mr. Harrison with reference to the wholesale trade; and this is the more worthy of remark, seeing that, although the majority of the City workers, being paid by the piece, may work harder than those at the West End, while they are about it, they are, on the other hand, a much stronger rougher class of girls, accustomed to hard work, and with the advantage of the air and exercise obtained in going to and from their place of work. 'Last spring, when we were 'very much pressed for a short time, they staid till 11 p.m. for four or five nights in succession; but 'the girls could not stand it; many did not come in till about 12 the next morning; and we found 'that they earned more by the work they did in the regular hours, than when they were kept later; 'in other words, that they did a greater amount of remunerative work for us and for themselves 'between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m., than if they worked three hours later' (No. 199). Several of the wholesale manufacturers in Manchester are of the same opinion, and express themselves decidedly in favour of legislative restrictions" p. 79.)

4. *Late Hours unnecessary.*

370. Upon this point, as might be anticipated, there is among employers great difference of opinion; but a review of the evidence collected by the Assistant Commissioners distinctly proves that a great change has taken place on this subject since the inquiry of 1841–42, many of the principals of the most fashionable establishments having given their testimony in favour of more moderate hours. Thus,—

"M. Levilly, who has given this matter much consideration, and was a witness before the Committee of the House of Lords in 1855, is convinced that the most fashionable houses could do their work in the season between 9 a.m. and 10 p.m., and at other times between 9 and 9. Of the same opinion is another witness, whose business is of the highest class, M. Einstein (Dévy's)" (p. 79, p. 99).

In another leading establishment, Mrs. Murray's, it is said, they find that in the summer, or fashionable season, 13 hours or less suffice, and in the winter and spring months from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. (p. 98).

Upon this evidence Mr. Lord remarks, that with the examples of establishments of such high repute, where work beyond 13 hours or 13½ hours is said to be very rare, it may fairly be assumed that longer hours than these can be avoided by others (p. 79).

Mr. White also, as the result of his inquiries in various parts of the United Kingdom, concludes that an unreasonable number of hours is not inseparable from the nature of the work, and that the business can be conducted prosperously for the employer, and yet within limits beneficial to the workers (p. 17).

5. *Opinions of the Employers on the Necessity of Legislative Measures.*

371. Upon this all-important question we beg to refer to the extended evidence contained in the Appendix. We have already expressed our opinion, that some amelioration of the system has been effected since the inquiry of 1841–42. The efforts made by several associations both in London and other towns, as Manchester, Glasgow, &c.,* by forcibly calling public attention to the evils of the system, and by enabling employers to obtain on emergencies extra assistants, have also effected much good. But the details of the evidence plainly evince that, notwithstanding these praiseworthy and benevolent exertions, all voluntary efforts have failed, and that the hours of work are, speaking generally, still excessive, and to the last degree injurious to the health and welfare of the many thousands of young persons engaged in this business. It is perfectly true, and to the high credit of many large employers, that they have conscientiously and successfully exerted themselves to keep moderate hours, even at what seemed to be a pecuniary sacrifice; and we are satisfied, from the information we have received, that

* In 1861 the Glasgow Milliners' and Dressmakers' Association was established under favourable circumstances, with the patronage of several ladies and persons of rank and influence; but already it is crippled by want of support, and the office has been given up (p. 42).

a larger number would most gladly follow the example, if they could be assured that the limitation of hours could be made general, so that they should not suffer loss from unscrupulous competitors. The testimony to this effect is influential and precise.

372. Thus M. Einstein, whose business is of the highest class, (Madame Dévy, Grosvenor Street,) says:—

"About 70 persons work here in the season, nearly 40 of whom are then residents in the house. My opinion is that if the hours of work for dress-makers were limited to those between 9 a.m. and 9, or perhaps 10 p.m., it would be a very good thing for the girls themselves, and would not be inconvenient in any serious degree to their employers. They would only have to engage more hands for the season. With regard to our own establishment I am quite sure that we should not suffer from such a regulation; the only thing needed is that *it should be quite general;* that all should be equally restrained. But that cannot be ensured by any mere moral pressure or social influence. Government must do it if it is to be effectual. I should be glad of it, personally speaking, and should be very ready to submit to it, for I cannot see why young ladies should have to work the hours that men will not, and indeed cannot, endure" (p. 99).

373. Madame Thomel, Regent Street, says, "If you want to do any good in stopping "long hours of work, you must make it a rule for us, and make us observe it by "Act of Parliament; there is no other way" (p. 99).

Upon the need of legislation, and the advantage of it, Mr. Lord adduces the remarks of Madame Jacobi, who says:—

"As it is, if I refuse a lady, she goes to my neighbour, who takes her order; so I cannot refuse without displeasing her, and perhaps may lose her custom, because she thinks me disobliging. But if every one were the same,—if all were equally prevented by the law from working more than what I have said,—we should be all alike; and the ladies, when they know that it is necessary, would give us a little more time; their orders would be executed quite as quickly as now. If there were a law, then the young ladies might complain to some one, if they were overworked, and a Commissioner would come to see about it. Now there is nothing to be done at all" (p. 100).

374. Mr. Macintosh (of Messrs. Swan and Edgar, Regent Street), although he cannot speak from actual knowledge as to the hours of work which are absolutely necessary in the height of the season, says:—

"But I am quite sure of this—and I have had some experience in the conduct of a business—that the best thing for all would be a strict factory law to limit the hours of work; the trade might safely be left to right itself. We have, besides our resident saleswomen, from 40 to 50 young women here in our work-rooms; all are day-workers. Their hours are from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., and we do not mean ever to exceed them. One hour is allowed them for dinner, and half an hour for tea. When we have as much work as we can get through in the week, we must refuse orders, or take on more hands. I am quite sure that all philanthropic efforts, whether by individuals or associations, will end in smoke; nothing but an Act of Parliament will be of any use to restrict the hours of work. I do not say this merely on the spur of the moment, it has long been my deliberate conviction" (p. 111).

375. A similar opinion is expressed by Mrs. H. Gilling of Cheltenham, who says, "I myself would most gladly submit to the inconvenience of being limited to fixed hours, "and conform to any regulation of the kind, if it were made general" (p. 122).

6. *Objections to Legislation.*

376. There is no doubt among some employers a great objection to any legislative interference with this occupation, principally, we conceive, from the apprehension of injury to their business; and partly because of the distaste to anything like coercion or inspection. There is also an opinion among many of those who are anxious to promote the welfare of these young persons, that if the hours of work were to be regulated in accordance with the Factory Act, the substitution of day-workers for residents, which it is anticipated would result, would lead to immorality, by removing these young women from the care and superintendence they receive in the houses of their employers, and exposing them to the evil of passing through the streets at late hours. It would appear that this feeling operated in the case of the Select Committee of the House of Lords, which was appointed in 1855 to consider the proposed bill for the limitation of hours of labour for needle-women.

377. But it is by no means certain that a legal limitation of the hours of work would lead to this substitution of day-workers for inmates; and we therefore would direct attention to the following extract from Mr. Lord's report:—

"But many, who are well informed, and have given the matter much thought, do not anticipate any great or general reduction in the number of residents from the introduction of restrictive measures. M. Levilly (No. 17), thinks that 'most would retain their present staff.' Miss Newton (No. 87), the intelligent manager of the Dress-makers' Association, entertains a similar opinion; and others who speak from an experience of some years as first hands in fashionable houses, are very confident that girls of the class, of which residents now consist, will not be obtained by employers, except on the condition of having residence provided for them; and that it is so essential to employers to have girls of that class about them, that they will be content to keep them on those terms. Indeed, the most vehement opponent of any interference almost destroys the force of his previous argument by referring afterwards to the inconvenience felt in Paris from the existence of a general system of day-workers." (No. 15).

378. As to the apprehension of pecuniary loss, it is essential to recollect that this is a trade in which, unlike other great branches of industry, there can from the nature of it be no fear of foreign competition; the work must be done in this country or not at all. Thus one of the principal objections to legislative restriction which has in other instances been urged, has here no application; and since all would be placed on exactly the same footing, there can be no reasonable cause to doubt that in a short period, arrangements would be made, as in all other instances, for the successful prosecution of the business, whilst the health and well being of the young women would be assured.

VIII. Remedial Measures.

379. We regard it as thoroughly established, that there is in the dress-making and millinery occupation, nothing in itself injurious either to the health or welfare of the young persons employed, provided the hours of work do not exceed those which suffice in other industrial callings, and especially, that efficient means are adopted to insure the wholesome condition of the work-rooms and sleeping apartments. The former desideratum could only be assured by legislative measures; the latter, although proper superintendence would be wanted, must very much depend upon the employers, and even in part on the young women themselves. It is very satisfactory that in many of the larger establishments of silk mercers and others efficient ventilating apparatus has been applied; and, as will subsequently appear, with the best result (p. 70). As we have received several valuable contributions both from principals and medical men upon the best mode of improving the condition of these work-rooms, we are anxious briefly to direct attention to this important subject.

1. *Principles and Mode of Room Ventilation.*

380. We have already noticed the amount of fresh air demanded for health; and we have now briefly to consider how this may be most efficiently and economically supplied, selecting, but merely as indications, methods which have been found successful.*

2. *Conditions of good Ventilation.*

381. In all really efficient ventilation the following conditions more particularly demand attention:—

1. There must be no draughts.
2. There must be a motive power sufficient to renew rapidly the whole body of air in the apartment.
3. There must be means for warming the room when necessary.

In respect to all these conditions, mistakes and consequent failure and disappointment are continually recurring. With regard to draughts, it is almost needless to say that where, owing to the method adopted, these occur, the workpeople will not tolerate the inconvenience, objecting, and very naturally, to the discomfort and risk to health thus induced; consequently all imperfect contrivances, producing strong or concentrated currents of air, are rendered practically inoperative, the inmates blocking up all such ventilators.

Again, where work-rooms are most crowded, and ventilation is most demanded, it is not sufficient merely to insert ventilating window panes, or even chimney ventilators, although these of course, and especially the latter where there is a fire, are very beneficial, and may in some cases suffice. Mr. Lord mentions the instance of a large establishment where the principal had spent a good deal of money to insure good ventilation, and in which a glass skylight, made so to open as to cause a current, was placed in the middle of the work-room, with about 40 young women in it; and yet the air, according to the first hand or forewoman, was very close and hot (p. 110, No. 59); the fact is, that a mere current across the upper part of a room is not sufficient to renew the air, though at times, owing to eddies and draughts, it causes much discomfort.

* The question of ventilation has given rise to much discussion and diversity of opinion; in fact, there are few practical inquiries in which more conflicting views have prevailed. Some of the more recent observations will be found in Dr. Parker's review of Hygiene in Statistical Report of Army Medical Department for 1861, p. 312, and more especially in his Manual of Practical Hygiene, 1864, p. 102. This subject is also considered in Dr. Bristow and Mr. Holme's Report on the Hospitals of the United Kingdom in Sixth Report of Medical Officer of Privy Council, p. 495. In the Parliamentary Report made by Messrs. Fairbairn, Glaisher, and Wheatstone to the General Board of Health (1857), the various kinds of ventilating stoves are described (p. 14); the whole subject of warming and ventilating dwelling-houses is also considered in this Report.

3. *Mode of supplying warm Air.*

382. It has just been stated that in cold weather there should be ready means for warming the air of therooms; and various plans for effecting this have been devised, and in some of them contrivances have been combined to withdraw the foul air of the apartment. In all these inventions the main object has been to introduce fresh air from without, to make it circulate around the fire-place or grate, and then to distribute it properly in the apartment. We propose, for the sake of illustration, to refer to two of these ventilating stoves to which our attention has been directed.

4. *The Ordnance Ventilating Stove.*

383. This stove is made by Messrs. Kennard, Upper Thames Street; it has been tested at the War Office, and found to be very efficient.

In the Appendix (p. 235) will be found drawings and sections showing in detail the construction and mode of action of this stove. From these it will be seen that it is made like a common grate, but has behind the fire a fire-brick chamber (fig. 2, p. 235), through which fresh air from the outer atmosphere passes into the room by an aperture near the ceiling (fig. 1, p. 236) after being warmed. By the method shown in the sections a second floor may be supplied (p. 236, fig. 5). A similar contrivance is described by Mr. Lord as having effected a great improvement in the work-room of Miss Jones (17, South Audley Street); the grate, which in this instance was made by Messrs. Batty and Stevens, is of an ordinary kind, but has at the back an iron chamber communicating through "the wall with the external air on the one side, and with the "work-room by means of a grating at the side of the fire-place on the other. By this "contrivance the air is admitted from without, cool in summer, when there is no fire, "warmed in winter, when the fire is lit, by its passage through the heated iron chamber. "The young lady who showed me the room stated that the occupants had found great "benefit from this mode of introducing pure air without incurring draughts from open "windows" (p. 71).

5. *Withdrawal of Foul Air.*

384. From the above details, it will appear that the Ordnance stove and others acting on the same principle, only provide for the introduction of fresh warm air. But experience has shown as above stated that it is also requisite there should be means for the withdrawal of the foul air of the apartment; and to effect this many plans have been devised. In the army department, Dr. Sutherland states the foul air is removed by wooden shafts of proper size, carried up from a corner of the room above the roof of the building; and also by other apertures, which should always be so placed close to the ceiling as to prevent draughts, and provided with wire gauze or perforated zinc; or better by Sherringham's valve (p. 182). But in many cases more active means of withdrawal are demanded.

6. *Arnot's Chimney Ventilator.*

385. It is almost superfluous to state that a most efficient and simple mode of withdrawing the air is by the chimney ventilator of Dr. Arnot, who, with a rare liberality, has given all his important inventions gratuitously to the public.

7. *Watson's Self-acting Siphon Ventilator.*

386. Some few years ago a member of this Commission had an opportunity of seeing, with the late Dr. Southwood Smith and the late Mr. Austin, C.E., of the General Board of Health, some interesting and very successful experiments on a new and simple mode of ventilation, invented by Mr. Watson, of Halifax, the principle being that of establishing a double current, as in the case of coal pits, by what is technically called the "up-cast shaft" and the "down-cast shaft," for the extraction of the heated foul air, and the supply of fresh air from without. This method has been extensively introduced into all kinds of public institutions, including factories, places of work, bed-rooms, stables, &c., in different parts of the kingdom; and, as far as we have been able to learn, with the greatest advantage. It possesses the great quality of being self-acting, the heated foul air, which requires to be removed, producing an up current, and that in the proportion of the amount of the heat and impurity generated by breathing or combustion. We are informed that by admitting the air at the ceiling all draughts are prevented, the

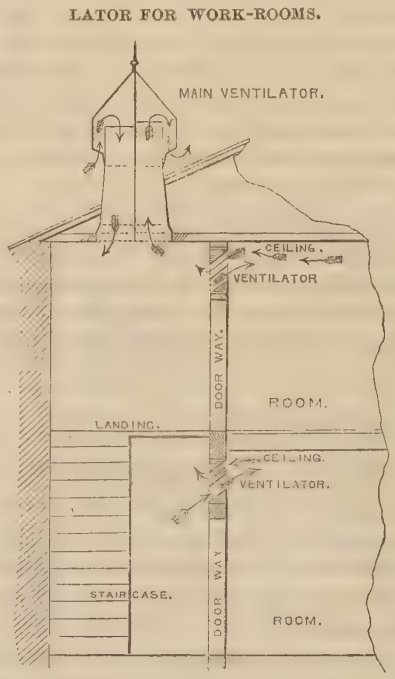
entering air being diffused as it descends. By this plan also the fresh air is drawn from an elevated part of the building, where it is purer, a point of great importance, especially in crowded dwellings and localities. This apparatus, among other places, has been applied in the very large establishment of Messrs. Shoolbred, Tottenham Court Road, who employ about 650 persons, many of whom are milliners, dress-makers, mantle-makers, &c. Mr. Knight, after giving the details of this establishment, goes on to say:—

"The room, in which our residents have their meals, is not even yet quite as well ventilated as we could wish; it is on the basement under the shop. The ceiling is low, and consequently when the hot joints are on the table, and the very large number we have are present, the room soon grows hot. Before this shaft, which you see, was put up, it was very close and unpleasant, but that has now quite done away with the chief part of the annoyance. It is very simple, consisting merely of a chimney, as it were, carried up vertically from the recess of the window along the outside wall, and terminating in a moveable cowl level with the other stacks. Until we adopted Watson's ventilator, the air of our shop, which, though extensive, is also low-pitched, used to become very offensive on a busy afternoon. We had several letters and communications from physicians and others on the subject, and indeed perceived it ourselves, if we came in from the open air, but now there is nothing whatever after the most crowded day at all objectionable or unwholesome. That we owe entirely to Watson's ventilators." (P. 113.)

In instances where a number of work-rooms, or sleeping apartments, require ventilation, we are informed by the inventor that the object can be perfectly effected by inserting the chimney or shaft of the siphon ventilator at the top of the staircase or other common passage, and by placing above the door of each room a ventilator, also acting on the principle of the double current.

This apparatus has been adopted with great benefit to ventilate a number of ordinary apartments at Messrs. Howell and James', Regent Street (p. 70), and by the liberality of Mr. Watson, we are enabled to show by means of the adjoining wood-cut the mode of operation.*

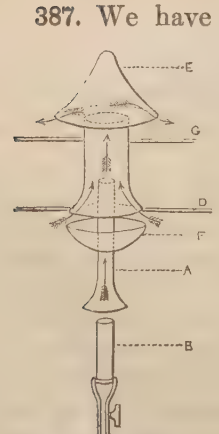
SECTION OF WATSON'S SIPHON VENTILATOR FOR WORK-ROOMS.



COWL OF WATSON'S VENTILATOR.

8. *Gaslight Ventilators.*

387. We have fully described the various and enormous evils resulting from the extended use of gas in unventilated rooms. Fortunately there is no real difficulty in entirely obviating the whole of these evils. Upwards of 30 years ago Mr. De la Garde, surgeon to the Devon and Exeter Hospital, invented a very ingenious apparatus, which not only carries off the poisonous gases so abundantly produced by the combustion of the gas, but at the same time removes the vitiated air of the apartment, thus acting as an efficient general ventilator. As will be seen on referring to the wood-cut appended, the apparatus consists of a copper tube, A., one inch in diameter, which is suspended over B., the glass of an Argand burner, and entering one foot into a larger tube, two inches diameter, just below the ceiling, D.; this larger tube passes through the roof, or other external outlet, and is protected by a conical cap or cowl, E. A description of this apparatus was sent to the Society of Arts, and it has been applied in several public institutions. It is proper to add that Mr. De la Garde gave his invention to the public, no patent having been obtained.



388. We are informed that Mr. Stevens, gas-fitter, Southwark Bridge Road, makes a ventilating gas tube similar to Mr. De la Garde's apparatus, but which combines the

* Mr. Watson's London establishment is No. 1, Frideswide Place, Islip Street, Kentish Town.

telescope principle, so that the height of the light can be regulated, which in the dress-making business is important: this is used in the army department.*

9. *Use of coloured Glass Lamps.*

389. Several distinguished oculists having recommended the use of blue tinted glass chimnies or globes, to correct the bad effects of the glare and yellow coloured gaslight on the eye, we were anxious to have this tried, and especially to determine how far the illuminating power would be affected. At our request Dr. Letheby kindly made in his laboratory some careful experiments, and he found, first, that the orange-yellow colour of the flame was decidedly neutralized by the complementary blue tint of the glass, the flame becoming whiter, and more agreeable to the eye; secondly, that there was a loss of nearly 16½ per cent. of the illuminating power (p. 184). This is a large loss, physically considered, but it does not at all follow that there would be a corresponding effect as to the power of vision; on the contrary, it might physiologically be anticipated, that as to distinctness of perception, the removal of the glare and over-stimulating red and yellow rays, would, by relieving the retina, enable the eye to perceive minute objects even more clearly with the light diminished as to quantity but improved in colour. In order, therefore, to ascertain how far this diminution would prove a practical inconvenience, Mr. Lord availed himself of the offer of Mr. S. Lewis, of the firm of Messrs. Lewis and Allenby, Regent Street, who had evinced the greatest readiness at all times to facilitate the inquiry, to test the blue glass in the work-room:—

"Accordingly, in a room which was lit by two single-jet gas-burners, suspended from a single 'telescope' arm, blue tinted globes were substituted for those in ordinary use. One of these globes was clear throughout; the upper half of the other was 'ground.' Over each of them was placed a common green paper shade (white inside) which had been used with the former globes. The occupants of the room were six in number, and were engaged solely on evening dresses; they sat at a table (8 ft. long by 2 ft. wide) placed under the gas-burners. They considered their work to be quite as trying to the eyes as any other kind of dress-making, except *constant* working on black, and had found the glare of the gas to be very great. After the tinted globes had been in use for four successive evenings in June, I visited the room. All spoke with great satisfaction of the relief given to their eyes by the colour, while none had found the light lessened to such an extent as to interfere with their work in any way. In a room where it had not been tried, doubts were expressed whether the light would be brilliant enough for black work; but one, who had been for one evening occupied in the first-mentioned room in making a body of black glacé silk, stated that the light was quite sufficient for her. The globe with the upper part of ground glass was preferred to the other, since they were able to draw the arm down nearly to a level with their heads, and thereby have their eyes still further protected, while the whole of the light from below fell directly on their work." (P. 78.)

390. So far, therefore, as this trial goes, it may be assumed that no practical inconvenience is the result, whilst of the comfort and benefit to the workers there can be no doubt. The following are the conclusions of Mr. White Cooper, whose opinion from his great experience is most valuable:—

"The best precaution against mischief arising from this cause, is to have the flame surrounded with chimneys or globes slightly tinted with blue. I attach much importance to the position of the light. It ought not to be on a level with the eyes, but above or somewhat behind the worker. The light should be thrown on the work and not on the eye. Gas produces great dryness of the air, which is irritating to the eye, and to obviate this it is a good thing to have pans of water in the work-rooms where gas is burning" (p. 184).

10. *Beneficial Results of Ventilation.*

391. Among medical men these have been universally recognized from the earliest periods. But notwithstanding the reiterated appeals and facts adduced by professional writers, there is still a large amount of apathy, ignorance, and incredulity among the public, and unhappily frequently in the very class who are the special victims of the existing vicious arrangements. This being so, it may be useful to submit the following important and authentic summary of the great sanitary improvements which have been recently effected in regard to the British army, and for which we are indebted to

* *New gaslight ventilator.*—As there is so general a desire for improvement, we may state that a novel, and it is said a successful method, has been invented on the continent by Mons. Soubra, and adopted in France, especially in the theatres, a principal object in this case being to protect the performers from the danger of fire from the footlights of the stage. It consists of a wide glass pipe, bent in the form of the letter U, one leg, however, being considerably longer than the other, forming, in fact, a syphon. Just inside the shorter leg an argand burner is inverted, and the longer leg of the tube being heated for a short time, so as to rarefy the air in it and cause a downward current in the short end, the argand burner is lighted, and the flame, following the direction of the current, continues to burn upside down. The products of combustion are thus carried away by the long leg into a chimney. (Quarterly Journal of Science, No. III., p. 501. The editor thus observes on this apparatus: "The advantages as to safety, &c., of this plan "are so obvious, that no time should be lost in introducing this method of illumination in this country.")

Dr. Sutherland, who, as a sanitary commissioner, has contributed so powerfully to this amelioration:—

"Nearly every barrack-room and hospital ward in the United Kingdom has been ventilated on the principles stated above, and it may be of interest to compare briefly the mortality and leading fatal diseases in the army before the barracks and hospitals were improved, with the present sanitary state of the troops at home stations, and also with the civil population of the soldiers' ages.

"To begin with the last of these elements, we find that the English male population between the ages of 15 and 45 yields a mortality of 9·8 per 1,000 living, per annum. The infantry of the line before the Crimean war yielded an annual death rate of 17·9 per 1,000 living. We began our improvements in 1858, and the mortality among the infantry has since averaged about 8·56 per 1,000 living per annum. In 1862 (the last return), it was 8·09 per 1,000.

"The death-rate among the different classes compared has been made up as follows:—

	Annual Deaths per 1,000 living.		
	Zymotic Diseases.	Chest and Tubercular Diseases.	All other Diseases.
English male population, ages 15–45 - -	2·0	4·5	3·3
Infantry of the line serving at home, 1837–46 -	4·1	10·1	3·7
Infantry of the line serving at home, 1859–61 -	0·96	4·2	3·4

"I have used the most recently-published returns, but the proportions of mortality from the different diseases remain much the same at the present date. You will perceive that the real cause of reduction in the soldiers' mortality has arisen from the great reduction which has taken place in 'foul air' diseases. Those of the epidemic class have fallen to less than a fourth part of their former prevalence, and the mortality from consumption and its allied diseases has fallen from 10·1 per 1,000 to 4·2 per 1,000. Formerly the mortality from chest affections in the army exceeded the total mortality from all causes in the civil population. Now the mortality from chest diseases in the army is less than it is in civil life." (P. 182).

392. We believe there are no means at present for determining precisely the number of lives saved annually in the British army since these sanitary improvements have been effected. But the reduction of the death-rate is certainly known, and we are informed, on the most competent authority, that it amounts to 10 in every 1,000, so that with a force of 56,800, the number of troops of all arms serving at home in 1862, the number of lives saved would amount to 568, which with an army of 90,000 would be equal to an entire regiment.

IX.—Recommendations.

393. Having thus fully described the existing evils connected with the dress-making and millinery business, we proceed to consider the measures which we deem best adapted for their rectification.

We hold it to be satisfactorily established by every kind of evidence that legislative enactment is essential to insure a limitation of the hours of work, and to place the work-rooms and sleeping apartments in a wholesome condition. It is, indeed, impossible to conceive any department of industry in which such measures are more urgently demanded. In the first place, the persons concerned are women and young persons, and therefore, as to sex and age, they belong to that part of the labouring community for whose welfare so many of the provisions of the Factory Acts have been enacted. In the second place, owing to the peculiar customs of this business, a large proportion of the employed are either apprentices, a class for whose protection there are such stringent existing laws; or they are equally dependent, being "improvers," who have either paid a premium to the employer, or who give their labour gratuitously. Then, as to the nature of the occupation, it is admitted by all, including the principals, that the hours of work during many months, often throughout the year, are excessive and destructive of health; whilst the sanitary condition of the work-rooms is to the last degree defective. To these considerations it must be added that this question embraces the wellbeing of many thousands of women in the beginning or prime of life; the total number of milliners and dress-makers of all classes in the United Kingdom amounting to 370,218.

Insufficiency of existing Laws.

394. The existing enactments are altogether insufficient either for the limitation of the hours of work, to which indeed they do not relate except in the case of apprentices; or for the enforcement of sanitary regulations. There are no provisions in the Nuisances

Removal Act or in the Local Government Act, &c., applicable to the case of dress-makers and milliners.

Medical Superintendence.

395. It is in our opinion of primary importance that all work-rooms and sleeping apartments should be subject to official inspection; and considering the character of the occupation, the class of persons affected, and especially the measures demanded for the maintenance of health, we conceive that whatever may be the extent and nature of the supervision, it should be administered exclusively by legally qualified medical practioners, acting under "the local authority" of the district. The duties involved are strictly medical, and such as no unprofessional person, as an inspector of nuisances, or even where there is such an officer as a sanitary inspector, which is the case in several of the large Metropolitan parishes, could efficiently discharge. Recent experience, and especially in regard to the army, has shown to what an extent sickness, and in particular "foul air" diseases, including herein consumption, and the whole class of lung affections from which dress-makers and milliners notoriously suffer, can be prevented by enlightened sanitary precautions, superintended by educated medical men; and we are satisfied, that many principals would gladly avail themselves of such superior advice as is here contemplated. In London and most populous districts, the medical officer of health would seem to be the proper person to be selected; and we believe that those gentlemen would, under suitable conditions, cheerfully undertake the duty. But we make this suggestion in confident reliance, that for the performance of such onerous, important, and additional services, the medical officer should receive corresponding remuneration. In localities where no medical officer of health has been appointed, "the local authority" should be empowered to select a properly qualified practitioner to act as the professional inspector.

Legislative Enactments required.

1. *Sanitary Regulations.*

396. In order to insure the introduction and observance of sanitary regulations in these establishments, powers similar to those provided in Sections 4 and 5 of 27 & 28 Vict. c. 48. (Factory Acts Extension Act, 1864,) for ventilation and cleansing would be essential. But in addition to these measures, the great and peculiar evils arising from the extended use of gaslight in this occupation demand in our opinion a remedy; and as it has been shown by the most competent medical authorities, that the injury to the eyes and to the general health is susceptible of removal by a simple, and comparatively inexpensive apparatus, we recommend that in any enactment which may be made, power should be given to the medical officer and the local authority to require the application of suitable remedial measures.

2. *Limitation of Hours of Work.*

397. After mature consideration of the whole of the evidence we have received, we have arrived at the definite conclusion, that there is nothing in the dress-making and millinery business which would be incompatible with the hours of work prescribed by the Factory Acts.

In our recommendations relating to the trades and manufactures which we have dealt with in the preceding portion of this Report, we have shown that it would be expedient to extend to the whole year the permission now given by the Factory Acts to take the hours of work between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. for half the year.

398. By the 27 & 28 Vict. c. 98. (Bleaching and Dyeing Works Extension Act) this permission was also extended so as to embrace the hours between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.

It has been pointed out by the Inspectors of Factories that the Bleaching and Dyeing Works Act, and its amendments, have placed the law in a state by no means satisfactory to the persons concerned, and that the Act of last year cannot be regarded as otherwise than a temporary measure.

It has been considered of great importance to secure to the young the hours of the evening for rest and self-improvement, and therefore to deviate as little as possible from the hours secured to them by the benevolent provisions of the Factory Act.

399. Accordingly we are disposed to follow the precedent of the Bleaching and Dyeing Works Extension Act only so far as to recommend, in order to make the transition the more easy, that for the first year after the passing of this proposed Act the hours of

Wearing Apparel.

Part I. Milliners, &c.

work may be either between 6 and 6, or 7 and 7, or 8 and 8; after that they should be taken either between 6 and 6, or 7 and 7, according to the convenience of the employer.

3. *Meal Times.*

400. There is no point which is more clearly established than the utterly insufficient time allowed for meals; and yet in an occupation so entirely sedentary, it is of moment that there should be a reasonable time allowed for change or even exercise, as well as for taking the meals. It is therefore essential that at least 1½ hours should be allowed for this purpose, and that at suitable times, as specified in the Factory Acts.

4. *Modifications of Factory Act required.*

401. In the dress-making and millinery business proper there are, as already stated, very few, if any, persons under the age of 13, the usual age of commencing being 14 or 15. (pp. 12, 69); there are, therefore, few or none of the age of "children," as defined by the Factory Acts. In any legislation in regard to this occupation, the various provisions relating to children may thus, it is presumed, be dispensed with. The same observation would apply to other provisions of these Acts; as those relating to the machinery, which is not used in this business, also as to the place and times of taking the meals.

5. *Extent of Enactment.*

402. One objection that has often been urged against legislative interference in the case of the dress-makers and milliners, is the allegation that these are private, or, as it were, domestic establishments. But as to all essential characters, this occupation must be regarded as an industrial and commercial undertaking; it is carried on for the pecuniary profit of the employer; it demands the labour of persons who, whether paid or paying, belong in reality to the class of work-people, and are, many of them, regular journey-women. The question of the number employed has no real bearing upon the principle; and it has been clearly shown, in the investigations of this Commission, that among the whole industrial population, the greatest evils and the greatest oppression and suffering exist where children and young persons are employed in very limited numbers by small masters and mistresses, and still more so where engaged by workmen. But the fact is that some of these establishments employ from 30 to 40 residents, in addition to day-workers; in one fashionable house, the inmates amount to 70; whilst in wholesale millinery and similar warehouses, the number may amount to 100 or more: houses like these are essentially small factories. We therefore conceive that all cases where young persons and women are employed for the profit of others, fall legitimately within the principles of the Factory Act, and for the purpose of interpretation some such words as those in the Act for the Regulation of Bakehouses (26 & 27 Vict. c. 40.) might suffice, the expression "employed" being applied to any person working in a millinery or dress-making establishment, or in any kind of needlework for the profit of another person, whether she receives wages or not.

We shall consider the question of legislative measures in relation to seamstresses, boot-makers, &c. in the second part of this Report.

Part II. Seamstresses, &c.

PART II.—REPORT ON SEAMSTRESSES, SHIRT-MAKERS, BOOT-MAKERS, &c.

403. The second great class of needle-women comprises several occupations, each more or less distinguished by peculiar characters, though all have certain common features, especially as to the mode of payment, in which they resemble the workpeople of ordinary industrial callings. In the departments which give employment to the greatest number of people, a great change has of late years been effected by the introduction of the sewing machine, and it is therefore desirable in the first place to refer to this point.

1. *Use of Sewing Machine.*

404. We have stated in the first part of this Report that this machine is to a limited extent used in the dress-making and millinery business, but it is in the more ordinary kind of needlework that it is so extensively applied, especially by tailors, shirt-makers, ladies' outfitters, stay-makers, &c., and in less degree by shoe-makers, glovers, &c. In all these trades the use of the machine is rapidly extending: thus, in the wholesale boot and shoe trade of Leicester alone there are upwards of 800 machines in use (pp. 11, 83, 165).

2. *Application of Steam Power.*

405. It is said that hitherto the use of steam as the motive power has not met with much favour, but Mr. White and Mr. Lord state that this power is now used in some cases, although several employers have adopted and abandoned it, owing to the difficulty of checking the speed and the injury caused to the machines by the constant shaking. At the Army Clothing Depôt, Pimlico, where upwards of 700 women are employed, this difficulty appears to have been overcome, and the same may be said of the very large shirt establishment of Messrs. Tillie and Henderson, Londonderry, and of Messrs. Tait's army clothing manufactory, Limerick, employing 1,000 to 1,200 hands; it may therefore be anticipated that the application of steam power will extend and become general. The introduction of the machine, joined to the extraordinary and increasing demand in foreign, and especially in the colonial markets, for wearing apparel of English manufacture, is accomplishing quite a revolution in these trades; in fact it is evident that the whole employment is at this time in a state of transition, and is undergoing the same change as that effected in the lace trade, weaving, &c., mechanical power superseding hand labour.

3. *Advantages of the Sewing Machine.*

406. The history of the sewing machine affords, probably, one of the best illustrations of the benefits conferred upon all classes engaged in industrial pursuits, and especially on the operatives, by the substitution of machinery for hand labour.

In regard to wages.

It appears from the statement of Mr. Tillie, that the machine now performs the work formerly done in London known as the most miserable, and even notorious, of all occupations, under the name of "slop work," in which grown up women, by working very long hours, could only earn, as in some of the poorest paid branches they still do, from 4*s*. to 6*s*. a week. On comparing the details given further on, it will appear, speaking generally, that the wages of machinists, averaging 14*s*. to 16*s*. a week, are at least one-third higher than those of hand-workers in the same department. The economy of production effected by the machine, with the general development of trade in late years, has also led to a great increase in the number of hands. The result of these two conditions combined has, in the aggregate, greatly added to the national wealth. Thus, in the Londonderry district, where the machine shirt business was only introduced 14 years ago by the firm of Messrs. Tillie and Henderson, it is estimated by the first-named gentleman "that the whole sum paid for labour in this branch of manufacture now amounts to nearly "a quarter of a million yearly, circulating in cash for the general benefit of all." Mr. Tillie may therefore well say, "the benefit conferred on this part of Ireland by the "introduction of this branch of manufacture is enormous" (p. 59, No. 192 b).

In regard to hours of work.

407. But, in addition to the pecuniary gain, another great boon has been conferred on the operative class by the reduction of the protracted hours of work formerly exacted by the system of hand labour. It will subsequently appear that in the shirt and clothing factories, and especially in Ireland, where the greatest change has taken place, the hours for the most part do not exceed, in the case of young persons and adults, those of the Factory Acts, in fact they are often considerably below these, being at ordinary times only nine or 10 hours (p. 14 b).

In regard to age.

408. The introduction of the machine has necessitated the employment, on the whole, of older children and girls, the usual age for commencing being about 14, one consequence of which is that in these factories the great majority of the employed being above 13 are either adults or "young persons," as defined by the Factory Act, and therefore entitled to work full time, thus facilitating the introduction of legislative measures.

In regard to health.

409. As we shall have occasion hereafter to refer to the physical condition of these operatives, it will suffice here to state that the balance of the testimony of medical men and others is decidedly in favour of machine labour.

The advantages of the machine are so generally appreciated, that not a few workpeople have machines of their own, or hired of other parties, a large portion of the work being thus carried on in the homes of the workers (pp. 11, 83).

4. *Tendency to Factory System.*

410. The result of this great change has been to bring several of these departments into the factory system, large numbers of workpeople, in some instances amounting to several hundreds, being collected together in one establishment.

5. *Small Masters.*

411. In other branches, on the contrary, as the boot trade, the introduction of the machine has unsettled the mode of conducting the business, especially by the employment of what are called "chamber or garret masters," persons who receive the materials from wholesale houses, and themselves employ usually four or five machinists, but occasionally as many as 30 (pp. 83, 164).

I. AGE AND SEX.

412. The workpeople in these branches begin to work at an earlier age than in dress-making, herein again approaching the conditions of other industries. According to the Census Tables out of 287,082 needle-women of all classes, exclusive of dress-makers and milliners, 44,365 were under 20, and 10,801 were under 15 years of age, or about one in 27, whilst of dress-makers and milliners those under 15 years of age formed only $\frac{1}{50}$th of the whole number. Few begin to work before the age of 11 or 12, the usual age for commencing with the machine being about 14; but in other departments many begin as young as nine or ten, or even five and six (pp. 1, 12, 84).

413. As to sex, it has been explained already that almost the whole class consists of females, although in some branches, as boot making and tailoring, men and boys are employed.

II. NUMBER.

414. The total number, according to the Census Returns for 1861, is very large, amounting in England to 287,082, in Ireland to 61,771, and in Scotland to 18,345; making a total for the United Kingdom of 367,198.

The following table shows the numbers and ages in the four of the principal departments, so far as applies to England:—

Occupation.	All ages.	Under 20.	Under 15.
Shoe-makers - - - -	119,007	10,892	2,646
Shirt-makers and seamstresses - -	76,015	10,791	2,014
Tailors - - - - -	27,386	5,759	863
Glovers - - - - -	23,605	6,832	2,661
Total of 4 classes - -	246,013	34,274	8,184

415. As to the individual establishments, as might be expected, the number employed varies greatly; but, as stated above, the tendency to the accumulation of hands is actively proceeding. The most remarkable development in this respect has been in the north of Ireland, of which the statement of Mr. Wm. Tillie (of the firm of Messrs. Tillie and Henderson), Londonderry, is a striking illustration. This gentleman says,—

"We are the largest employers here in the shirt manufacture, which I was the first to introduce 14 years ago. Our factory, which has been built about eight years, has accommodation for 1,000 persons, and we have had that number in it, though at the present time, owing to temporary circumstances affecting the character of the trade, we have only about 800, nearly all females, from 11 years of age upwards. We object, however, to employing married women with children; and though they often beg to be admitted, saying that it would be a charity to them, I refuse, telling them that I would almost sooner pay to keep them at home. I know that they cannot attend to their work so well if they have to be thinking of their children, and absence at work prevents them from giving proper attention to their families. The work consists chiefly of cutting out the material and preparing it for the sewing machines by various kinds of handwork, and then stitching parts by the machines, most of which are worked by steam.

"The shirts are then sent out into the country to be 'fitted' or put together, *i. e.*, made up, a work which is done exclusively by persons living at their own homes. When these persons live at a distance, as is usually the case, the work is distributed to and collected from them by means of agents stationed at different centres; and to ensure their receiving proper remuneration, the price to be paid for their labour is fixed by us, and marked upon a ticket which accompanies each piece of work, and the money paid in cash when the work is returned. This prevents what was a great evil in the sewed muslin manufacture, carried on in the same system. The number of persons employed thus by us outside our factory is very large indeed, and is spread over a wide extent of country, as much, I should say, as over a radius of 40 miles from this town. When we had 1,000 persons in the factory, they only took a sixth part of what we paid for labour; and reckoning, as probably would be near the fact, that 1,000 persons in the factory were paid as much as 1,500 out of it, we must then have had altogether about 10,000 persons in our employment." (P. 58, No. 192.)

416. In another large establishment in the same place, Messrs. M'Intyre and Hogg's, 700 persons, $\frac{9}{10}$ths of whom are females, work on the premises, where there is accommodation for 1,500. At Messrs. R. Sinclair's they employ from 500 to 900 hands, and probably four or five times as many outside (pp. 58,59).

417. In many of these clothing factories from 100 to 200, 300, 400, or more are employed; this is the case in London, Dublin, Bristol, Norwich, Leicester, Belfast, Dromore, Glasgow, &c.; in other instances the number is under 100, some small employers having only from six to 20 hands. In all these cases a large part of the work, especially the "finishing," is done "out," often by small journey masters and mistresses, whilst the "machining" is done in the factory. Among stay-makers two or three needlewomen working by hand are wanted for each machinist; in boot factories three to two, or four to one; at the Army Clothing Depôt it was after trial found that two hand-workers to one machinist was the best proportion.

III. Hiring and Wages.

Hiring.

418. It has been stated above that a large number of children and young persons are employed in the various departments of needlework. Many of these, especially the youngest, assist in various ways, as in helping the machinist, in hemming shirts, in lining boots, &c. Many of these children are thus employed by their parents, but often by neighbours and others.

1. *Apprentices.*

419. According to Mr. Lord there seems to be no regular system of apprenticing in any of these trades, so far as females are concerned, except perhaps in the boot trade. But in many instances there is an agreement in the nature of an apprenticeship from three and six months to two and three years, the girl receiving a small payment, gradually increasing from 6*d.* to 2*s.* and 3*s.* a week. At some boot factories machinists are often apprenticed at 14 or 15 for two or three years, and receive 5*s.*, 7*s.*, and 9*s.* a week. Some pay a small sum to an adult for instruction in the use of the machine, being in a few instances paid something by the principal (p. 85).

2. *Wages.*

420. In the numerous sewing trades, differing so much in their character, there is a great range in the scale of wages; so that whilst in the poorly paid work, as in some kind of shirt and collar making, a mere pittance is obtained only by hard labour, in other branches good wages are earned. As a rule, all home work is worse paid than factory labour. Upon this point Mr. Lord observes:—"Thus much I think is clear, that in "trades of this class home work is, as a rule, the least profitable; partly because more "time is wasted, partly because the cheapest kind of work is most readily trusted out of "the employer's custody" (p. 86, p. 154, No. 247).

421. Very young children, of 9 and 10 years of age, earn from 9*d.*, increasing to 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* a week. Others, of from 11 or 12 to 14 and 15 years old, are paid according to the nature of the work from 1*s.* and 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.*, 3*s.* 6*d.*, 5*s.*, or 6*s.* and 7*s.*

422. Adults vary quite as much as to their wages. Thus in the shirt and collar trade, belt and brace making, some women earning only $8\frac{1}{2}$*d.* or 9*d.* a day (4*s.* 6*d.* a week) make no complaint. Women working at gloves also rarely make more than 4*s.* or 5*s.* a week. In the worst paid branches of needlework, except perhaps brace making, a woman of average ability and industry, working at home, earns from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 6*s.* a week. It is popularly supposed that the cheaper the kind of work the more poorly is the worker paid; but this is so far from being the case, that when work is paid by the piece, as is the general practice, more can be earned at coarse work than with a higher priced article, this last requiring so much more time for its completion. The wages of adult hand workers may be stated generally as varying from 6*s.* to 18*s.* a week (Lord, p. 86).

423. The evidence shows that the machinists are the best paid class at all ages. Thus, girls at Norwich and Plymouth of 14 and 15 earn in boot factories 4*s.* and 5*s.* weekly. In all these trades machinists frequently earn from 12*s.* to 15*s.*, varying in limits from 5*s.* to 30*s.* In factories, with the work limited to $10\frac{1}{2}$ hours in the day, the wage books show that as a rule hand workers earn from 6*s.*, 8*s.*, to 12*s.*, and machinists 9*s.*, 12*s.*, and 18*s.* a week, or about one-third more (p. 86). Dr. Ord, in his Report, says that in a large collar making factory the machinists, from 15 to 25 years of age, earned from 12*s.* to 21*s.* a week, the average being 14*s.* to 16*s.*

424. Mr. Lord concludes by saying,—"I believe that most wholesale houses pay a fair "price to all whom they employ directly. It is when work passes through several hands, "each of which is to take its share of profit, while only the last does the work, that the "pay which reaches the workwoman is miserably disproportioned to the price paid by "the purchaser for the manufactured article" (p. 86). This, which touches upon a point of considerable importance to a numerous class in many other occupations, is noticed in the evidence of Mr. Tillie quoted above; and there can be no doubt that if employers adopted the principle explained by that gentleman of marking upon a ticket the price to be paid for each piece of work, the great evil so often inflicted at present on the poorest class of workers by middle men would be prevented.

IV. Hours of Work.

425. The various branches of needlework, as described in this report, not only differ widely in their nature, but in the same trade, as shown above, the work is variously performed. For all details, however, we beg to refer to the evidence and to the summary given by Mr. Lord (pp. 86, 87).

1. *In Factories.*

426. As a general principle, the hours of work are more regular and limited in factories, particularly where of large extent, than in "home work" and in the houses of small employers. Thus, Mr. White remarks, "in the majority of shirt, stay, and clothing "manufactories, the stated day is short, viz., about 9 or 10 hours' actual work, which "begins at from 8 to 9 a.m. A few, from special circumstances, have the regular factory hours" (p. 14).

These hours, so far as the labour of young persons above 13 is concerned, do not exceed those of the Factory Acts, they are indeed somewhat shorter, except that more overtime is made: the above hours seem to be general in Ireland. Mr. Lord also says,—"In large manufactories of cloth garments the ordinary hours of work are seldom "more than 12 in the day; in London warehouses they are frequently less" (p. 86). This is in keeping with experience, applying to all trades and occupations. There are, however, many exceptions, and very long hours are occasionally exacted, even in case of rather large establishments; thus at an army contractor's, with upwards of 50 hands, the work during a whole week was continued from 8.30 a.m. to 10 p.m., and once all through the night (p. 146, No. 212). Again, in several boot factories at Stafford, where children of 11 and 12 years were employed, who, as a rule, worked as long as the adults, although the regular hours are about 12, or even less, with two hours deducted for meals, overtime is not unusual, the work going on for 13½ or 14 hours (p. 173, Nos. 356, 359, 360).

2. *Hours of small Employers and Home Work.*

427. The hours in both these forms of employment, and for all ages, are often very long and even excessive. But of all classes the evidence shows that the most prolonged labour occurs in the case of individuals working for themselves; thus, shirtmakers often work from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m., and in the boot trade some handworkers are occupied from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. But long hours more particularly prevail when workpeople employed in a factory are allowed to take work home with them after their day's work is over.

428. So, also, in the case of small masters and mistresses, long hours are rather the rule than the exception; and in these instances, although each employer has only a limited number of children and young persons, four or five to seven or ten, &c., yet collectively and spread all over the kingdom, these young hands become extremely numerous. In one case, to which Mr. Lord was taken by the Rev. M. S. A. Walrond, a child only 7 years old worked for a woman in a court out of Golden Lane, London, at brace making, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. for 6*d.* per week. The statement of the mistress of the Golden Lane evening school, with 200 girls from 9 to 15 years of age, is very important in every respect; many of these children work in the neighbourhood from 8½ a.m. to 7 p.m., whilst others, and even younger ones (from 7 to 13 years), work longer, some 13 hours, and several, on alternate days, 14 hours a day (p. 87, p. 159, No. 283).

3. *In the Country.*

429. These long hours seem to be as prevalent in the country districts. At Yeovil, for example, it is quite a common thing for the children (glovers), at 8 and 9 years old, who work three or four together for a mistress, to labour from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. But even

this, bad as it is, is exceeded by the cruel exactions of parents in the case of their own children; thus, one child of 9 years, at Yeovil, had worked at home all one night and from 6 or 7 a.m. to 11 and 12 p.m., or for 16 and 18 hours out of the four and twenty (p. 176, No. 375). In another case a girl of 14 had worked at home from 6 a.m. to 12 at night (No. 374). These are painful illustrations of the truth, that in too many instances parents, when their pecuniary interests are concerned, cannot be intrusted with the welfare of their children.

V. Meal-times and Treatment.

430. In factories and large establishments, as might be anticipated, the allowance of time for meals is much more liberal than in small workshops; in the former one hour is usually allowed for dinner, and where the work is continued longer than usual, a quarter of an hour or more is allowed for tea. This is particularly the case in Ireland, where these arrangements are very liberal and satisfactory. Thus, at the large shirt factory of Messrs. McIntyre at Londonderry, 1½ hours is allowed for dinner (p. 61, No. 194 b). But at home and in small places all meals are hastily taken, and, if pressed, while the people are at work; thus, a trouser-maker in Whitechapel says, "We have not two hours "in the week away from work for our meals" (No. 220). The hasty manner in which at Yeovil the glove-makers frequently swallow their meals, and the use of beer and other stimulants, are specially noticed by Dr. Tomkyns as productive of bad results (p. 194, No. 426.)

Treatment.

431. With such young children and prolonged labour, it is impossible but that at times they would be subject, as in all similar circumstances, to cruel treatment to keep up their attention; and the following is doubtless in no degree an exceptional case. A person at Yeovil says her daughter began to work at 6 years old; she was employed by a little mistress from 6.30 a.m. to 8.30 p.m., and "it was as much as their life was worth to look "up;" it is no wonder that this girl was very delicate, that her health had suffered, and that her eyes had become quite weak (p. 176, No. 374). Another case of cruelty is mentioned at Worcester; but Mr. Lord says he has not met with any complaints of serious ill-treatment, and he believes instances of cruelty to be very rare (p. 88).

VI. State of Place of Work.

432. The place of work, a point of infinite moment in all industrial occupations where people congregate together, varies in these trades from the small crowded room used for living and sleeping in to new, large and well-built factories and warehouses.

In several of the latter class the principals have been solicitous to introduce good sanitary arrangements and to secure the health of their workpeople. Thus, in the large shirt factory of Messrs. Tillie and Henderson, Londonderry, which is an extremely well managed establishment, proper accommodations of lavatories, waterclosets, hot water pipes for warming, and strict cleanliness and healthfulness of the buildings, have been provided; a regular medical attendant at a salary of 100*l.* per annum is also provided by the principals, and the health of all is very good (p. 59, No. 192). At the factory of Mr. Edwin Bostock, boot-maker, Stafford, with 200 females, the arrangements for white-washing, ventilation, closets, &c., are very good, and the same remarks apply to the factories of Messrs. Lloyd and of Messrs. Gibson and Woolley of the same town (p. 173).

Overcrowding and defective Ventilation.

433 It is, however, to be deeply regretted that after so much attention has been paid to this subject, we have still to report that even in many large establishments, and in all the smaller places of work, the rooms are overcrowded, and either altogether unventilated or left to the chance of windows being at times opened. It cannot be too often repeated that ventilation secured is equivalent to space gained; that it is, therefore, in the highest degree economical, especially in large cities and towns, where rents are so high; and that, apart from the question of health, it is known that in every form of prolonged, and especially sedentary occupation, and therefore especially in all kinds of needlework, a pure atmosphere, by sustaining the bodily vigour, enables the worker to produce more in a given time, and so to benefit equally the employer and the employed. There is no doubt also that the depressing influence of a foul atmosphere induces a desire for stimulants difficult to resist. Upon this point we would refer to an interesting statement of a medical gentleman at Manchester, who made an express inquiry into the condition

of several large establishments, employing 1,100 females, of all ages, and in some of which there was not more than 80 cubic feet per head (p. 25, No. 25 b).

434. In many large work-places there is no ventilation beyond windows; and even in some instances, where by special arrangements of gratings, &c., greater care was bestowed by the principal, the object was defeated by the ignorance or prejudices of the work-people, the gratings being covered over or stuffed up with rags (p. 88). This shows the necessity of the 5th clause in the "Factory Acts Extension Act, 1864," imposing a fine upon work-people for wilful misconduct or negligence in regard to regulations for ventilation and cleanliness.

435. In smaller places defective ventilation is universal; many of them are sleeping rooms as well as work-rooms. This is the case in the west as well as the east part of London; frequently as many as five or "six persons will be employed by one man in "such a room, both sexes working together;" in fact, to use the language of the experienced manager of Mr. Nicoll, Regent Street, "two out of three work-places (tailor's) at "the West End, even when they are on the premises of the master, are simply wretched" (p. 148, No. 221).

Alluding to the east end of London (Shoreditch and Whitechapel, &c.), Mr. Lord observes that the state of the work-rooms among the small middlemen and of the work-people is too well known to require any remark in detail. These rooms have filthy walls, a foul atmosphere, and neglected occupants.

436. Nor is the condition of those in many provincial towns at all superior. In the low parts of Plymouth, where from four to 10 shirt-makers work together, the rooms are described as being very dirty and small. A city missionary observes of these places, "you can hardly breathe in them" (p. 152, No. 244).

437. Similar accounts are given by Mr. White in regard to Dublin, which city, according to Dr. Maypother, who has specially investigated the subject, "is in a fearful sanitary "state." In one such room a young woman was ill in bed; in another, where girls were employed, a boy was dying. The general appearance of these houses in which needle-women live is, according to Mr. White, very miserable (p. 13).

438. In all such trades as boot and shoe making, stay-making, hatters, bonnet makers, &c., the use of the sewing machine tends to increase the bad effect of over-crowding by requiring an excessive consumption of gas. "The effect," says Mr. Lord, "of entering "a low-pitched work-room, where 30 or 40 machinists are working under such conditions, "at as early an hour as 5.30 p.m. in the month of November, is almost overpowering." In such a room, it is stated by a trustworthy witness, that although the hours were moderate, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., the heat, partly owing to gas stoves for heating irons, was dreadful, and it was usual for three or four to faint every day (p. 104, No. 39).

439. Mr. Lord has given a table of the cubic space allowed in work-rooms intermediate between the factory and the dwelling-house, which may be compared with the measurements given in the first part of this Report at p. l. From these observations it will be seen that out of nine places in different parts of London, Leicester, Norwich, and Chatham, which are said to be typical of a large number of similar cases, the space in seven was below 100 cubic feet per head, varying from 70 to 90; and in the remaining two, 108 and 176 respectively (p. 88). It is scarcely necessary to observe that with such dense overcrowding as this, especially when combined, as it is, with the absence of ventilation, the maintenance of health among the work-people is impossible. In some instances given by Dr. Ord the cubic space was larger, from 120 to 287 cubic feet per head. The great evils and high mortality caused by this sedentary occupation, with overcrowding, are forcibly depicted in the valuable Report of Dr. E. Smith, in regard to tailors.*

VII. Nature of the Occupation.

440. It is scarcely necessary to say that the larger part of the work in all these trades, exclusive of the sewing machine, consists of various forms of needlework, consequently involving little muscular exertion, and suited to children and young persons. Many of the former are also required for other very slight work, as winding thread, cutting strips for willow bonnets, trimming articles, tying knots, &c. But some of the work is more trying, and some fatiguing, requiring the labour of adults, such as ironing or pressing with heavy hot irons. The sewing machine, when used for many hours, is also fatiguing, requiring not only the hands, but also one or both feet, to work it. Some machinists work sitting, others standing, and, according to Mr. Lord, a stooping

* Sixth Report of the Medical Officer of the Privy Council, p. 416.

position is induced, which, when persisted in, produces a serious effect on the health, and especially, as Dr. Smith's observations show, on the respiration, which, by the sitting posture long continued, is reduced to a minimum. Mr. Longe, however, says, notwithstanding this, that "the sewing machine is generally preferred to the needle by the "workers, principally on account of the bodily exercise which it affords" (p. 2, p. 14, p. 89).

VIII. Effect of Employment upon the Physical Condition.

441. As we have in the first part of this Report (p. lv) considered the general influence produced upon the health and physical condition of females employed in prolonged needlework, we shall in this place merely notice some features which are peculiar to the present division of the question. Of the whole class, the poorer order of seamstresses and needle-women, especially those who work at home or in small numbers together, such as shirt and collar makers, belt and brace making, outfitting work, &c., suffer most severely, owing partly to the excessive labour, partly to the confined and unwholesome work-place, partly to the want of proper food, many of this class being, in fact, among the poorest of the poor.

The influence of these depressing conditions, and the mode of rectifying them, is thus stated by Mr. Lord:—

"The contrast in personal appearance presented by those who work in large well ventilated rooms, when compared with the ordinary type of journeymen and assistants, who work at home, or in small places of middlemen, is very remarkable. The superintendent of the factory at Pimlico (Army Clothing Depôt) states that a decided improvement in health is perceptible in a month or two after their coming there to work." (No. 212, p. 90.)

442. Another modifying condition is, that whereas among dress-makers and milliners there are scarcely any children employed, in the trades we are now considering a large number of persons of tender age are occupied, there being, as already stated, nearly 11,000 under 15 years of age. This circumstance greatly exasperates the evil, as the vital processes in early life are most active, and consequently more liable to derangement than in the adult. The following may be received as illustrations of the injurious effects thus induced:—A girl at Yeovil, who began to sew gloves before she was 9, with four or five others, says that although she was very kindly treated by her mistress, her health quite broke down, her eyes were weakened so that sometimes she could not see, and her side "hurt" her; she worked from 6 a.m. to 8 and 9 p.m. (14 or 15 hours). Another woman, who began to work at 8 years, and often for 16 hours a day, suffered very much in her health. Mr. Hill, an employer, says that the chief source of injury to health was the continual stooping (pp. 175, 176, 177). Children who work at glove-sewing at home, and at the tambour frame, also suffer, and severely (p. 91).

443. Dr. Greenhowe, who has made a special inquiry into the influence on health of glove-making at Yeovil, in which district it is stated about 50,000 persons are altogether employed, concludes that except from working in ill-ventilated rooms for so many hours a day, there is no ostensible cause for an unusual amount of disease, but that owing to these causes, bad ventilation, overcrowding, and long hours, there is among the population of Yeovil, and particularly among females, a great prevalence of pulmonary diseases.*

444. As to the effects produced by the sewing machine, there is no doubt, from the statements of several of the young women, that it frequently affects the health and sight (p. 151, Nos. 234, 235; p. 147, No. 214, &c.) On the other hand, and this is most gratifying, as the machine is so rapidly extending, the prevailing tenour of the evidence, general and medical, is in its favour. Mr. Longe is of this opinion (p. 2), and Mr. Lord, after consulting several medical gentlemen in provincial towns where machinists are employed in large numbers, says, "the opinion of the medical profession, so far as I can "ascertain, is by no means adverse to the sewing machine." This is also the conclusion at which Dr. Ord, in his inquiry, has arrived. This gentleman, after stating that injurious effects are produced in some cases, observes, "but touching the important fact, "that comparing in a given room the machinists and the needle-women, the comparison "as regards healthiness of appearance is greatly in favour of the machinists, there can be "no doubt."†

IX. Moral Condition.

445. As this second part of our Report concerns trades in many essential respects similar to ordinary industrial occupations, and especially as the interests of so large a number of children are directly involved in the inquiry, it is necessary to refer to education and morals as affected by the mode in which at present these trades are carried on.

* Third Report of Medical Officer of Privy Council, p. 190.
† Sixth Report of Medical Officer of Privy Council, p. 381.

Wearing Apparel.

Part II. Seamstresses, &c.

Neglect of Education.

In London and other towns.

446. Speaking of the whole class, the state of education is extremely low ; a remark as applicable to London and the large provincial towns as the more rural districts. In fact, one of the most striking proofs of this is afforded by the experience of the large evening school of St. Mary's, Charterhouse, Golden Square, where there are 200 girls of the age of from 9 to 15, and who for the most part are employed in the shops and factories in the neighbourhood during the day. The mistress remarks that the state of ignorance is a matter of astonishment to her, as there were not more than a dozen who had never attended a day school; and yet of the 200, not more than one-third, when first admitted, were able to read, write, and cypher; the remaining two-thirds not being able even to say the alphabet (p. 159, No. 283). Miss Gregg, of Monkwell Street, who employs in making chenille nets about 50 girls, says, "they are very ignorant, not one-half "can read" (p. 159, No. 274). At a boot factory in Norwich, out of 20 girls, from 16 to 20 years old, seven could not read (p. 91). At a clothing and shirt factory at Manchester, two girls who were questioned, each 13 years old, could neither read nor write ; and others were reported to be in the same neglected state (p. 149, No. 223). Mr. J. Dare (minister of the poor) says, at the Great Meeting day school, at Leicester, the average age of the children is only 8 years and 5 months, and the average time they remain $1\frac{1}{2}$ years; and yet this is a large school with a certificated master, and under Government Inspection. Mr. Dare goes on to say :—

"In the majority of cases poverty is not the cause that keeps children from school, or sends them to work. Until a law is passed which will make it compulsory that all children who work shall have so many hours of school in the day, parents will be careless of education and moral training, so long as they can get anything from their children's labour to spend upon themselves" (p. 167).

447. At Rochester, of 12 younger ones, most could read but very few could write ; two, however, who were 12 years old, could not read, nor could one of 14 (p. 149). At Londonderry, Mr. Hogg, of the firm of Messrs. M'Intyre and Hogg, shirt manufacturers, and whose factory is calculated for 1,500 hands, observes, "the great defect in the "people here is their want of education ; but they are beginning to find that they cannot "get on without it." To this evidence Mr. White adds the remark that of a row of eight girls, aged from 13 to 15, one could read well and write ; the others could read ; among five others one aged 14 could not read, and two of the others could not write (p. 60).

In country districts.

448. Bad as the state of things is in the metropolis and other towns, Mr. Lord says, that "it is among the glovers in country districts that the evils produced in a population "which may be said to work constantly from 8 years of age, become conspicuous." The result is that the children being taken away at so early an age, and no provision like that of half-time being made, they grow up utterly uneducated, and often unable to read. The evil operation of this system is made conspicuous by the following Table (p. 177) :—

Number in attendance at the Girl's National Schools, Yeovil.

Age - - -	Under 7.	Between 7 and 8.	Between 8 and 9.	Between 9 and 10.	Over 10.
Old Church - -	66	12	16	13	9
Trinity - - -	84	22	12	5	3
	150	34	28	18	12

Morals.

449. Where so many young persons work together, and are able to support themselves, and are thus withdrawn from parental control, it must happen, as in other similar conditions, that great temptations and opportunities for immorality should exist. Upon this subject we beg to refer to the statements in the Appendix of those best calculated to judge, as employers, clergy, teachers in schools, &c. The want of respectable lodgings has been a source of great evil ; and many praiseworthy efforts have been made in London and elsewhere to rectify the mischief by the establishment of "homes," where the young women are boarded and lodged. This evil has been increased of late years owing to the great and rapid development of the clothing trades, by attracting large numbers of young females to towns not provided with suitable lodgings. This, among other places, has happened at Londonderry, where the shirt trade has attained a rapid extension, and where, according to the valuable statement of Dr. Browne, the medical officer of health, great numbers of respectable girls from the country are obliged to lodge

in small crowded houses of a low description. Dr. Browne suggests, as conducive to the moral and physical health of these young persons, the erection by the large factory proprietors of suitable lodging houses for their female operatives; which he believes would be remunerative (p. 62, No. 207 b).

X. Opinions of Employers.

450. It is evident that in many of the large establishments the general system as to hours of work, &c., very nearly approximate to those of the Factory Acts, the principal difference being that where children under 13 are employed, it is usual for them to work as long as the young persons and adults; although in some factories the children are not allowed "overwork." Among the proprietors of these works there is, therefore, a general feeling in favour of moderate hours, and often no disinclination as to the application of legislative measures. Upon the whole of this question we would call attention to the very important statement of Mr. Wm. Tillie, whose firm employs, in their shirt factory at Londonderry, 1,000 hands, and, in addition, several thousands working at home, and amounting in all, when fully occupied, to 10,000 workpeople. After stating that their regular hours are from 8 to 6 p.m., or, in the winter, from 9 to 7 p.m., this gentleman observes:—

"The short hours introduced by me have been adopted by all the other houses in the trade here, or nearly as short.

"I am acquainted with the Factory Act, and had occasion to direct my attention specially to it about a year or so since, owing to a visit from a factory inspector, which led me to suppose that our factory might fall under them, though I was afterwards legally advised to the contrary. As the manufacture is carried on in this and other factories here, the regular hours being short and the overtime never carried to such an extent as to be injurious, there is, I think, no occasion for any such regulations. It is better to leave any manufacture untouched by legislation till actual need for it exists, though if real abuses of overwork, &c., do exist, it is not only allowable but desirable to check them by law, and it should be done without hesitation or scruple. I see the difficulty of ascertaining just when abuses arise in any particular employment without some kind of perpetual inquiry, which of course is not desirable. On the whole, I think that some regulations might properly be framed, which would be a security against any abuses of overwork, without seriously interfering with this manufacture as it now is. The great objection which I should feel would be to anything that involved beginning work as early as they do in factories, which I feel sure would be a great injury to the manufacture. If they come at eight, they breakfast comfortably first, and there is no loss of time for this after work has begun. I consider it much less injurious to work three hours later at night, as they do on the present plan, than to come to work regularly at six without their breakfast. Any hour much earlier than eight would be quite unsuitable to the habits of the class of girls whom we employ, and to make them feel themselves put upon the same level as ordinary factory workers, as a change to such early hours would do, would lower their self-respect and moral tone. We endeavour to raise these as much as we can by insisting on all coming in bonnets and with shoes and stockings, and this, I believe, is a general rule in all the factories here. The good character and chastity of young females here is remarkable, if comparison be made with corresponding classes in England and Scotland. The busy time can be pretty well calculated on, and additional hands might be engaged; but this would be a loss to the regular workers by diminishing their pay.

"So far as the object of any factory regulations may be to secure education, I am strongly in favour of them, and think it desirable that all young persons should be obliged to attend some place of instruction for an hour-and-a-half daily, which they might well do after their day's work, without any interference with it. We have, however, very few children, and should have none if they were restricted to half-time. This, however, is on the supposition that the supply of labour shall continue as abundant as it has been for the last 12 years" (p. 59, No. 192 b).

451. Another large employer, Mr. M'Intyre, who has accommodation for 1,500 workpeople on the premises, says, "If the hours were regulated by law, it would be good for us in this respect, it would secure punctuality. I should have no objection to being "under the Factory Act if it did not tend to check the business here, where it is now "well settled, and send it to other countries where labour is cheaper. We are well off "as we are, and cannot tell what the effect of such regulations might be" (p. 60, No. 194 b).

Mr. Sinclair, of Londonderry, speaking of overtime, says he "thinks it would be "a great benefit to prevent working late at all" (p. 60, No. 196 b).

The manager of Messrs. Schwann, Kell, and Co., shirt manufacturers, of Limerick, where there are from 50 to 100 workpeople, observes, "I think, however, that a limitation "of the hours would not practically interfere with the business" (p. 66, No. 238 b).

452. A gentleman at Manchester, a crinoline manufacturer, Mr. Rylands, sen., who has had great experience, by employing 2,000 hands, thus speaks of legislative measures:—

"I can safely say I have never known an instance of injury arising from length of working hours.

"There was perhaps a time when the operative required protection against his employer; things are now tending to the other extreme, and before long the employer will rather require protection against his hands. I do not refer to trades unions or any such thing, there is indeed nothing of the kind with us; what I mean is the growing independence of and dislike to anything beyond ordinary work. The Saturday half-holiday, which is now almost universal here, is an illustration of my meaning. For my

own part I think an hour less every day and no half-holiday would be far preferable, it only encourages idleness, if not mischief.

"Matters of health, ventilation, cleanliness, and the like I consider very fair and proper subjects for legislative interference; many workplaces are very unhealthy, in our class of business as much as in any. Masters and men seem alike reckless of the value of life; they don't care, though the conditions of earning a high rate of wage involve disease and death in 20 years or so, if only the earnings be high, while the power of earning lasts.

"As far as regards education, I think the scheme of some preliminary educational test would work well for every kind of business; it is the appearance of inspection that creates antagonism. I am no legislator, but I should say that the employer might fairly be required to have a certificate, signed by some competent person, produced to him by the parent or child, before he employed any under some fixed age, 13 or so; and employment without such might even be made penal on the employer.

"Whatever restrictions are imposed, should be made as general as possible; to comprehend, that is, all children emloyed in any way in trades or manufactures, and the inspectorial system should be avoided as much as possible. An inspector, who is a kindly disposed and well educated gentleman, can get almost anything he wishes done by the manufacturer, but those qualities are not always there" (p. 157, No. 262 c).

453. Mr. Frees, the principal of a tailor's establishment in Spitalfields, employing 150 females, says that "his experience had convinced him that girls under 15 years of age "were too young to work sewing machines, and that for machinists of any age, the hours "from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., with the usual meal times, one and a half or two hours, should "never be exceeded; he considered that 9½ or 10 hours of such work in the day was, "for the health and strength of most women, quite long enough. He knew that the "people in their own houses frequently worked 16 and 18 hours a day, and believed "that the tendency was now for the work to be done at home, as so many had one or "two machines of their own" (p. 147, No. 215 c).

454. The head of an extremely well-ordered wholesale millinery and lappet maker factory at Manchester, Mr. W. S. Tracey, remarks:—

"On the whole, while of course I like liberty for myself, I think that the prohibition of night-work after 8 p.m. would not be injurious. The trade could do very well with the 10½ hours limitation, and, I think, with relays of those under 13; if only they would come for the half wage, that is.

"From what I know of wholesale millinery work-rooms in London, Manchester, and Nottingham, I think they want looking after, on the grounds of overcrowding and bad ventilation at all events" (p. 143, No. 210 c.)

Another gentleman in the same business, employing 130 females, from the age of 9 to 30, says:—

"Our working hours are from 8 o'clock a.m. to 8 p.m.; very seldom, but sometimes later. Though I do not like it, I am obliged to work late; if I did not, others would get my orders. Should be glad to see an Act of Parliament passed to limit the hours of work in our and all trades, where young persons and females are employed, from 6 o'clock a.m. to 6 p.m. It would do a great deal of good" (p. 143, No. 205 c).

455. Among so large a number there is, of course, a diversity of opinion, and some employers, particularly small ones, are strongly opposed to any kind of Government interference. This is the view, among others, of Mr. Tillyard, jun., boot and shoe manufacturer, Norwich (p. 171 c, No. 110). On the other hand, "Mr. Charlesworth, another "manufacturer in the same business at Leicester, considered that if a regular factory "system could be made to reach the worst places, the finishers, and other small work-"shops, the whole trade would be benefited" (p. 167, No. 314 c.).

XI.—Recommendations.

456. In approaching the question of applying legislative measures to this great branch of industry, embracing the welfare of nearly 300,000 operatives, and a vast amount of capital invested by the principals, we are not unmindful of the great interests involved. Neither do we exclude from our consideration the important fact that in many branches, and especially in the larger factories, the trade is on the whole in a prosperous condition.

In our First Report presented to Parliament in 1863, we gave a comprehensive summary of the principles, operation, and results of the Factory Acts after an experience of 30 years; and it is therefore unnecessary on this occasion to show, what is now indeed so generally recognized, how greatly all classes of the manufacturing community have benefited by the enlightened and humane legislation of 1833 and subsequent years. For our views upon this question we beg therefore to refer to the above document.*

457. The facts set forth in this present report establish, in our estimation, the conclusion, that whether the physical or moral condition of the children and young persons engaged in the manufacture of wearing apparel be considered, there exists, more especially in certain branches, an urgent necessity for amelioration. In the first place, notwithstanding the changes induced by the sewing machine, a very large number of children and young

* Children's Employment Commission (1862). First Report 1863, p. xxx.

persons, for whose well-being modern Legislation has been so extensively exercised, are still employed, and more particularly by small masters and mistresses, and at home, where the hours are longest. Thus, of the total number, 10,801 are under 15, and 44,365 under 20 years of age. Then as to the hours of work, although it is very gratifying to find that for those above 13, these in the larger factories are very moderate, they are not suited for children; and in addition, it is found that occasionally "overtime" is made, when the work is continued for 14 hours, and this for several weeks consecutively. But with small masters and mistresses, and in those branches in which children are extensively employed, the hours of work, as a rule, are, the age considered, excessive, and this in all parts of the kingdom, although more so in England than elsewhere. When children are sent to work at so early an age and for such long hours, any kind of useful education is simply impossible. It may be, that in many branches, no previous instruction or training being necessary, it is only the poorest and most ignorant part of the population who avail themselves of this mode of obtaining a livelihood; but, however this may be, the amount of ignorance and neglect disclosed in this inquiry ought to command serious attention with the view to its removal; and, consistently with the claims of industry, it is difficult to conceive how this desideratum is to be secured, except by the educational clauses of the Factory Act. That the health and physical development should be most seriously deteriorated by these demands on young and growing children, is a necessary result; and the appendix abounds with illustrations, especially from many who have themselves suffered from this evil system.

1. *Application of the Factory Act to large Establishments.*

458. The full details we have submitted in this report show that, as regards the larger establishments, whatever may be the particular articles manufactured, no real difficulty would arise by the limitation of the hours of work and by the adoption of the half-time system, as prescribed by the Factory Acts. In many of the largest factories, owing to the general use of the sewing machine, for which children are not adapted, only young persons and adults are employed; and as in these establishments the hours are for the most part very moderate, little derangement would be caused; and this, doubtless, could readily be met by taking on more hands when any unusual pressure arose.

2. *Range of Hours of Work permitted by Act.*

459. In the principal seat of the shirt manufacture, namely the north of Ireland, a system different from what obtains in most of the manufacturing districts of England, as to the hour of commencing work in the morning, has become firmly established, the usual time being 8 a.m. in the summer, and 9 a.m. in the winter. We have already given Mr. Tillie's view on this point, from which it will be perceived that gentleman is strongly impressed with the conviction that it would be a great injury to the manufacture if earlier hours were enforced; nevertheless it is reasonable to expect, that the hours which experience has pointed out as most suitable to the moral and physical welfare of the young, in all other descriptions of labour comprised in the regulations of the Factory Acts, would on further consideration recommend themselves both to the employers and the employed in these occupations also.

460. Mr. Redgrave, Inspector of Factories, in his Report of 31st October 1862 (p. 12), states of the operatives employed in factories, that "they considered that the prevention "of the employment of females and children after 6 p.m. as likely to be of inestimable "benefit to them;" and of the factory operatives generally he states that "the few "hours in the evening, and the afternoon of Saturday, are great boons, especially to "women." The Inspectors of Factories have been led by their long experience to the conclusion that to extend to the whole year the existing permission under the Factory Acts, to work between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. for half the year would, in the case of many industries where children or females are employed, be convenient, and would not be attended with any great disadvantage; but any hour beyond 7 p.m. would be too near an approximation to night-work to be free from serious objections.

With this modification we are of opinion that the provisions of the Factory Acts should be applied to all establishments for the manufacture of wearing apparel as included in this report.

3. *Application of the Factory Act to small Employers, &c.*

461. In all the branches of the sewing trades, as enumerated by Mr. Lord (p. 83), it has been shown that a large part of the work is carried on by small employers, masters, and mistresses, who generally receive the materials from the large warehouses and employ a few hands, some being adult females, but many children and young persons, in numbers

varying from five or six to 12, 20, or more, so that it is impossible to draw a line between these small employers and the larger establishments. The details we have submitted show that the hours of work in these places are unusually long and often excessive, much longer, as the rule, than those of factories. The places of work, also, are often altogether unsuited for the purpose to which they are applied, and many of them are extremely crowded and wretched; in fact, with the exception of some dangerous and especially noxious trades, as that of the manufacture of lucifer matches, it is difficult to conceive of any class of operatives where a limitation of the hours of work and judicious sanitary measures are more urgently demanded. In addition to this, to interfere with so important an industrial department only where large numbers are collected together, whilst the smaller employers in the same business are left uncontrolled, would naturally cause great dissatisfaction and have the appearance of great injustice. We therefore are of opinion that all these trades should, as regards women, young persons, and children working for wages, be placed under the regulations of the Factory Acts, subject to our remarks in §§ 145–159 of our 3rd Report, relative to the subjecting all places of work in which fewer than 20 workpeople are employed, to the local authority, for all purposes of the administration of the Factory Acts.

4. *Question of Home Work.*

462. We stated in our First Report of 1863 that in the course of this inquiry many trades and manufactures would come under our notice in which children worked at home with their parents.* This particularly applies to the manufacture of wearing apparel and especially to certain branches of it, as in the glove trade, in making cheap shirts, braces, &c., in which the children help their mothers, beginning usually at a very tender age; in fact, these are the youngest of the whole class, Mr. Lord having found some only 4, 5, and 6 years old (p. 84). Many of these children are often required to work long hours, and in some instances even longer than with small employers.

463. Such early and prolonged labour is to the last degree pernicious; it totally prevents all useful education, whilst it undermines the health and gives rise to a sickly and debilitated population. It would be superfluous to insist upon the fact that the great questions involved in this inquiry concern the age of the operative and the hours of work; the exact nature of the occupation, and the precise conditions under which it is carried on are of no moment. Considering the very large number of young children who in these trades are thus occupied at home work, and the principles of modern legislation, we are of opinion that the employment of children of tender age, whatever may be the exact conditions under which it is carried on, should be regulated in the manner we have pointed out in regard to employments of a like nature (see § 465. C.)

5. *Time of introducing the Act.*

464. Considering the extent of these trades and the number of persons engaged in them, especially children, sufficient time should be allowed for the introduction of the Act, and we conceive that the periods fixed in the 6th clause of 27 & 28 Vict. c. 48. (Factory Act Extension Act, 1864,) should be adopted in the present case; that is to say,—

During the first six calendar months next ensuing the passing of the Act, children of not less than 11 years of age may be employed full time; during the first 30 months, children of not less than 12 years of age, may, in like manner, be employed full time.

465. We add, for the sake of easier reference, the following

SUMMARY OF OUR RECOMMENDATIONS :—

THE LACE MANUFACTURE.

A.—DRESSING-ROOMS,—Should be placed under the Factory Acts.

Modifications.

1. Factory hours for meal-times not to come into operation until 18 months after passing of the Act (§ 51).
2. Whitewashing, &c. should not be required oftener than once in two years, unless inspector should otherwise direct (§ 53).

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* Children's Employment Commission (1862), First Report, p. lxxx.

B.—Warehouses,—Should be placed under the Factory Acts.

Modifications.

1. The permission given by Factory Acts to children, young persons, and women to work between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. from 30th September to 1st April should be extended to the whole year.
2. Whitewashing (the same relaxation as above in the case of dressing-rooms).

C.—Private Houses.

(*a.*) Where children work for their parents only, and not for wages, general enactment as follows, to be carried into effect by the local authority.

1. No child under 8 years of age to be employed at any of the processes described (§ 197).
2. No child under 13 to be employed as above more than six hours in any one day, or between the hours of 7 p.m. and 6 a.m.
3. Every child, young person, or woman employed as above to be entitled to the factory hours of meals.
4. No young person (*i.e.*, between the age of 13 and 18), and no woman, to be employed as above more than $10\frac{1}{2}$ hours per day, or between the hours of 7 p.m. and 6 a.m.

(*b.*) Work-rooms and "mistresses' houses" in the lace trade where children, young persons, or women work *for wages*, to be considered as warehouses.

To be placed under all the regulations of the Factory Acts, subject to the following

Modifications (§ 197, par. 5, 6).

1. The permission as above (B. 1) to work between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. during the whole year.
2. The relaxation as above (B. 2) as to whitewashing.
3. Their sanitary inspection and regulation to be placed under the local authority (§ 198) (see also our 3rd Report (§§ 145–159) relating to the placing the work-shops of all the trades named in that Report, in which fewer than 20 workpeople are employed, exclusively under the local authority, for all purposes of the administration of the Factory Acts).

D.—Pillow-lace making.

1. Children employed at pillow-lace making at home by their parents to be subject to same regulations as supra (*a.*) (and see § 241).
2. Lace schools to be under the same regulations as the work-rooms and mistresses' houses (supra (*b.*) and § 234).

The Hosiery Manufacture.

1. The hosiery warehouses to be placed under the Factory Acts, subject to the same modifications as in the case of the lace warehouses (supra B., and see § 257).
2. The persons working with hand-frames, whether in
   (I.) Shops or small factories,
   (II.) Cottages or small rooms in private houses,
   should be placed under the regulations 1, 2, 3, 4 already specified in relation to private houses in the lace trade, in regard to limiting the hours of labour for children, young persons, and women (supra C. (*a.*)
3. The places of work above named (I.) and (II.) should be subject to the sanitary inspection and regulation of the local authority, as proposed in regard to the work-rooms and mistresses' houses in the lace trade (supra *b.* and §§ 197–209).

The Straw-plait Manufacture.

Straw-plait Schools.

The same legislation required as for the lace schools (§§ 306–307).

Straw-plait making-up.

The same legislation required as for warehouses and mistresses' houses in the lace manufacture (§ 307).

Lace and Embroidery Work in Ireland.

Limerick lace factories should be placed under the Factory Acts Extension Act (§ 308).

The sewing schools should be placed under the same regulations as the lace schools in England (D.)

Hand-Loom Weaving and Hosiery in Ireland and Scotland.

Should be placed under the same regulations as proposed for England (§§ 309–10).

The Paper Tube or "Spool" Manufacture

Should be placed under the Factory Acts (§ 311).

The Manufacture of Wearing Apparel.

I. Dress-makers, mantle-makers, and milliners.
  1. Places of work to be subject to medical inspection under the local authority, with power to direct suitable sanitary measures (§ 395–6).
  2. Hours of labour to be, for the 1st year after passing of the Act, between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m., or between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., or between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.; after the 1st year, between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m., or between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. (§ 397–9).
  3. Factory hours of meal times to be observed (§ 400).
  4. Hours of actual work not to be more than 10½ per day (§ 400).

  To be carried into effect by the local authority.

II. Seamstresses, shirt-makers, boot-makers, &c. (§ 456).
  1. Factories, large and small, to be placed under the Factory Acts, with the same modification as to hours as in I. § 2. (See §§ 459–461).
  2. Domestic work to be subject to the limitations of hours specified in the case of the lace manufacture (supra, private houses C. a. See also §§ 462–463).

Approximate number of persons employed in the trades and manufactures included in this Report.

466. These recommendations apply to trades and manufactures employing, as appears by such statistics as we have been able to avail ourselves of, the following approximate number of persons:—

The lace manufacture (§ 7)	150,000
The hosiery manufacture (§ 257)	120,000
Straw-plait making and making up (§ 300), about	100,000
Milliners, dress-makers, &c. (§ 314)	286,000
Seamstresses, boot-makers, glovers, &c.	300,000
Total	956,000

The numbers employed in hand-loom weaving in Ireland and Scotland the Census of 1861 does not afford the means of ascertaining, and it has been impossible to do so by personal inquiry.

To the above numbers are to be added a few more employed in the manufacture of paper tubes and in lace embroidery in Ireland not included in the above estimate.

467. The numbers of persons under the Factory Acts in 1862, according to the Return to Parliament (No. 23) for that year were 775,534, of whom 54,411 were children under 13 years of age, and 432,973 females above 13. The numbers placed under regulation by the Factory Acts Extension Act (1864) may be placed in round numbers at 50,000, of whom about 17,776 were children and young persons (First Report, § 639).

468. Should Parliament think fit to extend to the above classes of manufacture (§ 466) the beneficent provisions of the Factory Acts, or provisions as nearly approaching to them as differences of circumstances allow, a vast addition will be made to those whose physical and moral welfare are promoted by this species of protective legislation.

All this we humbly certify to Your Majesty.

(Signed) HUGH SEYMOUR TREMENHEERE. (L.S.)
RICHARD DUGARD GRAINGER. (L.S.)
EDWARD CARLETON TUFNELL. (L.S.)

2, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W.
August 1864.

APPENDIX TO SECOND REPORT.

REPORTS AND EVIDENCE

OF

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS.

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REPORT ON THE EMPLOYMENT OF FEMALES IN CERTAIN TRADES IN LEEDS AND OTHER TOWNS IN YORKSHIRE.

Sewing Trades.

Mr. F. D. Longe.

A.

GENTLEMEN,

1. I BEG to transmit to you the evidence which I have obtained as to the employment of young women and girls in Leeds, York, and other towns in Yorkshire, in the following trades:—

(1.) The millinery and dressmaking trade.
(2.) The cloth cap manufacture.
(3.) The wholesale clothing trade.
(4.) The boot and shoe trade.

2. The following extracts from the census for 1861 will show the approximate numbers of the women and girls belonging to these trades in the five principal towns which I have visited.

	Leeds.		Bradford.		Halifax.		Huddersfield.		York.	
	Under 20 Years of Age.	Over 20.	Under 20.	Over 20.	Under 20.	Over 20.	Under 20.	Over 20.	Under 20.	Over 20.
Milliners and dressmakers	547	2,442	251	1,248	118	453	85	400	174	669
Seamstresses, shirt and stay makers	252	656	27	177	6	90	16	53	19	145
Cloth cap makers	179	314	2	16	2	13	10	16	—	5
Tailors' work-women	26	105	1	17	4	31	5	15	—	3
Boot and shoe makers	147	428	13	79	11	42	5	33	3	57

3. Of the milliners, dressmakers, seamstresses, &c., a small portion are highly skilled workwomen, who are hired by the year, at salaries of from 12*l.* to 20*l.*, and boarded and lodged by their employers, either in their own houses, or in lodgings. The remaining numbers include, (1), several young women and girls, who live at home, and are employed more or less regularly as day-workers, in dressmaking and other similar establishments; and, (2), a great number of persons, married women and others, who live and work at home or in private houses, for the middle and lower classes.

4. The persons employed in the three latter trades, are for the most part young women and girls who live at home and work in their employers' rooms. Several, however, of the persons employed by the wholesale clothiers and boot and shoe makers, are married women and others who take materials from these establishments to work up in their own houses.

5. In one of the principal dressmaking establishments at Leeds, there were 20 hands employed at the time of my visit, of whom six resided in the house. In the busy seasons, *i.e.*, in the early part of the summer, and in the autumn, about 20 additional hands (day-workers) would be employed.

6. Very few girls under 16 are employed in this trade, except as assistants to women who work in their own houses. Girls are apprenticed at the age of 14, 15, or 16, but receive no wages for the first year.

Sewing Trades.

Mr. F. D. Longe.

A.

7. The cloth cap manufacture has increased considerably in Leeds during the last few years. The principal part of the work is done with the sewing machine. Girls of 15 years of age are sometimes taught to work these machines, but the persons employed upon them are generally over 20 years of age. In most of the cloth cap manufactories a few girls of from 10 years of age and upwards are employed in sewing, running errands, &c.

8. There are a few wholesale clothing establishments in these towns, and a few wholesale boot and shoe manufactories. The class of persons employed and the nature of the employment in the three last-mentioned trades is very similar. A few young girls of between 10 and 15 years of age are employed at simple sewing work, and in waiting on the elder workers.

9. The introduction of the sewing machines has considerably altered the system of employment in all these trades. Where the needle is the only instrument used, it is rather to the advantage of the employer to give out the materials to be worked up by the women in their own houses; but to make the most profitable use of the sewing machines it is necessary to have the hands brought into shops, and divided into the two classes of machinists and finishers. The number of hands thus employed by the clothiers, however, is still very small compared with those who work at their own houses. The two largest wholesale clothiers in Leeds employ severally 30 and 50 hands in their own shops, and from 200 to 300 out-workers.

Nature of employment.

10. The sewing machine is generally preferred to the needle by the workers, chiefly on account of the bodily exercise which it affords. The machinists usually sit at their work; but in one shop, a wholesale clothing manufactory, I found the machines were all placed so high that they required the girls to stand while at work. It appears that in all these trades the labour of working the machine is more or less frequently interrupted for short intervals. (Evid. 28–31.)

Place of work.

11. Most of the work-rooms which I visited show that the health and comfort of the workers have been well consulted by their employers. In the largest establishments the work-rooms are in the top floor of the house, with arched ceilings and other special arrangements for ventilation.

Hours of work in millinery and dressmaking houses.

12. Although some of my informants stated that the dressmakers and milliners employed in their towns were not often subjected to so many hours of continuous labour at their sedentary and monotonous employment as in London, where the demands of fashion are more inexorable, and the means of meeting a sudden pressure of work by an increase in the number of hands, less practicable, yet the evidence which I have obtained shows that the practice of working too many hours prevails to a great extent, particularly in the private establishments.

The usual hours of work, including the intervals for meals, are in some houses from 7.30 a.m. to 8 p.m. (Evid. 1.) From 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (Evid. 5, 6.) From 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. (Evid. 4.) In the busy seasons, *i.e.*, for about six weeks or two months consecutively in the summer, and in some cases for another four or five weeks in the autumn the hours of work are much longer. One witness says (evid. 7), "In the months of May, June, and July, we worked until 9 o'clock on Fridays, and on "Saturdays till nearly 12 o'clock." Another says (evid. 12), "We have worked from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. "for five weeks together." The same witness had worked from 9 a.m. to 1 a.m. for five weeks together without going out except on Sundays. Another witness (evid. 15) had worked from 6 a.m. to 9½ p.m. for two months.

In some houses both girls and women work from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m., and the latter to nearly 12 o'clock on Fridays and Saturdays in the busy seasons.

Where mourning has been required in a very short time women have worked for 36 hours consecutively. (Evid. 8.)

Meal times.

13. It appears that there is in very few of these establishments any regularity as to meal times; 20 minutes or half an hour for dinner, and 20 minutes for tea, is all the time usually taken for meals in many places. (Evid. 13, 15, 16.) Except in the case of those who go home to their meals, which is by no means common in the dressmaking trade, the young persons have generally no opportunity of getting out until 8 or 9 o'clock at night. (Evid. 17.) Some mistresses allow a walk in the daytime. (Evid. 15.)

14. The superior advantages to the employed, of large over small establishments, is shown in this as in other trades. The less dependent upon individual customers the employer is, the more able is he to consult the convenience and welfare of his employés, in respect of the time within which he undertakes to execute his orders. It appears that in the dressmaking trade the short time system has been introduced by the larger drapers, and is being gradually forced upon the private establishments. (Evid. 17.)

Hours of work in the cloth cap, wholesale clothing, and boot and shoe manufactories.

15. In the other trades where, their business being wholesale, the employers are less affected by the exigencies of customers, the hours of work are more regular, and only occasionally exceed the usual 12 hours, including the intervals of 1 hour for dinner, and ½ an hour for tea. On Saturdays work generally closes in these trades at 3 or 4 p.m.

16. In one establishment in which a large number of machine hands are employed, that of Mr. Barran, wholesale clothier, at Leeds, the actual hours of work have for some time not exceeded 9½ hours. This employer has found that he can get the same amount of work done during 9½ hours as was formerly done during 10½ hours, with the advantage to the workers of having the labour of standing at their machines being reduced by one hour per day. This employer states that he found "the "vigour of his hands affected by one week's overtime of 11½ hours." (Evid. 30.) In some of the cloth cap manufactories, however, it has been the custom to have recourse to long hours for several weeks in the spring seasons. In one of these establishments the regular hours of work from Easter to Whitsuntide have been 15 per day, including meal times. (Evid. 23.) One witness had worked through the night four or five times. (Evid. 24.) The reason given by the employers for thus resorting to overtime was that their premises were so small that they could not employ extra hands. The statements of Mr. Barran (evid. 19), and Mr. Campbell (evid. 35), shows conclusively that overtime is not necessary even for small establishments.

I have, &c.

FRANCIS D. LONGE,
Assistant Commissioner.

EVIDENCE.

Messrs. Radford & Co., Drapers, Dressmakers, &c., Bond Street, Leeds.

1. *Mr. J. Radford.*—We have all our work executed on the premises. We could not trust the delicate textures we make up out of our own shops. The dresses might be soiled, and great care is required in getting up the goods. In the case of more ordinary and cheaper goods they could be made out, and are made out for many establishments. Work can be got much more cheaply done in the workpeople's homes than in our shops. The workwomen get apprentices to help them without receiving any wages. Our trade varies immensely according to the season; the busiest time is in the spring and autumn. We have six working hands, young women of 20 and upwards, who live on the premises; they remain with us permanently. In the busy season we employ considerably more. The regular hours of work for all are from 7.30 A.M. to 8 P.M., except on Saturday, when work ceases at 5 P.M. They have one hour for dinner and half an hour for tea; they have not a regular time for their meals; they get them at a house near, where there is not room for all at once. We have a few apprentices between 14 and 18; they are not bound. We close our shops at 6 P.M. for eight months out of the 12, and at about 6.30 P.M. during the other two months. Our customers are not the poor people. We should not have many customers come in if we kept open later.

2. *Caroline Stone*, dress-maker.—I have been 15 months in this establishment. I reside on the premises. During the busy season our work begins at 7.30.; never earlier. We work till 8 P.M. There are times when we work later, but we never work later than 9, and never more than two days in the week after 8; all the girls would then work to 9. The youngest girl here now is 14 years and 6 months old. I have never had a girl under 14. No one has ever worked here without stopping for dinner and tea. I think we could do the same work in 10 hours that we now do in 11, but I do not think that all the workers would do as much.

Miss Booth, Park Square, Leeds.

3. *Miss Booth*, dress-maker and milliner.—I should be very glad if something could be done to limit the hours of work for milliners and dress-makers. If all were compelled to observe the same times, I do not think the trade would suffer in the least. The work is not hard, but there is no change in it for the workers. I never take any child under 16. The girls come as apprentices; they are not paid any wages. They come at 8 in the morning and leave at 8 in the evening. They are only learners.

4. *Hannah Green*, milliner.—I have been eight years in the establishment. We have generally seven or eight young women living in the house, and there are about 12 or 14 others employed who live out. We begin to work at 8 or 8.30. We get our breakfasts before begin. We dine at 1 o'clock. We take half an hour for dinner. Those who live out give over work at 8 o'clock. They never work after 8. We in the house sometimes work till 9. We generally work to 9. We don't consider that we work very long hours, but we would much rather give up at 8. I think we could get the same amount of work done in a less time, because we should all hurry more to get it done. We have two rooms; they are excellent work-rooms. We never complain of their being too hot or crowded. This is the largest private house in the town. There are only three or four others. Most of the drapers have young women residing on the premises to make up dresses for their customers. It is not the custom in Leeds to give out work to be done at home. It is done much better on the premises. We work to 8 or 9 on Saturday, as on other days. For six weeks or two months in the year we give over at 8. There are a great many small dressmakers. I have known 20 or 30 persons who have started a little business of their own. They work themselves and employ apprentices, girls between 14 and 18 years of age, to help them. I think these persons work longer than we do. We are quite independent of them, and if our hours of work were shortened, so that we did less work in the day, they would not get any of our business.

Messrs. Smeaton, Drapers, &c., Briggate, Leeds.

5. *Louisa Gosley*, milliner.—I have worked two years in this house. Our busiest time is at Whitsuntide. Our regular hours at that time are from 8 to 8. I have worked to 10 o'clock for two nights in the week. We always stop an hour for dinner and half an hour for tea. I live out and come here to work. We are not crowded in our work-rooms. Our hours are the same as those kept in the shop. We are later on Saturday night than other nights. The shop closes at 7, except on Saturday, when it is kept open till 9½.

Mrs. Johnson, Silk Mercer, &c., 168, Briggate, Leeds.

6. *Mrs. Sarah Johnson.*—I employ about 12 young women at dress-making, &c. I also send work out. Those who take work at home are generally married women, who employ apprentices or one or two other young women to help them. One of these outworkers has five or six sewing machines in her house. It is only the cheaper goods that we send to be made out. Of the young women I employ myself, two live in the house; the others come at 8 and leave at 8. They have one hour for dinner and half an hour for tea. None of our hands work after 8, not five times in the year. When they do, it would be in getting up mourning for funerals. We never have any girls under 16. All the workers go home for their dinners.

Mrs. Hartley, Milliner, &c., 23, Briggate, Leeds.

7. *Mrs. Wain*, milliner.—We have three young women residing in the house, and our number of other hands would vary from 10 to 15. Our regular hours of work are from 8 to 8, but we do not begin till 8½. In the months of May, June, and July we worked until 9 o'clock on Fridays, and on Saturdays till nearly 12. New things are generally wanted for Sunday. We are good for nothing on Sundays. We have no children under 16, and only four between 16 and 18. We do not regularly keep them so late as ourselves, but occasionally the young ones have worked to 11. These hours are too long, and I should wish much for shorter hours. We have an hour for dinner and half an hour for tea.

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Messrs. Horsley, Milliners, &c., Bond Street, Leeds.

8. *Mr. Francis Horsley.*—I have five young women residing in the house, and about 15 to 20 others who reside out. The majority of them are over 20. The youngest is between 14 and 15. We only have one young girl. Our regular hours are from 8 to 8, with an hour for dinner and half an hour for tea. In the busy season, *i.e.*, for three weeks in the spring and three weeks in the autumn, they will work as late as 9. None of them work beyond that, except in very rare cases when mourning has to be got up quickly, and then three or four of the better hands will work up to any time. I have known of cases where women have worked through the whole night and all the next day.

Messrs. Marshall and Snellgrove, Harcourt Place, Scarborough.

9. *Mr. Dippy*, manager.—I do not think the hours during which milliners and dress-makers work in the country are so long as in London. I think the young women might protect themselves by making better agreements with their employers, when they go to reside in their houses. If they were to claim extra wages for overwork it would be good for them. I do not think the competition or number of workers in London would prevent their getting better terms. It is a mistake to suppose that there are so many good workers in London. We refuse orders which we cannot comfortably finish, and so do Marshall and Snellgrove in London.

10. *Miss Harriet Peckham.*—I have been seven years in this establishment. We seldom work later than from 8 to 8, but for about four nights in the season we should work to 10; we never work after that. Our work-room is never crowded; we have about 13 girls and young women in it at the busiest time.

11. *Fanny Powell*, dressmaker.—I have been nearly eight years residing in this establishment. There are two others living in the house. The number of the day-workers varies from 8 to 16. Our busiest time is from July to September. The youngest girls are between 16 and 18; we never take them under 16. In the busy time we begin at 8 and finish at 8 in the evening. The day-workers are paid extra for over-time, but not those who live in the house. If we have much work to do I send for other hands, so that we are never driven ourselves to work much after 8. In London they cannot get day-workers, so that if there is much work, the women in the house must work overtime to get it done. We are not at all uncomfortably crowded, even when we have the greatest number of hands at work.

Misses Shilleto, Dressmakers, &c., 29, Spurrier Gate, York.

12. *Miss Mary Shilleto.*—We employ about nine hands; there are eight now with us. Our busiest times are about six weeks in June and July, and six weeks in October and November. We never begin to work before 9 in the winter; we give up now at 8. Our longest hours are from 9 to 11. For the last three weeks we have given up at 8. The day-workers never stay beyond 10, and only during two months in the year do they stay so late as 9, *i.e.*, for every night consecutively. In case of mourning orders they work later. None of our hands work later than we do ourselves. We have three girls of about 17 or 18, none younger. We have not worked later than 11 twice in the last year. We have worked from 9 to 11 for five weeks together. We dine with our assistants. Our dinners are not taken at regular times. We refuse orders sometimes; we refused one yesterday. A lady wanted a dress made in two days because she was going away. There is a difficulty about getting extra hands when we have much work to be done; it is not easy to get good hands, and it is much more expensive. The sewing machines certainly save labour. We have not worked so long since we had them as before, and we are able to let our customers have their things in a shorter time now, without working extra hours ourselves. The young women who live with us often leave off work at 5 o'clock, and go out to see their friends. They go away at Christmas for three or four days or a week, without any deduction from their salaries. We work in the same room with our assistants. I used to work at an establishment in York which is not in existence now. I have worked there for five weeks together from 9 to 10 at night, without going out at all except on Sundays. I do not think any work such long hours now. I think the sewing machine has done much to stop it, and the trade is more divided. The shop I worked in was very fashionable, every lady went to it.

Messrs. Leake and Thorp, Drapers and Milliners, Parliament Street, York.

13. *Annie Mawson*, milliner.—I have been five years and more in this establishment. I live at home and come here to work. I come at 9 in the morning, and go home at 7 o'clock in the evening in winter and at 8 in the summer. I have worked to 9 or 9½ for one or two days in the week for about five weeks together in the spring. Most of the young women here go home. I dine here. There are about six or seven apprentices. They all go away to dinner and tea, and stay away an hour each time. We generally take about 20 minutes for dinner and a quarter of an hour for tea. I have never heard any of my friends complain of being worked too late.

Messrs. Purdy, Wholesale and Retail Milliners, &c., Samson Square, York.

14. *Louisa Webb.*—I have been here 2½ years. I live out and come here to work. I come at about 8½ and go away at 8 in the evening. I have never stopped to 9 except on Saturdays, and then I have stopped to 10. I go home to dinner. We have an hour for dinner and half an hour for tea. That is a regular agreement with all of us.

Mrs. Winn, Dressmaker, &c., Coney Street, York.

15. *Mary Ann Flood*, dress-maker.—I have lived here 11 years. There are two other young women living in the house; the youngest is 17, the others are all over 20. Our regular hours are from 8 to 8. We sometimes begin at 6 o'clock in the summer and work to 9 or 9½. We work these hours for about two months in the summer every day in the week. We have our meals regularly. We generally stop about half an hour for dinner and 20 minutes for tea. We generally get a walk sometime in the day, even in the busiest time. I have had an hour for the last fortnight every day between 10 and 12 in the morning. I know one or two places in York where the young ladies go out for walks in the day-time. I do not know whether it is common in other places.

[N.B.—This witness was the niece of the mistress of the establishment.]

Messrs. Gibson and Boyce, Drapers, Dressmakers, &c., Piccadilly, Bradford.

16. *Mr. Boyce.*—We have employed dress-makers in connexion with our shop business for about two months. We have six young ladies resident, and we employ about 14 others. Our hours of business are from 7 A.M. to 7 P.M., but the milliners and dress-makers do not come till 9 o'clock. They have never staid later than 8 P.M., except on Saturdays, when we do not close our shop till 8, and then they stay a few minutes later. I believe we get better hands by the short-hour system. We do not give an hour for dinner; they generally stop work for about half an hour for dinner, and the same time for tea. I believe Bradford is better than any other town in England for early closing; all the principal shops in the town are closed at 7 P.M., except on Saturdays, and then most of them are closed at 9; some not before 10 or 11.

Mrs. Lumb, Dressmaker and Milliner, Horton Road, Bradford.

17. *Mrs. Lumb.*—I have two dress-makers living with me, and I employ about 12 other day-workers. Our regular hours of work are now from 9 A.M. to 8 P.M. We frequently give up at noon on Saturdays. The day-workers always go away at the regular time, unless I ask them to stay longer. I do not think we have ever kept any of the day-workers beyond 9 P.M. even in the busy seasons. We keep the same hours throughout the year. It was only yesterday that we changed our hours to 8 P.M., instead of 9 P.M. My reason for doing so was that the young women requested it, and because the hours of work at the drapers' establishments are only from 9 o'clock to 7. My young women always have an hour for dinner and another hour for tea. It is certainly not the custom for the young women who live in the houses of dress-makers to go out for walks in the daytime. They can go out at 8 o'clock at night, and are sometimes sent out on business in the daytime.

Mr. Holmes', Drapery and Millinery Establishment, Darley Street, Bradford.

18. *Mr. Holmes.*—We have five young women, who we hire by the year; they live in lodgings which I provide for them. I employ about 14 or 16 other day-workers. Our regular hours are from 8 A.M. to 8 P.M. They have an hour for dinner, and another hour for tea at 5 o'clock. None of our hands would work beyond these hours for so much as six weeks in the year. They have all a fortnight's holiday during the year. They cannot get out during the day, except occasionally. None of us can. It is a common thing for young women to ask an employer what his hours of work are before they hire themselves. The hours of work in the country are nothing to what they are in the West End houses in London. One young woman told me her usual hours were to 1 or 2 o'clock in the morning in a West End house where she had been employed.

Messrs. Scolefield and Rice, Mantle Manufacturers, East Parade, Leeds.

19. *Mr. J. Rice.*—We employ about 50 hands, principally in making mantles. About 30 of these work on our own premises. They are all young women; only two are under 18. Young girls would be no use. It takes about three months to learn the sewing machine. Young girls could work it; but it would never be to the interest of the employer to employ cheap labour at the machines. I should say there are not many young girls employed at the sewing machines anywhere. Our hours of work are from 8 A.M. to 8 P.M. in summer, and from 8.30 A.M. to 7 P.M. in winter. These hours are very rarely exceeded. I do not suppose we worked a week's overtime all through the summer. We never worked more than an hour overtime each day. In the winter we never have any overtime.

Mr. J. Buckley, Cloth Cap Manufacturer, Bond Street, Leeds.

20. *Mr. J. Buckley.*—We have no girls under 15 employed at the sewing machines. We only employ young women at this work. After two or three months they can earn from 8*s.* to 14*s.* a week, according to their skilfulness. We only employ young girls for sewing the lining and the leathers on the caps. We never had so many young girls as we have now; we have six under 13. The sewing machines have diminished the labour of the older girls. Before the machines were introduced all our work was done out. The mothers made the caps at home, and got their children to help them. I should not object to the Factories Act being extended to our trade. I am enlarging my rooms, and building a dining-room for the girls.

21. *Maryanne Kirns.*—I am going 10. I have worked here about four or five months. I come at 7 and go away at 7. I don't think I have worked after 7 once since I have been here. I get 1*s.* 6*d.* a week. I runs leathers, and lines. I can't read. I have been a week at school.

22. *Mary Elizabeth Chadwick.*—I am going 15. I worked at Marshall's flax mill from the time I was 10 years old to a few months back. I worked in the heckling room. I gave it up because I began to get poorly, so I came here. I like this work better. I go away at 7. I have never stopped after 7. I was three years at school as a half-timer. I did not learn to read. We only learnt to read half an hour every other day. Some learnt to read. We used to sing.

Mr. J. Sunderland, Cloth Cap Manufacturer, 38, Albion Street, Leeds.

23. *Mrs. Sunderland.*—We have about 35 young women working on the premises; about half these are machinists, and the other half finishers. We have none under 13. They are no use to us under 14. We have three between 14 and 16, and four about 16 or 17. Besides these we employ two men to make caps for us. They are Germans. They employ girls to help them at their own homes. Our regular hours are from 8 to 8. We used to work from 8 to 9; since we have reduced our hours (about three years) I do not think we have had less work done. Of course the girls must be kept up to their work more. Those who live at a distance have half an hour for breakfast after they come. All have one hour for dinner and half an hour for tea. For six weeks before Whitsuntide we are very busy, and hitherto we have had overtime. They have worked from 6 to 9 from Easter to Whitsuntide. The girls get extra wages for this overtime, from 2*s.* to 3*s.* per week. The girls prefer working overtime to having additional hands brought in.

24. *Emma Teale.*—I have worked 14 years for Mrs. Sunderland. Our busy time is from Easter to Whitsuntide. During [illegible] weeks we have worked from 6 in the morning [illegible] night. I have worked

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all night four or five times. I was not much the worse for it. I had to lay in bed all Sunday. I have never stayed away from work more than three weeks since I have been here.

25. *Anna Sellers.*—I have worked about five years for Mrs. Sunderland. I have only stayed away two days for illness since I have been here. I have never worked all night. When we work overtime we get extra pay. I think I would rather work overtime and get the extra money than that other women should be brought in to do the extra work.

Mr. G. Redihalch, Cap Manufacturer, Trinity Street, Leeds.

26. *Mr. G. Redihalch.*—I employ about 50 young women and girls. None of them are under 13. The youngest are between 14 and 16. We have about 30 under 18. We have only two out-workers; they are married women. Our busy time is about one month before Whitsuntide. All our hands are paid day wages. They run from 2*s.* to 10*s.* per week. We have never worked through the night for the last five years. The machines have saved all that. Every year there are more sewing machines used. I think it will come to this, that the hours of work will be limited by law. I heard the other day of some one in our trade who was going to work from 6 to 9 to get up an order.

27. *Emma Worthington.*—I have worked here three years. I come at 7½ and go away at 7½. These are our usual hours. At Whitsuntide we have overtime from 6 in the morning to 8 or 9 at night. All the hands work these hours then. All get extra pay for the overtime. Once or twice the older hands have worked to 10. We have breakfast before we come; we stop an hour for dinner and half an hour for tea. I do not think the long hours at Whitsuntide ever knocked any of the girls up. I have never stayed away for illness once that I know of. We give over at 3½ on Saturdays.

28. *Mrs. Brownfit.*—I have worked a sewing machine six years. I worked for a ready-made tailor before that. I generally work from 7½ to 7½. I would just as soon work all day at the machine as with my needle. I rather prefer the machine. We rest quite as much with the machine as when sewing. We have to stop to fill the bobbin, and change the work; with some work we are constantly stopping. We never could go on for a quarter of an hour without stopping at sewing caps. I think the exercise is healthy; we work with both feet. I used to work at Mr. Davis's at Halifax. We never worked later than 8 then.

Messrs. Hyam and Co., Wholesale and General Tailors, &c., Briggate, Leeds.

29. *Mr. Haliday,* manager.—We employ about 30 young women as machinists and finishers on the premises. They are employed entirely in the shipping and wholesale department. We have men besides employed in the order department. We also employ several out-workers in the wholesale department. We have nearly 200 out-workers. They are men; they take the work and get their wives and children to help them. The wages of the in-door workers are 20 per cent. higher than those of the out-door workers. One reason is, that the employment for the out-workers is a lower class of trade, and more regular. They can, however, earn more money at home than the in door workers. The hours of work for the men on our premises are from 6 to 8. The women work from 8 to 8. Our men can earn 2*l.* or 2*l.* 10*s.* in the week, but some only earn 10*s.*

Mr. John Barran, Wholesale Clothier, Alfred Street, Leeds.

30. *Mr. J. Barran.*—I employ about 50 young women on the premises, and between 200 and 300 out-workers, The latter are all women employed by me; they work in their own houses. All these hands are women and girls from 14 years of age to 40. I think the regulation by law of the shops in which young women are employed, both as to the state of the shops and the hours of work, would be very beneficial to the health and morality of the persons employed. I think their hours of work ought to be restrained to 10 hours per day. We only work our hands about 9½ hours per day, *i.e.*, from 8 A.M. to 7 P.M., with one hour at 1 o'clock for dinner and half an hour at 4 o'clock for tea. My hands are all hired to work from 8 to 8, but it is an understanding between us that if they keep ahead of their work they may leave at 7, and in effect they all do leave at 7, and the place is closed at that hour. The young women employed on the premises are nearly all machinists; I think the machine work is more laborious than the hand sewing. I do not consider that my trade would suffer by my being prevented from recourse to overtime even for a few days. I found that a week's overtime of 11½ hours per day affected the vigour of the hands. I do not consider that occasional overtime is necessary even for persons beginning business, when their premises are small and their hands are few. I began in a very small way, and I have never had recourse to overtime for more than a fortnight. I do not think an absolute restriction of hours would hinder a man getting on in his business. In my retail business I only employ men. They are very irregular. It is more profitable for employers who have sewing machines to have their machine work done on the premises than by work-people at their own homes. For instance, if we paid 1*s.* for making a pair of trowsers to an out-worker, we should be able to get the same work done for somewhat less in our own shops, and the small difference accumulates in a large quantity of goods, and thus the profit becomes considerable.

Our business does not depend much upon orders; we make our goods in anticipation, and send out our travellers and sell our work.

31. *Eliza Lyndley.*—I have worked here three years. I work a machine. I come at 8 and go away at 7. I have one hour for dinner and half an hour for tea. I prefer working with the machine than sewing with the needle. I do not think it is hard work. I used to work at Scolefield and Rice's. I worked there from 8 to 8. When I first went it was from 8 to 7. They changed because they said other shops worked to 8. I do not think we did much more with the extra hour; we might have done a little more. I once or twice worked there from 7 to 10; not more than twice; often from 8 to 9 and 8 to 10 for four days together; not more than that.

Messrs. Stead and Simpson, Boot and Shoe Manufacturers, Kirkgate, Leeds.

32. *Mr. Simpson.*—We employ about 40 to 60 hands on the premises. We also employ about 20 women who work at home. They make slippers, the cheapest class of work. They are married women. Their pay is very small, they earn from 1*s.* 3*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* per day. There are several men in the shoe trade who have machines of their own, and employ children, their own and others, in their own wretched cottages. I have been much struck with the improvement in the manners and appearance of the shoe-workers since they have been brought into our shops. We tried to put the men to work in our shops, but they would not.

33. *Mrs. Law,* finisher.—There are about three

or four girls under 13 working here. There are about 40 women altogether in the two rooms. The little ones baste the work for the sewing machines, or wind bobbins, or carry the work from one room to the other. The younger girls get about 2*s.* or 2*s.* 6*d.* a week; 11*s.* is the highest wages any of us get. Our work has been pretty regular throughout the year. We have not worked to 8 more than two or three times. On Saturdays we always give up at 4. We consider it quite healthy work. I think all the little ones can read. I do not think all the big ones can. Sewing Trades. Mr.F.D.Longe. a.

34. *Nelly Frobisher.*—I am going 14. I was going 11 when I first came. I used to baste when I first came. I work a machine now. I begin at 8 and give over at 7. I have one hour at 12 o'clock for dinner, and half an hour at 4½ for tea. I have never stopped after 7. I can read a bit. I have worked the machine a year. I don't think working the machine is harder than sewing.

Mr. Elijah Gledhill, Boot and Shoe Manufacturer, Bedford Street, Leeds.

35. *Mr. E. Gledhill.*—I employ between 60 and 70 young women on the premises, and about 80 men and boys in my shops in Park lane. The young women are fitters and machinists. We work from 6½ to 6½. For six weeks or two months before Whitsuntide the hours are from 6½ to 8. We never work after 8. We have no girls under 13, and not more than 10 between 13 and 18. The women have half an hour for breakfast at 8, and an hour for dinner at 12 o'clock. Each man in the other place employs one boy. The boys are called spriggers. They nail the soles on. There are about 20 boys there now. In the busy season we should have 30. I am now arranging for these men to take their work home and do it at home. All the finishers work at home now. Boys are of use to the finishers, but I don't know whether they employ them or not.

Mr. Campbell, Cloth Cap Manufacturer, Albion Street, Leeds.

36. *Mr. Campbell.*—I have only started this business four years, and I do not think that a law absolutely preventing our working overtime would at all prejudice my business. The advantage of having the sewing machines worked on one's own premises is so great that I do not think that such a law would hinder the employment of machinists in our shops, or lead to the employment of out-workers. I employ now about 25 hands in my own rooms, and the same number out. The out-workers are not machinists. Our hours are from 8 A.M. to 7½ P.M. in the winter, and in the summer months from 7½ to 7½, with one hour for dinner and half an hour for tea.

THE MANUFACTURE OF PAPER TUBES IN THE WEST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE.

Gentlemen,

1. The manufacture of spools or paper tubes for the worsted yarn spinners, constitutes a comparatively new trade, in which the hands consist almost entirely of children, for the most part girls, of ages varying from 7 to 13. The Manufacture of Paper Tubes. Mr.F.D.Longe.

2. Spools are small paper tubes made to fit the bobbins on which the yarn is wound on the spinning frames. In packing the yarn for exportation, a great saving of expense is effected by substituting the light compressible paper tube for the wooden bobbins.

3. The process of manufacturing these tubes is extremely simple. A few children and an overlooker are all the hands required. Each child is provided with an iron rod, of the same diameter as the bobbins, paste and paste-brush, and a packet of small square pieces of paper. The child pastes one side of the paper, folds it round the rod, and the spool is made. The children drop the spools into baskets, which are carried off by the overlooker. He sorts the spools, gives back the bad ones to be remade, and dries the perfect ones in a stove. After being dried, the spools are ready for use. A quick child makes about 6,000 spools in a day. In some shops the children sit, in others they stand as they work.

4. This trade is principally carried on in the parishes of Keighley and Bingley, near Bradford. There are about 10 separate places of work in this neighbourhood, five of which I have visited. I believe these tubes are also made in the same way at Glasgow, in the north of Ireland, and in other places, but not to any great extent. The employers expect that the trade will increase considerably in a few years. There are about 250 children employed in the neighbourhood of Bradford at the present time. The majority of these children are girls between 8 and 12 years of age. Number and ages of children.

5. These children are now working about eight or nine hours per day, exclusive of meal times, *i.e.* from 7 a.m. to 5 30 or 6 p.m., with half an hour interval for breakfast at 8 a.m., and an hour for dinner at 12 or 12 30 p.m. In one shop the children leave work at 4 p.m. On Saturdays work ceases in all these shops at about 1 p.m. These hours, however, have been considerably exceeded, and probably will be again exceeded when the demand increases. (Evid. 2.) The children have worked from 6 30 a.m. to 7, 8, and 9 p.m. (meal times excepted.) (Evid. 2, 6, 9.) Hours of work.

6. The children are all hired and paid by the master; the rate of payment is 1*d.* or 1¼*d.* per lb. of paper. A pound of paper contains between 500 and 600 pieces. The quickest and most persevering children can earn 6*s.* in the week. At the present time their average earnings are about 3*s.*; the younger children earn about 2*s.* (Evid. 7, 10, 12.) Hiring and wages.

7. Some of the shops which I visited were on an upper floor, dry, warm, and well ventilated. In one case the children were distributed through the rooms of an old house. In another they worked in part of an old barn. Most of these shops are in buildings the other parts of which are used for other purposes. One shop is in a large paper warehouse, another is over a weaving shop. State of place of work.

The Manufacture of Paper Tubes.

Mr. F. D. Longe.

a. Evils of the present system.

8. Although the children in the shops which I visited appeared to be happy and enjoying their occupation, they are far too young to be employed for many hours day after day at the same monotonous and incessant labour, while they are necessarily deprived of almost all education; of 11 children between 10 and 14 (the oldest children I saw at work) only one could read, and only two had ever been to a day-school. Of 15 of the younger children, of about 8 and 9 years of age, only two could read, and they were the children of the foreman, who were working half days, and going to school during the other half days.

9. At Messrs. Forster's Mill, at Queensbury, near Bradford, the spools used by the firm are made in the mill. About 50 little boys, all between 8 and 11 years of age, are employed in relays at this work, under the regulations of the Factories Acts.

10. Some of the masters at Keighley and Bingley are desirous of having the regulations of these Acts extended to the children employed in their shops. They consider that the half-time system would be very beneficial to the children, as well as advantageous to themselves, if they were all compelled to observe it. The work being so simple and uniform, could easily be carried on by relays; and they have found that under the present system the children are irregular as to the time of coming to work, and liable to waste time while at their work, particularly in the afternoon. They anticipate more regularity and assiduity from the children when working under the half-time system. In these shops there are already a few voluntary half-timers, but the masters would not be able to carry out the system generally without slightly raising the rate of wages. In order to do this they would wish to indemnify themselves by raising the price of the spools, which they would have no difficulty in doing if they were all compelled to observe the same system.

I have, &c.

FRANCIS D. LONGE,
Assistant Commissioner.

Leeds,
December 1863.

EVIDENCE.

MR. W. HANSON'S PAPER TUBE MANUFACTORY, BINGLEY.

1. *Mr. W. Hanson.*—I think it is quite necessary that the children working for me should have schooling, and I should not make objection to the application of the Factories Acts to this trade. I could not conveniently carry out the half-time system myself unless all the other masters in the trade concurred. I consider that 10 hours work per day at the work at which these children are engaged is too much for children of their age. It must be injurious to their constitution. They are paid by the quantity of work they do. The work is quite incessant, *i. e.*, if they are willing and able to keep on working all the time, there is nothing in the nature of the work itself to require their stopping. They can earn from 2*s.* to 4*s.* or 5*s.* per week. A woman could not earn so much, she could not work so quickly.

2. *William Stevenson*, manager.—This shop has been working not quite 12 months. The children make spools for the worsted yarn spinners. Our numbers vary from 20 to 40. We have now about 26 girls at work. The best hands are between 8 and 12 years of age. I do not think we have more than one child over 13. The hour at which they begin in the morning is sometimes 6.30, sometimes 7, and now it is 8. They get breakfast now before they come. They never come before 6; they generally begin at 6.30 in summer, then they have half an hour at 8 for breakfast. They always have an hour at 1½ for dinner. They all go home for dinner, and generally for breakfast. When they begin at 6.30 they leave off at different times; sometimes at 5 p.m., and sometimes not before 7 p.m. They have never worked after 7 p.m. here that I can remember. We have been giving over lately at 5 and 5.30 p.m. They generally go home to tea when they work to 7 p.m. No heat is required in the room, but the stove used for drying the spools throws out heat. If the demand for spools increased, the children would work longer hours than they are doing now. Two years ago there were only four factories of this kind, and then the demand was so great that some of the shops worked much later hours (last winter for instance) than they are working now. I know that in one shop the children have worked for some days together from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., and for weeks together from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. I know that children who have been at work in the factories up to 6 p.m. have gone to work in the spool shops after they left the factory. I have had cases when mothers have wanted us to allow their children to work here half the day and go to school the other half; we had one quite lately. I have no fear of our being able to get the two lots of children. The only inconvenience about carrying out fully the regulations of the Factory Act would be, that we could not discharge all the children at the same moment. They could all leave for meals at the same time, but in leaving at night each child has to be settled with separately, and it takes about half an hour to settle with all of them. Each child gets 1¼*d.* for working up one pound of paper. One pound of paper contains about 600 pieces. The common price given is only 1*d.* per pound.

3. *Henrietta Heaton.*—I am going 14. I have worked at spool making three months here and three years at Crabtree's. I come at about 7 in the morning and leave at about 5 in the evening. I have never stopped here longer than 5. I go away for breakfast and dinner. I have earned about 4*s.* I can't read. I worked 14 months at Anderton's factory. I went to school for half the day then. I could read the Testament then. I never was tired at making tubes either at Crabtree's or here, but I was at the factory. I used to spin. Half a day spinning at the factory is harder work than a whole day here. I got 1*s.* 6*d.* a week at the factory.

4. *Mary Weldon.*—I am going 8. My sister works here with me. I come at 8. I don't come before because mother wants me to fetch milk. I always go away with my sister, sometimes at half-past 4. I was more than a fortnight at school. I have one brother. Three of us are dead. Father is dead. Mother is not well; she cannot work.

5. *Elizabeth Weldon* (sister of No. 4.)—I used to work at the mill as a spinner. I am just 13. I think half a day working at the mill is harder than a whole day here. We sit here. I was not strong enough for the mill. I and my little sister earn 4*s.* between us sometimes. My brother earns 8*s.* 6*d.* Mother has relief.

MESSRS. CRABTREE'S PAPER TUBE MANUFACTORY, BINGLEY.

The Manufa ture of Pap Tubes.

Mr. F. D. Lon

a.

6. *Thomas Smith*, manager.—We have 49 children making spools. We don't like to take them under 8 years of age. We have three as old as 14 or 15. Of the children now here 10 or 12 are boys. The earnings of the children for the week vary from about 2*s.* to 6*s.* We begin at 7 in the morning and close at 5.30 or 5.45. We stop for half an hour at 8 and an hour at 12.30. All are away by a quarter to 6 in the evening. We have had no children working beyond 6 during the last summer. We have worked later. We have worked to 8 o'clock for a month at a time; but I do not remember any child working as late as 9 p.m. We do not work overtime now, because there is no necessity for it. If there was a pressure we should of course work overtime, *i.e.*, to 8 p.m. I think the half time system would be better for the children; they ought to go to school. I do not think there would be any difficulty in getting the children. A child of 8 or 9 years of age earns about 1*s.* 3*d.* in the factory. I think two lots of children would be able to make more spools in the 10½ hours allowed by the Factory Act than one lot working the whole day, as now. I think a half timer at this work would be able to earn nearly if not quite as much in the week as they do in the factories, without any increase of the rate of wages; but if it was necessary to raise the rate of wages, a higher price could easily be got for the spools.

7. *Martha Jane Slater.*—I am going 9. I came to work last Bingley fair. I come at 7 and leave at 5½. Sometimes we work over. I have never worked over. Mother says I must go to mill next Bingley fair. I like this better than the mill. Mother says I can learn summut at school when I go to the mill. When I go home now I am not tired. I help mother to wash up. I go to bed at 8. I have two brothers and one sister. I can earn 3*s.* 6*d.* in the week. I have earned that three weeks running. I get 1*d.* for a pound of papers.

[I examined 15 children of ages varying from 8 to 12. Only four could read at all, and two of these were the manager's own children, who went to school for half the day. Of 11 children between 10 and 14, only one could read; two or three only had ever been to school.]

MESSRS. CRABTREE'S MANUFACTORY, MICKLETHWAITE, NEAR BINGLEY.

8. *William Eccles*, manager.—I have 28 children now at work. We begin at 7 and give over at 4 in the afternoon. We use no lights, either in the morning or afternoon. All the children go away at 8 for breakfast and at 12 for dinner. Most of the children are about 8 or 9 years of age. The youngest would be about 6. Four or five would be about 11.

[Of the seven children present at the time of my visit, not one professed herself able to read.]

MR. W. AMBLER'S PAPER TUBE MANUFACTORY, KEIGHLEY.

9. *Mr. W. Ambler.*—The best age for spool makers is about 10 or 11. We have none less than 8. The average earnings of children of 10 to 12 would be 5*s.* or 6*s.* throughout the year. A child of 8, after a few weeks, would earn 6*d.* a day. Our children work standing. It is better for us and for them. They are not so liable to become bent. Our hours have for the last seven or eight months been from 7 in the morning to 5.30 in the afternoon. At one time we worked them to 8 or 9, but I found that the children could not keep on at such long hours, and that with a little pushing we could get as much work done with shorter hours. I consider that if we had two lots, more work would be done by the fresh lot in the afternoon than is now done by the children who have been working in the morning. I undoubtedly wish to have our children work under the Factory Act regulations. It would be better for us. They would be more regular in coming, and would work more regularly when here, as they would have such a short time to earn their wages in; and of course it would be for their good as well as ours. Spools might be made by the children at home, and have been made in private houses, but I do not think that they could be made advantageously in this way. Paper bags can be made out just as well as in shops. The same class of children can make bags as make tubes. My father employs his tube makers to make bags sometimes. The work of making paper bags, and little paper boxes, pill-boxes, &c. is very much the same as that of making paper tubes.

10. *Annie Thompson.*—I am 8½. I have worked here about one month. I went to National school. I can't read so much. I come at 8½ now. I go away at 5½. I never stopped after. When I get home I knit till 8. I knit stockings for brother. I have no father nor mother. I addled 1*s.* 11*d.* last week. I am not tired of standing in the evening. I go away for dinner.

MESSRS. RAMSDEN & DICKENSON'S PAPER TUBE MANUFACTORY, KEIGHLEY.

11. *Mr. Edmund Dickenson.*—I do not think that the parents would ever employ their children at making spools at home, even though they could only work half days in our shops; they would require so much looking after; and besides, they could not dry the spools properly. I think, however, that if the half-time system was made compulsory in our trade, the parents would not send their children here at all, as they could not earn enough wages. The average earnings of girls of 8 and 9 now are about 1*s.* 6*d.* per week; but at a mill the half-timers of that age earn about 2*s.*

12. *Anne Wright.*—I am going 8. I have worked here about three weeks. I addle 1*s.* sometimes. I come at 9 and go away at 6 at night. I have stopped after 6. I never went to school.

13.

Bingley, near Leeds,
August 7th, 1861.

My Lord,

In glancing down one of the columns of yesterday's Times my attention has been caught by your motion in Parliament for "An inquiry into the "employment of young children, &c.".

Your Lordship will not take it amiss, perhaps, if I suggest one system of employment of children, which deserves to be investigated by every consideration for their good. I mean that which occurs in paper manufactories, and especially that which occurs in the spool-making workshops. Your Lordship may, possibly, never have heard of the latter; and I may be permitted to describe their character.

The Manufacture of Paper Tubes.

Mr. F. D. Longe.

a.

The spool shop is a place where children are employed in making spools, or paper tubes, for the worsted yarn manufacturers. These spools serve instead of wooden bobbins on account of their lightness and cheapness, and upon them the yarn is wound for export to foreign markets. Some months ago I visited one of these workshops, of which there are, I believe, three or four in the neighbourhood. The place is low situated, and a low built room, once a malt-kiln. There were 30 or 40 children sitting at each side of three long planks or tables; at one end of the room is ranged a series of drying frames, kept by means of hot air at a high temperature, night and day. Altogether an unclean, a crowded and ill ventilated place. The children's ages varied from 5 years to 13 and 14, but for the most part they would be about 7 or 8. They were of both sexes. The work of each consists in plastering with flour paste one surface of a square of stiff paper of about three inches, and then in neatly folding this around a cylinder of wood of finger thickness; one end of the wood is secured around the child's neck, and the other end, which is free rests against the edge of the table, being pressed thereon by the breast of the child while folding, and again quickly jerked aside in slipping off the tube. To each child is weighed out a pound of these paper squares, for by weight is the amount of its work and the worth of its labour reckoned. The child takes its seat with its pile of papers; on its right hand is a basin of paste; with a brush it smears 20 or 30 of these squares one after another, and then, in the case of an expert, folds each one of these on the rod with a wonderful rapidity. As each tube is slipped off the rod it is dipped into a bucket on the floor, and so on, until the pile is finished, and another pound of paper served out. The baskets are emptied by the overlooker on the heated frames, where the tubes dry and stiffen into the spools in 24 hours.

This is the manufacture of spools, and supposing your Lordship to be unacquainted with the process, it was necessary to explain something about it.

Now, as to the children. They are varied, at whatever early age their parents choose to have them employed, provided they have or can soon acquire dexterous use of their fingers. All depends on this, and upon unwandering attention. Their little hands and their eyes must work with the speed of machinery, or their labour would be worth nothing to their parents or master. Their hours of labour are from 7 a.m. to 5, 6, and 7 p.m., according to the necessities of the master, but on Saturdays the shop, as a rule, closes earlier. I forget what time for meal stoppages they have. Some of the children earn 1*s.* 4*d.*, some 3*s.*, and some 5*s.* per week; and one little girl of 11 years, whom her master boasted of as a very model hand for industry and manual swiftness, can sometimes earn between 6*s.* and 7*s.*

I am myself the certifying surgeon under the Factory Act for the district, and have about 25 mills belonging to it. Several of those I visit weekly and some fortnightly; and as my business there is concerned with the physical aptitude of children for labour, and incidentally with their education, their habits as a body, their occupations, and their condition of mind and body has been a study to me, if nothing else. I speak from this experience when I say to your Lordship that I know no place of labour so direful and crippling to the bodies and minds of these children like this of the spool shop. And how hopeless to speculate on the prospective state of their morals, when one considers the complete neglect of their education, the wearisome strain day by day of their muscular system, and the want of home comforts and protection, which it is reasonable to infer from the inconsiderativeness of their parents in subjecting them to toil so early.

At a mill in my district, two months since, a tall girl of 14 years offered herself for a certificate to work full time. I did not catch her name easily, and asked her to spell it for me. This she could not do, though the name was no more difficult than Dusberry. It is a saving exception ever to find a child of 13 requesting to be passed full time after having worked as a half-timer, and unable to spell his or her name. I therefore inquired of this girl her antecedents, and found that she had for several years been working at the spool-shop, and now she had left because she had grown too big to work there amongst little children without shame. I think this as guilty an evasion of the Factory Act as could well be.

I remain, &c.

H. Grainger Earnshaw.

The Earl of Shaftesbury.

Bingley, near Leeds,

My Lord, July 27th, 1863.

Nigh two years since I took occasion to bring to your Lordship's notice a branch of industry extensive and extending in this district,—the paper tube business, and the hardships inflicted on children employed therein. Various representations have been made to the authorities on the subject, with a view to show the importance of the trade, the numbers of children of tender age, who are the chief workers in it, their long hours of labour, ill-health, neglected education, &c. Yet I observe that they seem to be rigidly excluded from the benefits contemplated for other branches of child labour by an extension of the Factory Act.

I see that your Lordship has again interested yourself in the matter, and I again venture to trouble your Lordship with mention of this overlooked evil. My duty as certifying surgeon under the Factory Act for this district has made me familiar with the blessed provisions of that Act for the safety and well-being of the working classes, and it would be easy for me to describe circumstances of a very painful kind from the want of its exercise over other industries, but especially this of tube making.

I just content myself with enclosing a certificate from the manager of one of these manufactories employing about 80 hands, and a tube shewing the nature of the business.

I remain, &c.

H. Grainger Earnshaw.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury.

Certificate enclosed.

Hill Street, Bingley,

May 5th, 1863.

This is to certify that I have known children to go to work at 6 o'clock in the morning, and not give up until 9 o'clock at night, except for their meals.

William Stephenson.

REPORT upon the MANUFACTURE of WEARING APPAREL, by Mr. J. E. White.

To Her Majesty's Commissioners.

Gentlemen,

1. The inquiry which I was directed by you to make was in the first instance intended to be confined to the employments of millinery and dress-making, but as the inquiry proceeded it was found that some other trades concerned with the manufacture of various articles of clothing and wearing apparel were now closely connected therewith, and it was thought expedient to treat of all these employments as one subject. Trades included.

2. The places to which the evidence relates are in England,—Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, Sheffield, and some other towns,—Ireland, and Scotland. Places.

3. The progress of trade has led to millinery and the making of several articles of wearing apparel being now in many cases largely carried on as wholesale manufactures, and the tendency appears to be still further in this direction. A great agent in this change has been the general introduction within the last few years of the use of the sewing machine, for which steam power is now used in some cases, and probably will be to a still greater extent. In all cases that I have seen the machines are attended by females their strength being sufficient, and their quickness and other obvious reasons making it advantageous so to employ them. It is convenient that the preliminary needlework, which is required, and some other operations should be performed in the premises where the machines are used. Hence females are now employed in large establishments not merely in making shirts, collars, sleeves, stays, skirts, and general underclothing, but also in tailoring, cap making, and boot making. An army clothing factory which I visited employs usually from 1,000 to 1,200 persons, nearly all females, and in a boot factory, employing nearly 1,300 persons, towards a fourth are females, and nearly half of the 1,300 are children and young persons. There are several establishments of the kind referred to employing females in considerable numbers, such as from 50 up to several hundreds. In some cases the manufacture is the main business, in others it forms only a part, more or less subordinate, of the business of the warehouse in which it is carried on. Tendency of the trades to become manufacturers.

4. Such places seem, in the natural sense of the word, factories; but there is no point at which I am able to draw a satisfactory line between these and what are commonly spoken of as private houses. The private houses of the higher class, with a view of making their business more remunerative, keep a stock of their own and refuse or care little to make up dresses unless they sell the material, and thus become properly retail houses. Drapers' and silkmercers' retail houses, on the other hand, to retain the sale of their goods, have within a recent period, put in different places usually at from 5 to 10 or 15 years, very generally taken up the business of milliners and dress-makers, carried on on the premises; the number of workers employed in each place varying with the scale of the business, being usually from 3 or 4 up to 40 or 50, but in a few cases as many as 100 or upwards. Thus these two classes of house become entirely confused. In some of both the workers live some on the premises, and some off, in some all live off; but the practice varies greatly in different places. The amount of space required for the storing and sale of goods, and in Scotland and Ireland the practice of living on flats make the practice of the workers living on the premises much less common. Again, it is difficult to see where is the distinction between a large retail drapery establishment (and some are of immense size, and, indeed, in Ireland are spoken of as "monster" houses, and are in fact regular marts for goods of many classes not connected with drapery) having rooms set apart for work, and merchants' warehouses, having rooms also set apart for work, *e.g.*, the shirt or sewed muslin warehouses, the work itself being in both cases of substantially the same kind. Between the shirt warehouses and what are spoken of as the shirt factories there is no appreciable difference. Difficult to distinguish places of work.

5. Articles of different classes are sometimes made in whole or in part on the same premises, even in the same room, at the same or different times by the same or different persons, as shirts and underclothing in retail establishments of the dress-making class, and articles of men's outer clothing in the shirt establishments: the latter being a practice which seems likely to increase. But the classes of articles are not distinguished by any difference in the operation of making, nor is the meaning of the terms by which the classes are described clearly marked. Millinery in its strict sense seems confined to the making up of articles of ladies' head dress. But the making of mantles is very generally treated as naturally forming part of the same business, and included under it, and is carried on in connexion with it much more generally than dress-making is, especially in the retail houses. The whole three, however, are often carried on together, or any one or two alone. An employment which seems properly to form part of wholesale millinery, and in an establishment which I visited is so considered, is the making of lappets or bonnet fronts, which at Nottingham, the seat of the lace manufacture, is carried on as a branch of lace finishing, and is so treated in the report and evidence on that subject; though it was there remarked that the making up of lace into articles for sale to the consumer seemed to approach very nearly to millinery. There is no difference which can be defined between making mantles or jackets for ladies, and like articles included under children's clothing,—or between several things included under this head and tailoring,—or between making the outer skirts of a lady's dress, which is part of dress-making, and the under skirt or crinoline, which is a general manufacture just of the same nature as stay-making, carried on in factories,—or between making flannel, cotton, or linen into shirts or into blouses, trowsers, &c.,—or between the latter and tailor's work; and all these kinds of work are done in places which I visited. Close resemblance of work.

6. As to the class of persons employed, indeed, there is a wide difference between the refined milliners and dress-makers of the higher kind, and the ill-clothed and untaught workers, of whom many are found in some of the factories; but this difference is imperceptibly shaded off, and more variation is found, owing merely to the standing of the different establishments and local circumstances than to the nature of the work. In the same shirt factories may be seen many persons quite equal to dress- Classes of persons employed.

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makers, &c. in the smaller houses, and a number of others neither in dress and appearance nor in education at all superior to the poorest workers in common factories.

Mr. J. E. White.

B.

Sewed muslin.

7. One manufacture till lately very largely carried on in the north of Ireland and also in Glasgow, though it has very much declined of late, viz., that of "sewed muslin," consists of two branches so distinct that I have thought it better to separate them entirely. One branch is the embroidering of muslin with a needle in such a way as seems more closely akin to lace-making, especially of the kind of lace made in Ireland, than to any other kind of work. I have therefore left these to be taken together as an appendix to the English Lace evidence. But the making up the muslin when embroidered is work of just the same kind as is done in shirt warehouses, and I have therefore included it with them. Linen is embroidered and made up in precisely the same way as muslin.

Arrangement of subjects.

8. With a view of classifying as far as possible the different branches of employment I have arranged the evidence under the head of each town visited, so as to put first that relating to millinery and dress-making as carried on in the more properly private houses, then as in the retail establishments, and lastly the wholesale establishments and regular manufactories. The greater part of the latter will be found to fall under the last, or Irish, division of the evidence, and but little in the first, or English.

I.—Age at which Children and Young Persons are employed.

Few children employed.

9. The nature of the employment renders children of but little use, and where employed at all, which is chiefly in shirt and boot factories, they are seldom under the age of 12, or at the lowest 11; though there are cases of a few a year or two younger The general age of entering employment varies with the nature of the business. The millinery and dress-making girls commonly begin at the age of 14 or 15, and in the higher class of houses at a year or two older; in the lower sometimes at 13 or 12. The great mass are generally stated to be under 25, and after about 28 or 30 the proportion would be very small. In other kinds of work persons are taken at all ages from 13 upwards.

II. and III.—Sex, Number of Girls and Women, and Number of Children and Young Persons employed.

Difficulty of estimating the numbers.

10. In the sewing branches of employment, naturally nearly all are females. In boot-making there is a large proportion of other work suited for boys. The numbers it is useless to attempt to estimate, owing to the vast number of small places in which they are distributed, but of the numbers returned under the head of needlewomen, &c. in the late census, the probability is that an increasing proportion will be employed in establishments of some size. I am able, however, to give a specimen in the case of Glasgow, where, with a population, say roughly, of 400,000, it is estimated that upwards of 8,000 females, most of them between the ages of 14 and 25 are employed in millinery and dress-making. As the number of millinery and dress-making establishments there, which can be arrived at with more certainty, is given at 249 private and 89 retail houses, my own general impression, from what I saw, would be that 8,000, which would give an average of full 23 to each house, is too large a number, *i.e.*, supposing them to be working only in these establishments. It may, however, include persons engaged in work of like kind in muslin, &c. warehouses, or as seamstresses, &c., the class of persons being in many cases the same, and they working indifferently in one way or another, as opportunities may offer. Taking large towns generally, in many houses of the higher class in which these two employments are carried on, there are either no persons at all, or but a very small proportion, such as one or two out of 15 or 20, under the age of 18. In houses, on the other hand, where the labour of apprentices is chiefly employed, the proportion is just the other way, there being, perhaps, only one adult or two engaged, or no one but the mistress, to superintend them. In private houses, the number of persons employed runs from 1 up to 50, the proportion of young persons, as remarked, varying. From 20 to 30 persons, however, make a large house, from 10 to 20 being a very common number. In Londonderry, the great seat of the shirt manufacture, the number engaged in one factory alone has been 1,000, and in another 800 or 900, and another has just been built with accommodation for 1,500, with provision for an increase to 2,500, and there are several smaller. Several times the number are engaged in the work at their homes in the country districts, some very remote. One manufacturer estimates that at a time when he had about 1,000 females in his factory, he employed including those outside nearly 10,000. The number of persons, chiefly females, who, as I have seen stated in some professed Irish statistics, were up till very recently engaged in the entire sewed muslin manufacture in the North of Ireland, is so incredibly large that I do not quote it, thinking that there must be some miscalculation, though the manager of a sewed muslin warehouse said that he could well believe the number to have been as large a few years ago. By far the greatest part, however, would be engaged in the embroidery branch, which, as already stated, is not included in this evidence.

IV.—Hiring of Children and Young Persons.

Apprenticeship and premiums.

11. In millinery and dress-making it is customary for girls to be apprenticed, or to be learners or scholars, for a period varying from a few months to three or four years, usually one, two, or three years, the periods being usually long in the higher class of houses. In some places, it is stated to be usual to have a formal agreement drawn up, but very often there is none. It is said to be a protection if strict stipulations as to the hours are inserted, and one assistant said that this ought always to be done. If they make progress they sometimes receive some salary before their period is out, unless it is too short. In other cases, they work for their teaching. Where they live in the house they usually pay a premium according to the character of the house, *e.g.*, from 20*l.* to 50*l.*; I have been told of higher. Outdoor apprentices sometimes pay a small premium, sometimes not; in Scotland often a guinea. It is stated that a high premium sometimes gives an employer a hold over a girl which is much to her prejudice, as her friends are unwilling or unable to risk the loss of so much money by removing her, however good reason she may have for being dissatisfied with her place. The day workers are naturally paid by the week, but the indoor assistants by a yearly salary, which they receive alike whether there is much work done or little. The certainty of maintenance which this affords is, to persons in the position of many of this class, undoubtedly a great benefit, and an inducement to accept it without inquiring too minutely into the probable amount of the work which they may be undertaking. The result, however, frequently is that the salary secures a very large extra amount of work, in excess of what might reasonably have

been anticipated, without any extra pay. Day workers have often to be paid extra if they work beyond the proper hours, and therefore it is more desirable for the employer that the indoor hands should do the extra work. Wearing Apparel.

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12. Though so large a number of persons are employed by the regular shirt factories outside, and at such a distance from them, in making up the shirts, I did not find that any system of their working under intermediate employers in the country is practised. Each person works directly for the manufacturer, who fixes the price, which is made known to the worker by a ticket attached to the work; the work, when done at a distance, being given out, received back, and examined, and the money paid, by means of an agent, engaged at a fixed salary or commission; who is thus as far as possible prevented from making a profit out of the workers. Much mantle and dress-making is given out from larger houses to smaller dress-makers, and in big towns women who take out shirt and other common needlework from drapers' shops, &c., do frequently employ other females under them, but few young. Some of the boot-making boys are apprenticed, and some others are employed by the men, whom they assist. In other kinds of hiring I found nothing different from the ordinary practice in other trades. Intermediate employers.

V.—State of the Place of Work.

13. The private houses in which any large number of milliners and dress-makers are employed are generally good and the rooms large and high, provincial towns, as a rule, affording more facilities for this; and where the houses are small the number of persons is small also, so that, though in some places the rooms are complained of, I have seldom found any where the rooms are what can be called crowded. But even good rooms become close and hot if persons are confined in them for many hours, especially by gaslight; and there is seldom any means of changing the air except by the fire-place and windows, which in much of the year cannot be opened, some, particularly those who sit near, feeling the draught. In shops the rooms frequently are not so good, being often small rooms away at the top of the house, or sometimes a mere narrow slip cut off from a sale-room. I have found a room both in a shop and in a private house hot and unpleasant from the gas being lighted in the day time for warmth instead of the fire. In Scotland, however, rooms in the basement are often used for work, and gas must be used to a much greater extent than it otherwise need be, and in some of them all day in winter. Dundee is remarkable for this, the greater part of the work-rooms in the best part of the town for the business being, as I am informed, and certainly most of those which I visited, so much underground and with so little space in front as to be literally, what they are spoken of as, "cellars." Great annoyance also has been caused from a smell attributed to the drains which run under these cellars in the principal street, and at one part there is a graveyard above their level at the back. Rooms how far healthy. Cellar rooms.

14. At a small dress-maker's in a not very large town in Ireland, in a little room, where several young girls work by day, two assistants sleep by night in a turn-up bed, while the mistress sleeps in a turn-up bed in the show-room. In a large English town I was informed of, but did not see, one or two other establishments of the same kind where the work-room is used at night for sleeping. But the rooms in which needlewomen of a poor class employ females, most frequently but not always adults, under them on work given out from shops, are often not at all suitable places for work. In Dublin, the family dwelling and sleeping room in one of the employer, if very poor as she usually is, is used for the purpose. In one of these rooms, which I visited, was a young woman ill in bed; in another, where girls are sometimes employed, was a boy dying after being six years confined to his bed; and in Cork I found a servant's bed-room, not attended to since the morning, being used. Indeed the general appearance of the houses in which these needlewomen live is very miserable. Dr. Maypother, of Dublin, in a paper read there by him in this year on the subject, and to which I am referred by him, states,— Working in sleeping rooms. Bad state of poor needlewomen's rooms.

"It cannot be doubted that the city of Dublin is in a fearful sanitary state,"

and he refers in particular as a test to statistics showing the great amount of fever. He gives minute details as to the want of space and ventilation, foul air, impossibility of cleanliness, and the general unwholesome circumstances of the poorer dwellings in Dublin, but, without touching further upon these or others referred to, such as the necessary details of a sick room or the presence of a corpse, it is plain that such conditions, whether in Dublin or elsewhere, concern the health not merely of the makers of clothing but of the wearers also, and of others brought in contact with it. Not merely may work be going on in the presence, as seen by me, of a sick person, but the very bedding and rooms become a source of infection.* Much of this kind of work must probably always remain in large towns, and the poorer the person the more necessary is it for her support, and the cheaper will she do it. If only the rooms of those who employ other females could in any way be made more wholesome, many persons would be benefited, and a healthy room would probably be sought after by those who habitually work out, and even by some who now work under disadvantages at home. I may remark here that most of the larger cities and towns which I visited have no officer of health. Liverpool has one, at Dublin an official resolution has been passed that it is desirable to appoint one, at Belfast there is none, but was one from 1848 to 1854; and Glasgow and Edinburgh each have a medical officer in connexion with the police department.

15. Of the manufacturing establishments some few, chiefly those of the larger kind, are buildings of a regular factory character, either built or equally well suited for the purpose for which they are used; but the majority consist of parts or adaptations of warehouse or dwelling-house premises, not at all well suited for it. Some of their rooms are so filled with workers, without the admission of sufficient fresh air, as to make the air in them sensibly unpleasant; and some, as I noticed more particularly in Dublin, are in a rough and dirty state. I have often noticed that dwelling-houses, when used as factories, seem apt to catch more dirt, or, at any rate, for some cause, to be less clean and tidy than factory or warehouse rooms. One gloomy room, about 14 feet by 15 or 16 feet, rough measurement, though not low, with 20 females in it, and the fire-place carefully blocked up, had a very close smell. In another factory the employer said that they had no need of fires as so many sat together in each room. Where there is Manufactory, &c. rooms.

* In a treatise of a like nature with that of Dr. Maypother, and to which I am referred by him, mention is made of "a family "which had been fully infected by the worst typhus," seen by a physician "employed in making up showy liveries, which were "intended for the servants of the lord-lieutenant of that day;" and of another physician who reminds the rich that "infection (of "contagious fever) will insinuate itself into . . . their dwellings attached to their furniture, clothes, and bedding; all these "articles being supplied by the labouring poor."—J. E. W.

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much pressing or ironing, the place becomes hot and unpleasant from the stoves and iron; and where linen or muslin is dressed, washed, and got up, from the steam also.

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B.

VI.—Nature of Employment.

Sewing machines.

16. So far as the use of the needle alone in any kind of employment is concerned, nothing can be said that is not already well known; but that of the sewing machine is comparatively new, but is found, more or less, in nearly all the trades treated of. Those who work at it in some cases sit, in others stand, using both feet or one to give the motion; or, where the motion is given by steam power, merely pressing down or removing the foot, to keep the machine going or to stop it. Cutting out the material is done in a standing position, and where much is used, as in shirt and stay making, the females engaged in it are kept constantly standing. Some are engaged in pressing or ironing the seams of cloth, or stays, which require considerable exertion, and in smoothing or getting up shirts, linen, &c., work like that of a laundry. In stay and skirt making part of the work consists in "boning" or "caning," *i.e.*, running with the hand whatever material is used to stiffen them into the pipes formed to receive it. In millinery and dress-making establishments the saleswomen are an intermediate class between workers and persons strictly engaged in sale only. They see not only to the taking of orders and such business, but to the fitting of dresses, &c., and give directions to the workers; and often, in smaller houses, take a practical part in the work. They appear generally to be of the higher class; and good personal appearance, and superior address and manners, are, for obvious reasons, points of great importance in their selection.

Cutting-out.

Ironing, &c.

Saleswomen.

VII.—Hours of Work.

Millinery and dress-making hours.

17. With regard to millinery and dress-making no general statement can be made as to the hours, as they vary so widely, not only in different towns, but in different houses in the same town, and for the different persons in those houses, and at different times. It seems to hold, however, as a pretty general rule, that the hours in the retail establishments are, on the whole, far more moderate than in the private houses; and indeed in many, especially of the better class, are but little lengthened even in the busiest times, though there are many private houses, also, where the hours appear to be seldom, if ever, excessive. One great cause of this difference appears to be, that more of the workers at the retail houses live away. They cannot so conveniently be kept, both on their own account, and because, for mere safety of property against fire and theft, it is desirable to close a large establishment in reasonable time while the persons in charge are on the spot to see this done. The employers, also, are more willing, and also from having, probably, more capital at command, and other reasons, are better able to increase the number of hands as occasion requires; to which many private employers have a great reluctance.

Shorter in retail houses.

Why.

Day workers.

18. Even in private houses, the day workers as a rule have moderate stated hours, and even in busy times are seldom kept more than two or three hours beyond their time, if at all. The fact that, in many places, they have to be paid for the extra time, affords a strong inducement not to keep them. The most usual hours for day workers are from 9 a.m. till 7 or 8 p.m., and only till 6 p.m. in some large retail establishments, and till 9 p.m. in some smaller houses. I found, however, in Scotland, that in millinery shops below the highest class, work is habitually late on Saturday night; in the season till 12 p.m., or nearly so, and frequently till 10 or 11 p.m. on one or more previous nights.

Indoor hands.

19. In private houses the most usual hour for indoor workers to begin is 8 a.m. or soon after. In some they habitually work till 11 p.m., in others only in the seasons, but the work is occasionally continued much longer at each end. In a private house in Manchester, the dress-makers for five or six months of last summer season worked regularly from at least 8 a.m., and often from 5 or 6 a.m., till 12 p.m., sometimes till 1, 2, and 3 a.m., and three times all night, and for two months worked full 17 or 18 hours a day, with never more than 10 minutes for dinner, and many days scarcely sitting down at all, but just snatching a mouthful or two, and going back to work again (b. 3. 4). Another assistant, working in small towns in the north of England, had once only 16 hours sleep in a fortnight, and at one place worked twice without any rest from Wednesday morning till Saturday night, and at other times from 6 a.m. till 11, 12, 1, or 2 at night, and in London from 2 or 3 a.m. till 11 and 12 at night, or 2 or 3 the next morning, all within the last few years (b. 34). In a private house in Edinburgh the two indoor assistants, for three weeks in the dull time of last year, had to work regularly till 3 a.m., and get up to work at 5 a.m. (b. 76). One states that in London they scarcely ever left off in the season till 12, 1, or 2 at night, and as often as not began at 6 a.m., and very frequently in the season worked from that till 2 or 3 a.m., and before a drawing-room always sat up all night; apprentices who were good workers doing the same. An employer in Edinburgh states her hours to be for the greater part of the year from 8 a.m. till 11 p.m. General accounts of the hours and whole system in Edinburgh and Glasgow are given in the statements b. 74 and 94. See also b. 95 and 97. In Ireland, however, generally the hours are far more moderate. There work all night seems extremely rare, past midnight uncommon, and in the majority of cases seldom so late as that, even in Dublin. Indeed Dublin, though the capital, seems to enjoy as favourable hours as any place.

Apprentices' hours.

20. The younger girls, while still apprentices or learners, or at least till they become useful enough to be of much service, generally, but not in all cases, leave work at their proper hours, if they live out, but if they live in they work late with the paid hands, or not, according to the consideration shown by the employer or forewoman. The saleswomen are sometimes liable to be kept quite late in putting away goods, attending the work-room, or even helping in it.

Hours generally moderate in manufactories.

21. In the majority of shirt, stay, and clothing manufactories, the stated day is short, viz., about 9 or 10 hours' actual work, which begins at from 8 to 9 a.m. A few, from special circumstances, have the regular factory hours, and it is only in boot making that the day is at all, and that but slightly, longer. In one factory of this kind the stated day is 14 hours. In Londonderry the usual practice for making overtime is for the workers to return from tea to work at 7 p.m., and work till about 10 on alternate nights, a limit which appears to be passed in certain instances; but elsewhere this amount of overtime seems seldom to be reached in the factories.

VIII.—Night Work.

Night work.

22. Some specimens of the extent of night work in millinery and dress-making are involved in the account of hours just given, and work till midnight, a little more or less, prevails to a considerable

extent. Generally speaking, however, the cases in which work is continued by assistants all through the night, though they amount to a good number on the whole, appear to be comparatively rare in the case of each individual. Night-work by relays does not occur in any branch of the employments, or only in a case so exceptional as not to be worth mentioning. Wearing Apparel. Mr. J. E. White. B.

IX.—Meal Hours.

23. In establishments of all kinds, private or retail houses and factories alike, with exceptions chiefly in Ireland, the day workers are allowed an hour for dinner, sometimes more, but, the hour of leaving being early, often no tea time, unless in the shirt factories, when they work overtime. As a rule the day workers' meal times are not curtailed. The want, however, of such a meal as tea, and the rest which it gives, is plainly injurious in the millinery shops when the workers stay late, as till 11 and 12. In such cases they often send out for biscuits, &c. In Ireland, however, in some cases no regular dinner-time is taken, but lunch is brought and eaten in the place of work. For the indoor hands it seems an almost universal practice to have no fixed amount of time for meals, but just a short time sufficient to take them and no more, usually a quarter of an hour or 20 minutes, sometimes 10 minutes or less, sometimes half an hour or so, for dinner. Some too who are only day workers, yet are boarded at meals like the indoor hands, and thus get only the same amount of time. In Ireland it is a common custom to allow the workers to leave an hour earlier in the evening if they take no dinner hour, but merely stop work just to eat it; which many therefore do. Day workers. Indoor hands.

X.—Holidays.

24. In millinery and dress-making establishments it is customary for all indoor workers, assistants and apprentices, to have a holiday a few at a time late in the summer when work is slack, usually a fortnight, occasionally less, without any deduction from their wages, in some cases a week or two more. The day workers in some places get occasional days or parts of days, in some not, and in one or two at any rate they get a fortnight. In the large factories and warehouses a half-day on Saturday is general, but the day is very seldom shorter in millinery and dress-making establishments. It is noticeable, however, that in Manchester it has of late been found possible, in several cases, to allow even milliners and dress-makers to share the benefit of a half-day, or at any rate to have a much shorter day on Saturday. Elsewhere, though cases of rather shorter work on Saturday have presented themselves in Edinburgh also, where early closing has, I understand, been strongly advocated, it is more usual for work to be later on that day. Indoor hands. Day workers. Saturday in Manchester.

XI.—Treatment.

25. The age of most of the persons employed and the circumstances of their employment do not afford occasion to say anything on this head, except as regards the milliners and dress-makers who live on their employer's premises. I may remark that under this head I have compressed, to avoid excessive details, the effect of several answers in addition to those which appear in the evidence. The health and comfort of the persons so circumstanced plainly depend much on the kind of treatment which they receive out of the work-room, and chiefly in respect of their sleeping accommodation, and the supply of food. But on the whole my conclusion is, that in the great majority of cases the employers do all that they feel in their power for the comfort of those in their employment, and that the latter have no serious ground for complaint, at least as regards the sleeping accommodation. In many cases, indeed, I feel sure of this. But in many also I except the indirect injuries which result from the number of hours' work which the employers think it necessary to require. Of indoor hands.

26. That the latter is a point to which importance is attached, I gather from the voluntary offers of some employers to show me the bed-rooms provided. Those which I saw in this way were quite sufficient for health, and in other cases the persons employed when questioned by me on the point, have generally expressed themselves as quite satisfied, and often as pleased. Some, however, have complained of want of sufficient space and air, and in two or three cases of a great want of cleanliness and change of linen, the latter not being provided for five or six weeks, or a much larger period. Bed-rooms.

27. With regard to a proper supply of food it is difficult to form any accurate opinion, as it of course did not admit of personal observation, nor did a very detailed inquiry seem desirable, and any statements relating to it may depend so much upon individual fancy or caprice. My conclusion on this point is that, though in a few cases the food may probably be really insufficient in quantity or quality, or both, for persons under any circumstances, this is very seldom the case. But I am also led to conclude that, not unfrequently, the food which would be sufficient for persons in ordinary employments and in fair health, is not suited for the proper support of young females, many of them delicate, constantly confined in close rooms, with very rare opportunities of being in the fresh air, and exhausted, and their digestion and appetite impaired, by very long hours of sedentary work, *e. g.*, an invariable supper of cheese after a hurried breakfast and only 10 minutes or less for dinner, is not well suited to carry such a person on to the end of a day's work of 16 and often 18 hours, for a period of five or six months, especially if a person, as one working thus stated of herself, cannot ever eat cheese; nor is "a halfpenny roll and a half slice of a 4 lb. loaf" a large breakfast to begin a regular day of 15 hours upon. They say naturally that, under such circumstances, they want not only extra support, but a little variety to enable them to eat. "When one is gone so far, one does not care to eat." (b. 3.) Some thus have to send out and buy extra food for themselves. One speaks of "far too little animal "food, sometimes none at all, even for dinner *i.e.*, if there was pudding.' Food.

28. Liberal attention to the comfort of workers in these respects, and general kindness appear to be well repaid to employers, not only by insuring to them, of course with a fair salary, the command of the workers of the highest class (for the good name of a house soon travels), but also by the increased bodily activity and mental willingness of the workers to exert themselves to the utmost in their employer's service. One expresses only what are very general feelings when she states:— Appreciation of good treatment.

"I would have tried to push through, notwithstanding the hours, if things had been any way comfortable."

And speaking of another place, where, however, she was only a day-worker:—

"But this (*i. e.*, long work) was quite of our own free will. They were very nice people, and we would "have done anything to oblige them." (b. 77. See also b. 34.)

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No accidents.

XII.—Accidents.

29. These of course in the greater part of the employments cannot occur, and where machinery is used either it is in parts where the young or females, with an exception or two not worth mentioning, are not engaged, or it is of a harmless kind, or fenced, as in the case of the shafting where sewing machines are driven by power.

XIII.—Wages.

Amounts vary.

30. As already explained, millinery and dress-making apprentices, &c., receive nothing while they are learning, or at any rate till towards the end of that period, if long. Some employers, not only those with an inferior business, save wages by using the labours of such persons or improvers entirely or almost alone. In some places where the girls become paid hands young they receive at first as little as 2*s.* 6*d.* or 3*s.* a week, but this is below the average, and in many good houses, where they do not become paid hands so soon, they get at least double this amount. Many as adults get 7*s.*, and from that upwards to 10*s.* or 15*s.*, but from 7*s.* to 10*s.* is probably the more usual rate. Dress-makers, although their work is heavier, are said to get rather less than milliners. In one of the first private houses in Dublin they average from 5*s.* to 8*s.* Of course there are cases where the hands generally, or some of them, make much more than the rates referred to. Where they live on the premises, their board forms an important part of their pay, in some cases, the whole or nearly so. They are paid by a yearly salary, and it appears that a fair assistant can be had for 15*l.* or 20*l.* a year. The first hands or persons who act as heads of departments and forewomen often get 40*l.* or 50*l.* a year, sometimes less, and, as I have been told, sometimes more. The persons engaged as indoor hands are a very migratory class, *i.e.*, as soon as they have become competent workers, and consequently there is likely to be a greater tendency to uniformity in their pay than in that of persons engaged as day-workers or in the common kinds of needlework, whose rate is fixed by that of the local labour.

Board.

Factory, &c. wages.

31. In the factories and warehouses, however, it will be near enough to say that machinists can earn usually from 5*s.* to 10*s.* a week, according to age and skill, and common needle workers from 4*s.* to 7*s.* or 8*s.* Work done outside is paid at a much lower rate, the Irish country shirt-makers making only 3*s.* or 4*s.*, and some who do common sempstresses' work in Dublin only 2*s.* 6*d.* or 3*s.* 6*d.* with hard work.

XIV.—Influence of Employment on Physical Condition.

Bad effects complained of.

32. It is plain, from some of the more obvious facts which I was able to learn from the milliners and dress-makers, that many of them do suffer considerably from the long hours and other circumstances of their employment. The principal bad effects complained of are: excessive weariness, loss of appetite, headaches, giddiness on leaving work, affections of the eyes, pains in the side and chest, cough, general loss of health, and, in some cases, death by decline, attributed, directly or indirectly, to the work. To speak from my own observation, though often I have noticed no apparent want of health or strength, still, many of those who have been in the business for some years look pale and worn, and as if their health were much impaired. The younger girls, on the contrary, have generally a fresh and healthy look, as might be expected from their being brought up in a position above want, and often in the country, while they have not, as yet, been exposed to long confinement, or, at any rate, for any long period. Yet such, no doubt, once were those who have so soon lost this freshness, and are the first hands and experienced workers of the present.

33. Millinery is said to be a lighter and less monotonous employment than dress-making, and not to require such a constant stooping position. It is also the general opinion that the use of the sewing machine is more favourable to health than that of the needle, on account both of the position being less stooping, and also of the greater variety and exercise. Though I made several inquiries on the point of medical men as well as workers, I did not find any special effect attributed to it beyond fatigue. Taking the factory and warehouse work generally, I found little evidence of injury directly traceable to those employments, though they differ but little in character from that of dress-making.

Want of medical experience.

34. With regard, however, to all the employments, I think it fair to remark that the persons engaged are of a sex and class, and the injuries from which they would be most likely to suffer, are many of them of a kind, which make it difficult for any but a medical man with fair opportunities of observation to trace these out. I have applied, in different places, to several medical men, including one who has charge of an eye dispensary in Dublin, on the subject; but most of them stated that they had not turned their attention specially to it, or had not had sufficient opportunities of judging to enable them to form an opinion definite enough to be of value. This is only natural, where the class in question forms such a small and scattered portion of the population in any given place. But in Londonderry, where a large mass of the female population are engaged in shirt-making, two medical gentlemen kindly favoured me with their experience.

Not important.

35. Ample medical evidence, however, as to the effects of needlework employments on the health and eyesight, are already provided in the results of the former inquiry made by one of yourselves, nor does further medical testimony seem now required to prove the natural and well-established effects of the chief unfavourable influences to which milliners and dress-makers are often exposed, viz., over-long confinement at work, and the incidental evils which it causes or aggravates; *e.g.*, want of proper time for meals, of sleep, of exercise in the outward air, of recreation; exposure to air vitiated by long-continued breathings and by artificial light, &c., which all combine in producing a general result.

XV.—Moral Condition.

Education.

36. With regard to education, there appeared occasion to make but little inquiry. The mass of the persons engaged in millinery and dress-making are of a class at least respectably brought up, and many in a superior position. Several are persons of good connexions, who have taken to the business through family misfortune, loss of parents, &c., and appear equally fitted to have taken situations as governesses, &c. The age at which most females enter any of the employments allows of their having received a previous education. The factory and warehouse shirt-makers are generally spoken of as a class superior to ordinary factory workers, and corresponding to shop and warehouse girls. There is, however, amongst them a large mixture of others of inferior position; and in some of

the other factories a large proportion are quite of the poorer class, and in Ireland and Scotland often barefooted. Even these, however, in most cases where I inquired, showed that they had received an elementary education, sufficient, at least, to enable them to read. I found, of course, exceptions, not only amongst these, but also even amongst milliners, but they were engaged in the wholesale manufacture (b. 21, 15, 177, 197, &c.). The boot-making boys are of the class who would be found in factories of any ordinary kind, and showed, as far as I inquired, about the same average attainments which I have found elsewhere.

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37. It is complained, however, and with reason, that the long hours of milliners and dress-makers, where practised, cut them off from opportunities of self-improvement, and, in particular, interfere with their attendance upon religious worship and instruction. Sunday is the only time left at the disposal of many for any purpose, and is more likely to be used, as it often is, for mere passive rest from excessive fatigue, or at any rate for outdoor or social relaxation, than for availing themselves of means of religious improvement, to which they feel neither the inclination nor the power to attend. Some lie in bed much of this day.

Long hours as bearing on religious condition.

38. In a great many of this class the manners and general tone of feeling and character appear of the highest kind, and this very fact tends to make them more dependent than they would otherwise be. Were they less scrupulous about the risk of being without a situation or having to take one in a place the moral tone of which they did not approve of, they would feel less hesitation in leaving a situation where the work is too much for them, but the place of high standing. With many of the indoor hands the house where they are for the time being engaged is their only home. Some employers show especial regard for the religious and moral welfare of those living under their charge, taking them to church, &c., and, in one or two cases mentioned to me, having daily family prayers, as well as exercising, as most of good standing appear to do, a wholesome general control.

High character causing a difficulty.

39. It may be well here to remark that a reason often alleged by the principals in private millinery and dress-making houses why they do not increase the number of persons in their employment, when they are busy, more than they do, is that they do not like to risk taking into their house to associate with the others persons who would have to be engaged with little time for inquiry, and whose character might not prove satisfactory. They also state that they consider it most injurious to the young people, and morally wrong, to turn a number of them adrift at once without employment, as they would have to do did they increase their number largely in the busy times; and they condemn strongly the practice of retail houses, &c., in this respect. However reasonable this may appear, I am convinced that it is but a partial explanation, and that the difficulty might be in a great degree overcome, as it is by many, by greater forethought, good arrangement, and a more liberal policy. The supply of hands in the market appears so large as to afford ample opportunity of selection of good ones; and I believe that it would be utterly unjust to the class to suppose that moderate forethought and care in inquiry would not be able to secure extra workers whose characters, at any rate, could not afford a reasonable source of alarm or even objection.

Objection made to taking more hands.

40. With regard to the moral dangers of the kind just referred to, to which young females are no doubt exposed in this as in any other occupation, my full belief is that their late hours do much to increase, and nothing in the long run to diminish, them. The late evening hour at which alone as a rule the indoor hands can get out on the week-days, *i.e.*, when they can get out at all, and the night hours at which day-workers have to pass home for long distances through the streets, are certainly not favourable to them, and Saturday nights, when they are often kept latest, least of all so. A large seaport town is not a fair specimen, but in one in which I was on a Saturday night, the young females have to pass home at nearly midnight through streets most unfit for them. Close by a shop in the principal street, from the door of which a set of young milliners were coming out at five minutes past midnight, were a group of men using infamous language, and a little way off, a middle-aged woman, struggling to drag home her drunken husband (so it plainly seemed), who kept sinking on the pavement; while in other streets drunkenness abounded, and in less than half an hour two or three fights, with large crowds looking on, presented themselves to me. As well as the workers, the young message girls are liable to be kept out thus late, and I was informed by a minister in Edinburgh that he had found such a girl, aged about fifteen, wandering about in the outskirts of the city late at night, unable to find the house to which she had been sent with a parcel. Great, however, as are the difficulties of the upper classes of needleworkers, their self-respect and superior bringing up give them a corresponding advantage, and, without doubt, act as great preservatives of a steady and high character.

Danger of late hours.

41. At Londonderry the large importation of female labour which the growth of the shirt manufacture has caused, has naturally created a special difficulty. The officer of health, Dr. Browne, makes a suggestion that the provision of suitable lodging and boarding-houses by employers would be both remunerative to them and a great benefit physically and morally to numbers of the girls from the country, who are now "obliged to lodge in small crowded houses of a low description:" a state of things plainly unfavourable to their moral condition, and apparently not without its results. (b. 208.)

Want of lodgings.

XVI.—General Remarks.

42. There can, I think, be no doubt whatever that the number of hours for which milliners and dress-makers are often confined to work is the primary and main cause of the evils from which they suffer, and gives to the other causes their active power. It is plain also, from the evidence, that an unreasonable number of hours is not inseparable from the nature of the work, but that a business can be conducted prosperously for the employer and yet within limits beneficial to the workers, where the employer has the will, and at the same time is in a sufficiently independent position, so to conduct it. Irregular and long hours are a natural result where a business is started or carried on without sufficient capital, and necessity compels a sacrifice of everything to getting or extending a connexion. Other causes of late work which have been stated to me are, want of good system and arrangement, want of a sufficient number of paid workers, or the fact of a mistress not having been brought up with a good practical acquaintance with the lower details of actual manual work, though of ability and well versed in the higher departments of the business, or not concerning herself much with the practical superintendence of the workers, but leaving it to subordinates. If the latter are not efficient, the work does not go on so

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Shown to be not necessary.

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well; if they are, they must often enforce too great an amount of work, though against their will, being themselves responsible to their principal for its execution if ordered, and feeling no power to remit anything. The fact that in drapery, &c. houses the millinery and dress-making are only parts of a large business, involving a larger capital, and managed by men of business habits, and in which men are also engaged as clerks and assistants, for moderate hours, tends greatly to shorten the work of females, and so far probably by attracting the good workers, would tend to bring about shorter hours in private houses. But for the numbers who are working in towns distant from their homes, *i. e.*, if they have any, which many have not, private houses can afford a better substitute than shops often can, though the owners of shops occasionally engage separate premises for the purpose. The manufacture of wholesale millinery, mourning warehouses, and the sewing machine, will probably do something to diminish the pressure of work.

Dependent position of many.

43. It might be supposed that a person was free to object or to leave her situation if she found too much required of her; but often this is really not the case. A fashionable house, with a good name, is sought after for the sake of the recommendation which it will be to have been engaged in it, and a person cannot afford to lose this, or to risk its being unsatisfactory, as it is what she has to trust to for obtaining employment. "A reference and our character are all that we have to trust to." (b. 3, &c.)

Many orphans, &c.

Often a suitable place cannot be found for a long time, and many are orphans, or have no home or near friends, or other suitable place to go to, or no money to spare for travelling, or for maintaining themselves while seeking employment. The abundance of persons brought up to the business in excess of what is needed, large as that is, is spoken of as one of the great evils, and one which forces the workers to be satisfied with what employment they can obtain, and makes the giving up a situation a matter of risk not lightly to be undertaken. At the same time it affords to employers, who wish to avail themselves of it, the means of increasing the number of their hands without difficulty, if occasion requires.

Want of associations, &c.

44. Though institutions for the benefit of milliners, &c., like that in London, would probably be of the greatest service in all large provincial towns, they appear extremely rare. In Manchester, an association of the kind, founded in 1851, has done great good, and "from a less need of it," as Mr. Thomas Turner, one of its great promoters, believes, has ceased to exist. But I found that it would be still useful there. In Glasgow a like institution, founded with good support only two or three years ago, has had to give up its office, printed reports, &c., for want of means, thus losing much of its efficiency. With these exceptions, I have found no trace anywhere of an institution for the benefit of milliners and dress-makers, though there are some of a charitable nature for providing poor needlewomen with plain work. The assistants are isolated, and are naturally unfitted to combine or organize associations of any kind for their own benefit by themselves, though they would probably eagerly avail themselves of any established within their reach, and brought to their knowledge, as so many appear to do of the London association. The addition of a temporary home would supply a great want, and many young females would, no doubt, gladly contribute for its support. (See *e. g.* b. 3.)

Difficulties of employers.

45. On the other hand, there seems little doubt that difficulties are caused, in many cases, by the character and conduct of the young people themselves. An employer's view of this question will be found given (b. 63), though I have very seldom, only in, I think, two cases, heard complaints of this kind.

Spirit of witnesses.

46. With regard to the spirit in which statements have apparently been made to me by the employed, it has seldom been one of complaint, or showing an inclination to exaggeration. In the very few cases in which there appeared any trace of feeling, I endeavoured, as far as possible, to test the accuracy by a variety of close questions and returning to facts already stated. Those, however, were not the persons who speak of the longest hours. This whole class of witnesses, as a rule, have spoken with moderation, or apparent indifference; and in the case of the head assistants particularly, and of some others, with a disposition to make the facts appear as favourable as possible. I cannot conceal my full belief that from this, and the reserve natural to the sex and age of the persons chiefly questioned, and their fear of speaking plainly anything which might tend to prejudice their interest, I have failed in many cases to ascertain the true facts relating to the house where the persons were examined. Where I have had an opportunity, as I frequently have, of visiting places with regard to which I had questioned persons, not at the time being aware that I should have occasion to visit these places, I have found the general correctness of their statements on most points borne out, except that, on the spot, in many cases, the hours were represented as more moderate. They may, in several cases, have become so in the interval, or for the reasons just referred to, the answers on the spot may have been modified by reference to only the more favourable times, or in some other way which may have appeared open to the speaker without direct misstatement or concealment; but, on the whole, I incline to think that the statements made by persons free from the control of the place are true.

47. Owing to the great number of places which I have visited, I have confined the account given at each place in a great measure to general statements by the principal or some other person, and sometimes of my own. As a rule however, unless in some cases where I was satisfied in other ways, I took the opportunity of questioning one or more of the employed, with a view of obtaining as correct an account as might be of the place, but have omitted to record the answers of many which disclosed no new facts.

48. The general representation by employers in millinery and dressmaking was, that the hours had been very long, but had now wonderfully improved. In a very few instances, and in these two branches only, I found great jealousy of the inquiry and reluctance to assist in it; but in the great majority in all branches, it was at once readily acquiesced in, and by many thoroughly approved of; and I may add, though perhaps it is scarcely necessary, that in some cases the workers themselves expressed an earnest hope that something might be done for their good.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
J. Edward White.

EVIDENCE upon the MANUFACTURE of WEARING APPAREL, collected by Mr. J. E. WHITE.

MANCHESTER.

Mrs. Faulder's, Milliner and Dress-maker, St. Ann's Square.

1. The accounts given in the following statements convey two opposite impressions; but the employer and her husband, who took part in most of her statement, having left the house before I had completed my inquiry, I had no opportunity of submitting the statements of the assistants to them for any explanation or correction. The opportunity of my questioning the persons employed was frankly offered to me, without my asking. On the other hand, the statements of the assistants are in accordance with what I have had reason to believe from independent testimony; and another of the persons (not the second named) was present, and made remarks bearing out the accuracy of several parts of the assistants' statements, and none in opposition, except that she had heard nothing of any contemplated change with regard to Sunday meals.

2. *Mrs. Faulder.*—The average number of persons in my employment living on the premises is about 10, though there are rather less now. With the out-door hands they amount now to about 20, but in a busier time of year I should have more; perhaps 30, or even 35. I am fortunate in being able to get a good number of apprentices; but 15, *i.e.* nearly all of them now, are out-door only. I feel the charge of young in-door apprentices such a responsibility that I have almost discontinued them, taking them now only under special circumstances; *e.g.*, I am just going to take one who is coming back from Russia, and has no friends to live with here. I seldom take an apprentice of either kind under 15, which is about the age of the youngest with me now. Some come at 17 or 18, or older. The in-door apprentices come for three years with a higher premium, or four with a lower; the out-door for two years for one branch of the business, or three years for the two.

The hours for the out-door hands are from 8 till 8, but they are modified to suit the wishes of persons who may wish for time for other purposes, such as learning music or French, as most come from a superior class. In such cases the number of hours so applied is calculated, and is made up by lengthening the day's work, or the period of apprenticeship, to an extent which is stated in the indenture. The hours of the in-door hands also begin at 8, but their length is fixed by circumstances. For half a year, perhaps, they have not occasion to go up again to the work-room after supper at 8½ p.m. The hour for bed is properly 10½ p.m., but they may sometimes be up at work later, occasionally till 12, and a few times in the year it may even happen that a few may have to be up all night; but the young apprentices never would. At the present time they are working to about 9 perhaps. These matters, however, I leave chiefly to the first hands. It is a dull time of year yet. It is necessary for the hands to work long hours to give any profit. As it is, we ascertain from our books that our profit is simply by the sale of the materials, not at all in the making, or out of any labour that we pay for. I think also that it is sometimes fancied that they are obliged to stay up late to work, when the real fact often is that they might finish sooner if they liked, but prefer sitting on talking up in their work-room. If work is wanted to be finished I never have to ask persons to stay up, but they do it willingly, and even some of the out-door hands will offer; but it is rarely any of these who work later. Those who live in the house have dinner with ourselves, the only meal which we now take here, as we live away. If one happens not to wish to come down, I insist on her taking something or send it up, as it is impossible that they can have their health without eating.

I wish very much that something could be done to secure greater regularity generally. Much may be done by good arrangements. The great points are not to undertake more than can be done within the proper time, and to be punctual in finishing it by the time promised, in which I am very particular, and being known to be so, and never disappointing customers, I find that ladies are reasonable, and willing to give proper time. I have no objection to taking on additional hands, as I do at busy times or on a sudden emergency. If they learn a little from seeing my work it is only fair, and they are not in a position to injure me by it. It is a small jealousy to mind this. I keep a list of persons to whom I apply regularly in the first instance as extra hands, and if they fail, or I want more, I at once send round or write to others, or advertise, and usually get any required number of hands so immediately. The only time that I found any difficulty was last spring. Before a known busy season is coming on, it is important to engage extra hands in good time, and get them into your ways, not putting it off to the last for the sake of saving a few weeks' salary. A clear system of book-keeping, and proper distribution of the parts of the work, such as I practise, are also of great importance.

3. *Miss Pringle*, first-hand dress-maker.—The last spring season, which was my first here, lasted for full five months, viz., from March till September, and during that time I and the in-door dress-making hands scarcely ever worked less than 16 hours a day, viz., from 8 a.m. till 12 at night. In the whole five or six months there was not a week that we left off before 12, though, finding that even so, we could not do enough, we sometimes began at 5 and 6 a.m. Still we could not finish earlier, and sometimes we worked till 1, 2, and 3 a.m., and three times sat up all night. I can safely say that during quite two months of the time we made 17 or 18 hours a day. I am sure of this because I made a memorandum of it, which I have now. The only time that we stopped was for meals, and the whole time which we took for these put together—breakfast, dinner, tea, and supper—was not more than three-quarters of an hour. We never took more than 10 minutes for dinner; but many days when I was very busy I did not get dinner till 3 o'clock, and scarcely sat down at all, but just came and snatched a mouthful or two as it was put before me, and went back to work again. When one is gone so far one does not care to eat. I could not get away for my holiday till September, and then only because I said that I really must go; but for about two months before I had been so ill, in consequence, as I believe, of the long hours of work, that I could hardly move, and my mistress had noticed how ill I looked, and that I wanted change, but she could not spare me unless she could get some one to take my place, which she could not do. I could not possibly go through such another season as that. I could only be away a fortnight then, which is the only rest that I have had in the 16 months that I have been here, and that was not enough to set up my health. I have never felt well since, though I had nothing to complain of as to health before coming here.

Though that was the chief season, there was another in autumn, and another busy time in winter, and, in fact, there never has been a leisure time. Now (February) is as much so as any, but we seldom give over before 9, and our meals altogether, whether

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in the seasons or out, never come to more than three-quarters of an hour, and never more than 10 minutes for dinner. Supper is the only meal at which we enjoy any leisure, but what we take then we have to make up for by sitting up later to finish the work.

The in-door milliners' work is much lighter and shorter. In the season they only work till 10 or 11 p.m., seldom longer; but they take no more time for meals than we do. In the season there would be about three in-door milliners, though now there is only one besides an apprentice. It is only the in-door hands that work long. The out-door apprentices leave to the minute, only staying at night to make up any time that they may have been late in coming in the morning. They also have their full meal times, viz., one hour for dinner and half an hour for tea, and they either go home for dinner or bring it here, or go out and buy it, as they please.

What we miss very much is fresh air, being scarcely ever able to get out of doors. The only times are Sunday, and Saturday evening if the work is done in time. The last three or four Saturdays we have finished by 6, and one Saturday at 3, but we have worked on Saturdays till 12 and 11. One of us, however, always has to take it in turn to stay in, so that I have often been a fortnight and not been outside the house.

We have hitherto always had meals in on Sundays, but the principal's husband has lately spoken of not allowing us to dine in then unless we did what he wished about Church. In some houses in London I have understood that dinner is not provided on Sundays, but the young people who go out must shift for themselves. I remember one case when I was in a house in London, where one, who was an orphan, had to go out in this way, and having no money in her pocket she had to borrow of me to get something to eat with.

Our meals here are good, but I could not work so hard as I did without providing something additional for myself. When one is working on till 12 and 1 o'clock one needs a meat supper for support. Unfortunately I cannot eat cheese, which is always our supper.

Our bed-rooms are very nice and airy, but the work-room, though airy enough, is dark from the windows being blocked up by a coffee mill behind, which smells disagreeable, and often prevents us from opening the windows; and also in dark weather we often need gas, as much so, I think, here as in London. I generally prefer to sit in a room beyond without a fire, as I cannot bear the heat of that and the gas.

The overwork here is owing partly to the great number of customers, and to exceptional causes. In the five or six months of which I have spoken we had five wedding orders, and I cannot say just now how many for funerals, but I should say full as many. But the chief causes are such as might be avoided or remedied. One is, that from want of proper calculation of the amount of work which can be done in a given time, more is always given out to be done than can be done in the day; and this is the case not only when the number of customers is so great as to render it unavoidable, but generally even when it is not necessary. Another cause which contributes to this is, that so many of the workers are only apprentices. At the time that we had to work so hard there were only three in-door dress-maker's assistants. The apprentices, of course, cannot do near so much as assistants, and yet it seems to be thought that they can; at any rate, their power is much over-rated. Even the work which they can get through is liable to be imperfect, and may require to be done over again, and this falls upon the in-door hands. Such want of calculation, or probably of the power of it, is likely to be found where, as is sometimes the case, a principal, though understanding the general management of a business, and the designing and cutting out of work, has not been brought up with a practical acquaintance with the lower details of stitching, &c. The following is an instance of this want of calculation here:—An apprentice, a girl of 16, had a skirt given her to finish in the day. It was far more than, as an apprentice of that age, she could really do in the time, however hard she worked, and she did work hard all day; but the principal coming up and finding her behind-hand said that it was the girl's own fault, and that she must take half an hour from her dinner and stay till the work was finished. The result was that, though at 10 I took upon myself to tell her to go, she would not leave, till, with a little help from me, she finished it at about 11. I mentioned it to the principal next day, but she still said that it was the girl's fault for not working properly. I have myself several times told the principal that there was more than I could do, and three times have given notice to leave in consequence, though, when one has a place, there are great objections to leaving it.

I do hope that something will be done for us by Act of Parliament, or in some way. What we need chiefly is shorter work-hours, more fresh air, and in some cases a little better living, though this latter is, of course, too private a matter to be fixed by law. I feel positive that if the hours could be shortened, even compulsorily, the employers would reap the benefit of it, because with long hours the young people lose so much strength and usefulness by their anxiety and want of rest. It is quite a mistake to say that because we are grown up we are independent and can take care of ourselves. Females cannot act together as men can, and it very often happens that those who live in the establishment, and have therefore the hardest work, are just those who are most dependent, having taken to the occupation because they were without near friends, looking upon it as providing a sort of home. Had it not been for the death of my father I should not have had to take to business, and unfortunately I took to dress-making. A young person thus placed is often unable to leave an employer, however much she may wish, because she has nowhere to go to, and this is very different to her from what it is to a man. But even if she has, and she does not approve of her present situation, it is not easy for her to leave it of her own free choice, supposing that the employer is busy or wishes to keep her. To leave against the wish of the employer is a great risk, as it may just prevent her from getting a satisfactory reference, and a slight omission or expression in it may be enough to keep her from getting a good situation, for which she may be really well fit, and at any rate will cause difficulty and loss of time, which she cannot afford. A reference and our character are all that we have to trust to.

If there were a home or institution of some kind where we could go when out of place, and be supported while finding another, it would be a great help and make us much more independent. I have felt the want of this much myself. We would gladly pay small sums regularly towards keeping up such an institution, say a shilling or two a month, and could do so without missing it while we have situations. The money would be well spent, and be sure to be of use to some. I wonder that there is no such institution here.

I was in a house in London, in Oxford Street, which was comfortable in every respect, except having no dinner provided on Sunday, though perhaps there might be a bit of cold meat left; and the bed-rooms being small and low, close under the slates, and, therefore, subject to heat and cold, and too crowded, four young people sleeping in a small room.

I was also in a small town in Essex in a house where only one other person was employed, and there I had every comfort like at a home, and they were like sisters to me. We did not work late; but when sometimes we sat up till 11 and 12 we had a good supper. In country towns the work is generally lighter, the season not lasting so long, not above a month perhaps.

4. *Miss Lee*, assistant dress-maker.—It is quite true that for the five months above referred to we, *i.e.*, the in-door assistant dress-makers, seldom left

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work before 12, and that for two of those months we averaged 17 or 18 hours a day, quite as much as that. I am quite certain that three-quarters of an hour is quite as much as we spend over our meals, whether in the season or out. When you are much overworked you cannot eat so much, at least without greater variety of food than is provided. I was very much exhausted at the end of the season, but did not break down. In the autumn season we averaged working till about 10 p.m., but we are never very dull. Even lately (*i.e.*, just previously to the middle of February) we have not often given over before 9. Besides the Sunday and the occasional Saturday evening spoken of above we are allowed to go out till 10 one evening a week, from April to October, if the work allows of it, but it very seldom does.

I was in establishments in two small towns in Essex, and had everything comfortable, and the hours were regular, except on special occasions. In a house in London, a comfortable place, our hours in the season were till about 12 p.m.

[A show-room assistant stated that in a house at Southport, where she had been, the average hour of work was till 11 p.m.]

Miss Jones's, Milliner and Dress-maker, King Street.

5. *Miss Jones.*—I generally have between 40 and 50 persons in my employment, 16 of them assistants and apprentices, living in the house. These work from 9 till 8½, half an hour longer than the day-workers, having no stated allowance of time for dinner, but coming up from it as quickly as possible. The out-door hands have an hour and a half for meals, and do not ever work beyond their time. Those in-doors are never very late, and if they sit till 10 I sit with them. In the eight years that I have been in business I never had a hand up all night, and that is a great deal to say. I make it a rule to attend to all the details of management myself, which is of great importance, instead of leaving it to a first hand, as is often done. If I am called away I find that the work does not go on so well. A principal should know the business practically. There is seldom any difficulty in getting extra hands, if arrangements are made long enough beforehand without grudging a few weeks' salary. I have no stated time for closing on Saturday ; it has been at 2 for a bit, but in the busy time it is from 3 till 5.

6. It being late on Saturday afternoon, and the assistants being off work, I had no opportunity of making any further inquiry at the above house. I visited another house of the same class of business, though smaller, and found the system and hours much like those just described. I also visited the shop of a small milliner and straw-worker, *i.e.*, one who makes up straw plait into bonnets, &c., in a poor neighbourhood. The only persons employed at this are usually one, two, or three out-door apprentices from 12 or 13 years old, who work from 8 to 8, with an hour and a half for meals.

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7. *Miss* ——.—I am an assistant milliner in an establishment which has also a public business. In large houses of this kind generally, in Manchester, the hours are moderate, and I should say that such a thing as working an hour beyond the time scarcely occurs. The understood times in such houses are from 8 to 8, or perhaps, as usually where I am, 8½ to 8½ ; but in some private millinery and dress-making houses here the hours are much longer. In one in which I was till two years ago, there were no fixed times for leaving off work, though 8 was fixed as the hour for beginning. The hands, however, generally worked till 10 and 11, not merely at particular seasons, but quite as the usual thing. Sometimes it was later, as on till 2 and 3 a.m., and I have known it be till 5 a.m., but that was very exceptional, as indeed it need be. There were some in-door apprentices, and they worked on the same hours as the others. There were several assistants in the house besides. The out-door hands could not leave at 8, but they seldom stayed beyond 9 or 10 p.m. There was no fixed allowance of time for meals, but usually, though not in all cases, just enough time was taken to eat without hurry, and then return to work. Tea indeed was called 20 minutes, but that time was not taken. A certain quantity of work was given out to be done in the day, and it was obliged to be finished. I think that much of the late hours might have been prevented by good management ; but the fact was that the hands knew that if they finished all they had to do earlier, there would merely be more to do another day, so they did not care to finish early. I think that the truth with a great many. So much late work could not but be injurious to health. I hope that some measures will be taken to improve the condition of the class.

Speaking generally of the private houses of the higher sort at least, which are most in one particular part of the town, I think that there is nothing to complain of as to the state of either the work-rooms or the bed-rooms. Perhaps as to meals opinions might vary, though there is no insufficiency. Breakfast, dinner, tea, and supper, the latter usually of bread and cheese, are the customary meals ; but generally, I think, the meals are only just taken, and then the hands return to work. Where I am now the meal-times are regular. Nor do I think there is much to complain of as to hours, though the house of which I spoke is not the only one amongst houses of high standing that I know to be objectionably late, though probably it is an extreme case. The average size of a private house, with a good business, would perhaps be 10, or 12, or 15 persons living in, and seven or eight out. In good houses apprentices usually live in, at least those of the higher class, but they are seldom under about 16 years old. On the average they come for three years, at a premium of from 20*l.* to 40*l.* Sometimes a receipt stamp is taken, but often there are no indentures.

Satterfield's, Silkmercer, &c., St. Ann's Square.

8. *Mr. Lamb*, the present principal.—We added a millinery, mantle, and dress making department to our establishment some years back, as several drapers have now done, chiefly for the convenience of customers, and to allow of having our own goods made up. In this department we employ altogether 31, of whom 10 sleep in the house, but only two are now under 18, viz., 16 and 13. The hours are from 8½ till 8½, with lunch, dinner, and tea, and with breakfast and supper before and after work. There is half-an-hour for each meal, except lunch, which is a quarter. We are very strict as to these hours being kept, and will not allow work, even in cases of mourning orders, to be taken unless it can be done within them. If they ever work at all longer it is very rarely indeed, not perhaps once in six months, and then very little longer. We tell customers that our hands cannot work beyond a certain time, and putting it to ladies in this way we find no difficulty with them. At first, however, we found great difficulty with the hands themselves, as they would say that they could do more ; but now our rules are firmly established, and work very well indeed. My opinion is that more work is done within moderate hours like these than if they are exceeded. Certainly it is better work.

We were, I believe, the first in our line in Manchester to establish a half day on Saturday, which

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we did at the time when the volunteer system began, which indeed partly led to it, as a means of enabling the young men to get out to attend drill. Before this we closed at 4. Now all leave at 2 here, and I fancy that the custom is becoming pretty general, at any rate with the eight or ten principal drapery houses, most of which, I should say, have young ladies engaged in millinery in them. This enables persons to get a long walk on the Saturday afternoon, and no doubt they feel better for it and fitter for the work of the ensuing week.

The principal work-room, in which are about 20 persons, including two apprentices, is about 32 ft. × 12 ft. 8 in., with five large windows and thoroughly ventilated, as all the house is, having the upper panes made to draw back so that air can be admitted in any weather without draught, and having also perforated zinc in the ceiling with pipes above. These arrangements are thoroughly effectual. We have tried other modes before, but found that they did not answer, as they caused draughts, and were, therefore, always stopped up. The effect of the pipes in drawing off the heat of the gas is very noticeable, from the amount of smoke which accumulates when their ordinary working is interrupted by the removal of glasses, &c. for the workmen engaged. In a newspaper printing office here, in which the men suffered much from the want of escape for the hot air, they have been quite different since pipes of the same kind have been used.

We do all in our power to make our hands thoroughly comfortable, as is only our duty; but we reap the advantage of it. There is no doubt that if people are properly treated they work with much more pleasure and satisfaction in every way. It is, however, only right to add that our house is perhaps an extreme case, and that, as regards regularity of hours, we may be able to do what would be very difficult in other cases, and that perhaps very few could be equally successful in this respect, however much they might wish it.

[This statement was concurred in, and some of the details supplied by Mr. Atcherly, the gentleman more immediately concerned with the management of the department spoken of. The ventilation and other arrangements for comfort appear very good.]

Messrs. Kendal, Milne, & Co.'s, Drapers, Milliners, &c., St. Ann's Street.

9. *Mr. Kendal.*—Our business is very general, including furniture, as well as drapery, millinery, and dress-making. The two latter branches we have taken on for perhaps the last 10 or 12 years almost of necessity, as otherwise we should be unable to dispose of some of our best goods to our best customers, private houses liking to make up only their own; and many other drapery houses have come to do the same. In this department we employ about 40 persons, about half of whom sleep in the house, but only two or three apprentices are under the age of 18. The hours are from 8 till 8, or in winter from 8½ till 8½, less an hour for dinner and about half-an-hour for tea, which are taken here; and there are also breakfast and supper before and after work. Most are away by 2 on Saturday, as is now very general indeed in Manchester. The recognized hours in large houses with a public business are, I believe, from 8 till 8. The hands very seldom work beyond the regular hours; say, *e.g.* for a mourning order, and then only very slightly, and perhaps not more than three or four times in a year. If work ordered cannot be done in the reasonable time of work we refuse it, and constantly lose customers as well as the sale of expensive materials in this way. All are allowed three weeks' holiday in the year, for which they are paid just as if they were at work. At first some may have only a fortnight. The hours in the town generally are much shorter than they were some years ago, and persons employed expect to have more liberty and much more done for them in every way, and they have, I feel quite sure. Our work-rooms here are light and lofty; about 16 feet high. We have remarkably little sickness amongst our milliners and dress-makers, indeed scarcely know what it is. Many of them have been with us for many years. People come to know more now where they will find comfort and regularity, and seek these places, so that the fact of a few houses adopting this course tends to make others follow it, or otherwise they would be unable to get the good workers.

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10. *Miss Naughton.*—I am the head of a mantle-making department in a wholesale house in High Street. There are a number of wholesale houses in Manchester, in which millinery, mantles, ladies' underclothing, children's clothing, and crinoline, and a few in which cloth caps, are made by women and girls. The cloth caps are sewn by machines, and the work is chiefly finishing them by putting in linings, &c. Lappet or bonnet-front making, at which several little girls work with machines, must, I think, be unhealthy. In the wholesale houses the hours are commonly from 8 till 8, though where I am they are from 8 till 6½. In several the hands work beyond 8 for occasional orders, till 9 or 10, say, but never, to my knowledge, later than that. I have a sister in a wholesale crinoline house, and could name off-hand half-a-dozen such houses. This is a very good trade just now, and the hours, therefore, probably as late as in any.

There has been a great improvement of late in the hours of the wholesale houses generally, as some of them used to work at times till 10, 11, and even 12, I believe. Even within the last five years the change has been considerable. It is owing partly, I think, to the shops closing earlier, and also the trade is more extended and not confined to so few houses. Persons often express a wish to get a situation in wholesale houses, on account of the hours being good. The other evening I was at a friend's house, and her daughter, a girl who worked in a private dress-making house in the outskirts of the town, came in from her work just about 10, and her mother complained that they kept very late hours there.

Of the wholesale houses, the new are generally good, and built with modern improvements. The crinoline house, where my sister is, is a beautiful place for health and comfort; but the old houses, I think, remain much as they were.

11. *Miss Sweetman.*—I am head of a millinery department in the same house. In the seasons, from about March till May, and again in September and October, some good wholesale houses work longer hours, and may average till 9 pretty regularly; some a little later; but they would not pass 10 perhaps one a year. Many of the workers are paid by piece-work, and like to work longer. The crinoline machines, however, which are merely sewing machines, are hard work, and want very strong girls, and they cannot work very long at these, as they are so tiring. In a wholesale house where I was they once worked all night, but then they could not go on next day, and were obliged to go home for a good part of it. Skirts are made so much by machines now. Each house will generally have a machinist, who can perhaps turn off as much as 10 persons without a machine. In work-rooms in warehouses the hands generally go away an hour for dinner and have half-an-hour for tea, which they bring; and these times are generally kept to.

In private dress-making, &c. houses here, several of my own acquaintance have, I know, worked all night through and on through the next day as often

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even as three times a week, and this in houses of the best class in the fashionable quarter. I have known such cases of working through the night quite lately, and one even last week. The hours, however, appear generally to be much shorter than in London, for I have had friends working here who have gone to London and come back here again on account of the long hours there. In the inferior out-lying dress-makers' houses here, the hands do not work so long, as they are mostly day-workers, and would have to be paid extra, which their mistresses cannot afford.

Cloth caps are made a good deal in small private houses in the suburbs, a number of girls, say, 10, 20, or even 30 working together.

Some women keep sewing or crinoline machines in their homes, and employ perhaps three or four girls on crinolines, quilted skirts, and such things given out from warehouses. Hair nets are done a great deal by women or girls strictly at their own homes. I know of only two warehouses in Manchester that make them on the premises; the rest give them out. A warehouse will give out a dozen nets even to a girl alone, simply on her giving her address.

Mrs. Rogers's, Wholesale Milliner, Rochdale Road.

12. Some girls and women work in a small private house making ladies' caps. The principal work-room is very small and close, so small indeed that the fire, as the mistress stated, connot be lighted, as some of the workers have to sit so close into the fireplace, while others sit along the side with their backs close into the windows. This must, for a great part of the year, prevent the admission of fresh air, at least without exposing these to draught. This room was hot, and smelled strongly from the gas, which is used for warmth instead of the fire, and it was also very littery.

13. *Mrs. Rogers.*—I employ seven girls, of from about 12 to 15, and seven women. All live away. They work from 9 till 8, less an hour for dinner and half-an-hour for tea. From April till September they average till 8½ p.m., sometimes till 9½; but they do not pass 10. Perhaps, after finishing, one may have to go an errand or two besides. They come as apprentices for a year, and then I generally find them a place somewhere else.

14. *Elizabeth Ann Hammel*, age 12.—When I came here I was not quite 11. Another girl came when 11. My hours and meals are (*as above*). Have stayed till 9 or 10 p.m. perhaps twice a week, but never later than 10 minutes or so past 10, and that very seldom. Sometimes take only a quarter of an hour for dinner; but I live a quarter of an hour off, so that I must be away towards an hour. Now I am out of my apprenticeship I earn 4*s.* a week here at making caps. The room is too small for us to have a fire, and we did not even in the frost lately, but we have gas lighted all day instead. It is very comfortable—always warm. Sometimes the others have headaches.

At another place I knitted "shafts" for calico with "cops," *i.e.*, short sticks with cotton on. There were three big rooms full of women and girls, the youngest about 9. We worked from 6 till 6, and had an hour for dinner, and I got 2*s.* a week. It was not a factory.

At another place, a room at a bread shop, I worked at balling cotton. There were four girls, and the mistress's daughter turned a machine.

Can read without spelling, write small hand, but not a letter, and did multiplication, &c.

Mrs. Strong's, Chenille Net Maker, High Cambridge Street.

15. A private house, in which work some girls, the youngest 9, three of 10, and so on up to 13. Some make chenille hair nets by netting on meshes with the hand, and a few in the same room do quite different work, viz., punching holes for eyelets in luggage labels, printed and cut in the house. All could read, except the eldest, who, her mistress said, could not tell the clock.

16. *Jane Shaw*, age 12.—Here two years. We all come to work at 8 and we chenille girls stay till 8, or sometimes only till 6. We are busiest most part towards Christmas, and at other times when they want orders. Then we come at 6 a.m. and stay till 7½ or 8 p.m., and we have come at 6 a.m. and stayed till 9½ p.m., but not very often; perhaps twice in a week; but both in winter and summer. A girl now about 10 used only to come at 7, and stay till about 8½ only, because the mistress thought that she was too little to work so long. My sister Jessie, now 10, is one of them, and has been here about nine months. We have one hour for dinner, but, if busy, sometimes come back a bit sooner if we please, perhaps at ¼ to 2 or 1½, and stop 20 minutes only instead of half-an-hour for tea. Sometimes take some work home. At the house that we work for there are, I should think, 60 women and girls doing the same kind of work. Some are littler than me. They sit a deal closer than we do here.

[The mistress stated that they did at times come at 6 a.m. and work till 8 p.m., or so.]

Mr. Watts's, Bonnet Front Maker and Wholesale Milliner, Russell Street, London Road.

17. The manufactory is an ordinary uninhabited dwelling-house in a small street, and other manufactories of the same kind in the same street present the same outward appearance. The size and height of rooms in such a house are not well suited for a work, parts of which depend upon heat, unless special provision is made for ventilation, and the numbers employed in each room limited. Some, but not apparently enough, ventilation has been provided, as also washing conduits. Twenty young females were at work with making-up machines in what would be but a very moderate bed-room. These machines, however, are heated by steam, as described by me in the case of a London manufactory in the Appendix to your First Report (*see* Lace-finishing Evidence, Messrs. M'Pherson and Vorley's), instead of by gas as formerly, and as usual at Nottingham. The improvement as regards the state of air and health is stated (b. 18, 19) to have been very marked. The air in February was not noticeably oppressive.

18. *Mr. Watts.*—My business is chiefly lappet or bonnet-front making, but includes other articles of wholesale millinery, such as children's hoods, nets, &c. My numbers are now at their lowest, viz., about 70; but at my fullest time they are nearly 150, all females but four or five. About a full third of the whole number, whether large or small, will be under 18, but very few under 13. I do not take them under that age if it can possibly be avoided; but sometimes a younger girl will be sharper and more useful than one who is over it. The hours are from 8 till 8, but they generally give over at 6. But about Whitsuntide is always a very busy time, and then usually for two or three weeks, but never, I think, above three weeks running, and in occasional instances at other times, for shipping or pressing

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orders, they work from 6 a.m. till 9 p.m.; but they still have their regular meal times then. The rule is for most to have tea, and breakfast if they come early, in here, and hot water is provided for them. For dinner, they go or stay, as they please; but they cannot work then, as the steam is turned off for the hour.

There are a number of bonnet-front manufactories in Manchester—I can count a dozen—several of them in this street, and most, I think, in what have been occupied as dwelling-houses like this. I am not aware that any of them is so large as mine, and some are much smaller, employing perhaps a third of my number. The kind and system of work is, I believe, the same as mine in all; and they must, I should say, be governed by the same circumstances with regard to hours.

I do not find that the people suffer in health much from the heat, though I often notice it myself on entering a room; and in very hot weather, sometimes a little faintness comes over some. When, however, gas was used for the making-up machines, the health was really affected. Indeed it was the oppressiveness of the gas which led me to adopt steam instead, though as I have a large number of moulds the steam is, I think, also cheaper to me. It might be the reverse if I had only a few. The article produced is the same whether gas or steam is used, but a different kind of machine is required. I have put ventilators in the chimneys, and should be glad to do what I can to improve the healthiness of the place. I have put up washing places; they want them.

There would be no practical difficulty whatever, as far as carrying on the work is concerned, in having two sets of young girls, if all under 13 were required to go to school part of their time; but as I have so few of these, I should probably cease to have any. Still if I had any because they were sharp, I could easily put others in their place for the other half of their time. There are plenty always to be got, and I refuse girls of that age almost daily.

It is impossible, however, to keep the day within regular hours. There are difficulties in such light and fancy materials as I use which do not apply to heavier goods. There is great uncertainty as to what will be wanted, and the articles are perishable, and take such an enormous amount of space in proportion to their value. They would spoil in a few days from dust, &c. if kept here; and though, if properly stored, they would keep two or three weeks without hurting, the space required would be too costly. Warehouses have to keep large stores; one that I know, I should say, to do its ordinary business, must keep 3,000 or 4,000 boxes; and another, which is being altered chiefly for the convenience of storing them, 4,000 or 5,000. Probably, if the sale is very large, many are sent out from the warehouses the same day that they are taken in; perhaps, on the average, they may be in it from one to three weeks, not more.

The busy season is very uniform, and can be reckoned upon, but it does not follow that extra hands can be supplied. The other manufacturers of the same kind are busy at the same time, and there might not be enough afloat. It takes some time to teach the work, six or eight months, to do it well, and perhaps a couple to do it passably. It might not be worth while for any to learn, or for me to teach them, merely for the season. When, however, I do fill up my full numbers, I generally have to do it by training new hands.

I give out whatever work can be done by hand, such as making hair nets, &c., which is done in private houses; and I know that girls have taken it home from here to do. People who do this work may be classed as milliners. If late work were prohibited in large places like mine, I think it would be important to reach the milliners who work in houses too, otherwise in a busy time it might be unjust to me, as they would get the work.

19. *Miss Fail.*—Worked for a year at a making-up machine heated by gas. That was very injurious to health, especially causing headache. Was very seldom without it, and several times had to leave work for it. Would have given up the work entirely, but for steam being used instead of gas, as it is now. Constitutions differ, but all find the steam much the best. Am more free from the headache now, but of course when the hours are long I find it out. Occasionally they are very long, viz., from 6 and even 5 a.m. till 9 p.m.; but usually they are very nice, viz., 8 till 6. When we come in summer the room is so intensely hot that you can hardly bear it.

20. *Georgina Carse*, age 14.—Gauffre. Think I was not 9 when I came here. Have very good health. It is just the right warmth. When busy come at 6 a.m. and leave at 8 p.m., or sometimes 9. Have not worked till 9 for more than a week together. We are busy three months in the year.

Am a good reader, not such a good writer.

21. *Sarah Ann Flenn*, age 10.—Was only six months at day-school, but go on Sundays. Know the letters, not all. Have never been out in the country—the fields—at all. Do not know what a primrose or a violet is. Lily and rose are flowers. Have heard the Queen's name mentioned, but forget it.

22. When in Manchester I had seen the writer of the following letter, and understood from him that, to his knowledge, there was now no Dress-makers' Association in Manchester, but finding that there had been one instituted a few years ago, and doubting if I had understood him correctly, I wrote to him on the point.

23. Manchester, 77, Moseley Street,
6th June 1864.

Dear Mr. White,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter inquiring into the state of matters in this city connected with dress-makers and needlewomen generally. My reply will, I am sure, be very satisfactory. The fact is, our Dress-makers' "Association" (of which I was a member a few years ago) ceases to exist, from I believe a less need of it; for I am persuaded that the girls employed in houses of business are far better cared for than they were formerly, and that there is a growing feeling amongst the people that there is a great deal in *their* power in preventing the abuse of labour. I have been informed that employers or customers are more considerate now than at one time, and that there is, therefore, less *push* towards the end of the week. Of course, every rule has its exceptions, and so it is in this case.

In haste,
Believe me, &c.
Thos. Turner.

P.S.—The memorable meeting (which you allude to) held in our Town Hall, under the presidency of the Bishop, and which my benevolent friend, Mr. Grainger, attended, was productive of an amazing amount of good.

24. The following account of the state of some of the warehouses in Manchester where females work is taken from a paper read before the Manchester Statistical Society in 1860 by a medical gentleman of long experience, to whom I applied for information, and who kindly referred me to this paper for it. So far as I could learn, there has been no particular change in the character of the places in the interval. The term "women" is used as including girls.

25. Having seen Mr. Adam's (lace) warehouse (at Nottingham) described in this paper as "a model "warehouse," and learned his wise arrangements for the good of his hands, I naturally bethought me

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of looking into the condition of those warehouses in Manchester where females work. I was not previously aware of the great number of women who find employment in our warehouses at * frill-making, cap-making, and the like, amounting, I am credibly informed to several thousands. By the permission of various masters, kindly and frankly given me, I have looked through 10 warehouses, employing about 1,100 women, and of these only two can be said to be commodious and well aired. In the work-rooms of four or five, the cubic air space per woman was excessively small, and the atmosphere polluted by gas-stoves and gas-lights. In one of these warehouses I noticed a long low room of less than 4,000 cubic feet of air space, where sat 50 women, and in an adjoining room, of not more than 1,800 cubic feet, there worked 24 women; and the air space of the rooms in several of the other warehouses, with reference to the number working in them, was little, if at all, greater. The atmosphere in these was very bad; and when, in one instance, I expressed my surprise that a window was not kept open, my attendant replied that the inmates shut any window he might open as soon as he turned his back. On this I asked one of the women what made them do so; to which she answered, the place was so hot that an open window produced draughts such as nobody could endure. It is hardly possible for any one to imagine the incommodiousness of several of these warehouses, and the bad state of the atmosphere in the work-rooms, without paying them a visit; and a remedy for such evils is by no means easy. The reason is this: nearly all the buildings in Manchester in which women work were originally erected, not for warehouse purposes, but as dwelling-houses; and the work-rooms—once used as nurseries and sleeping-apartments, perhaps—are now occupied by nine or ten times the number of persons they were originally meant to accommodate.†

What, it may naturally be asked, is the physical and moral condition of the women in these, for the most part, badly ventilated warehouses? I do not find that they work longer hours than in Mr. Adams's establishment; and they cease earlier than his hands on the Saturday. With respect to health, I noticed in many that sallowness of complexion which indicates a depressed state of vitality; but were it found that the health does not absolutely break down, this would make little in favour of the sanitary state of these warehouses. The female sex, when in the spring-time of life—between the ages of fifteen and twenty-five—bear up surprisingly under such causes of physical exhaustion as these, especially when, as in the present instance, they do not sleep on the premises,—the case in many of the London warehouses,—but walk night and morning to and from their own homes, which lie often at considerable distances.‡ Concerning their moral condition, I would speak with caution. * * * A friend, whose official duties make him familar with the state of our lower classes, tells me that when trade is brisk the women's work-rooms are generally overcrowded; and being in most instances badly ventilated, a state of atmosphere is produced injurious to health, depressing to the spirits, and disposing to the use of intoxicating liquors, as well as to such excitements as the dancing-room and theatre. * * * This, it must be admitted, is not a cheering picture. If lodging-houses, factories, and print-works are thought to require inspection, these work-rooms, it will perhaps be conceded, equally demand it; assuredly this is a form of social evil which ought not to be overlooked.

* Bonnet fronts are so called.—J.E.W.

† This transmutation of dwelling-houses into warehouses in Manchester is a subject of considerable local interest and curiosity. The following account of it, with the rise and extension of the different branches of our trade, I have from Mr. David Bellhouse, than whom, from his great local knowledge, no one is more competent to supply this kind of information. (The detailed account given by the writer of the Paper in this note is here omitted.—J.E.W.)

‡ I am informed by an experienced upper servant in one of our warehouses, who used to be in a London house, that *there* a considerable proportion of the hands remain and sleep on the premises, the beds often laid in corridors and other close quarters. (This note also is by the writer of the Paper.—J.E.W.)

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Miss Barry's, Dress-maker, Norfolk Street.

26. *Miss Barry.*—All the persons in my employment but one, a near relation of my own of whom I take charge, are over 18. Apprentices do not suit me. The usual custom in the trade is to take them with a written agreement drawn up, but in this usually nothing is said about the hours of work. When an apprentice is taken into the house to board, there is always a premium, and generally pretty high, *e. g.*, 20*l.*, 30*l.*, or 40*l.* It is when they live in the house that they are worked the longest. When they do not, they generally go home for an hour at dinner, and leave at the regular hour, even in busy times. I do not know that they ever stay late. Those in the house do not get so long a time for dinner. Assistants who board in their employer's house are paid at a certain rate whether there is full work or not, and therefore feel bound to work late when they are wanted without any extra pay. I went as apprentice myself, at a place near London, where they said that the hours were from 8 till 8, but they wanted to get us up at 7 a.m. and keep us at work till 10 p.m., but I objected, and having a good home to go to, I left in six months; but there are others who have no home or place to go, and must stay on where they are. The usual time of proper apprenticeship is three years. Young persons after being out of apprenticeship, being then probably about 16, 17, or 18, often go up to London houses as improvers.

The hours in Paris are not nearly so long as in London. I have been in houses in both. In Paris the people are more independent, and will not work so hard. Where I was they did not think of beginning before 9 a.m., which left time for a walk before breakfast, which I always had, and they generally clear out at dusk (*i.e.* in summer probably.—J.E.W.) I would never work there beyond 11 p.m. though some did till 1 or 2 a.m. But in Paris they are not paid for holidays as well as working days as they are in England. In London, where I was, at a well regulated drapery establishment in the West End, the dress-makers began at 7, and the milliners at 8. Dress-making is much more laborious than millinery. Still, notwithstanding the longer hours in London, many when once they have been there get to like its amusements, and think the country dull. One that I had from London, where she had been overworked, and who was told by the doctor that she was killing herself, when she had been here a short time said that it was so dull that she must go back, but she has now come to like this place well.

My thoroughly busy time here is about a fortnight or three weeks in the year, and at other times my work is very regular. Ladies are not so unreasonable here as in London. While people press so for their dresses, I do not see how irregular hours can be avoided, though it is a great pity. If the work was not done just when it was wanted, the customers would go elsewhere. A private establishment is more dependent on season than one which is a shop, for unless it does all the work wanted in the season there would be no profits at all, whereas the shop has the profits of ordinary sale.

There has been a great prejudice against using machines. My workwoman would not use mine at

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first, and said that it did everything badly, but now she likes it, and can get through many times the former amount of work with it. They have done a great deal to diminish the labour in many ways.

27. *Miss Chapman*, first hand.—I was obliged by ill-health to leave a situation in a very large and fashionable establishment in London, where I was last year, and, though much better now, still suffer from a complaint in my chest brought on there, and have a cough. I had no chest complaint before, but there was twice laid up with what the doctor called an asthmatic affection of the air tubes, brought on by exposure to the draught of a window by which I was obliged to sit for the sake of fresh air, and by chills from going down to the cold and draughty dining cellar after coming from the hot work-room. I could scarcely breathe, and became so weak that I could hardly get up stairs; and finding that I could not get there the rest and good living which the doctor said that I must have, I left to come into the country. I had to spend pounds in a year there in buying proper food for myself; and many, I believe, spent more than I did.

I would not work so long as the others often did, though all the season, which was very long, I worked from 8 a.m. till 11 p.m., which was reckoned the usual time in the season. I was sure that my working longer would be no profit to my employers, and, being a first hand and good worker, and having been many years in the business, I knew that I was valuable to them, and, if need were, could easily get a good situation elsewhere, so could venture to refuse. I went for the sake of getting a reference from a house with so good a name. It is this power of giving a reference and the advantage of seeing a good style of work which enable a fashionable house to command any number of good workers, for very small or no salary, as improvers. Indeed, the employer thus has an almost complete hold over the young people, and it is from this that they suffer most. If one complains or objects to anything, or does not wish to stay so long as is desired, she may be unable to get a satisfactory reference, and without it she may probably be unable to obtain employment. I have known many kept out of employment for months for want of one.

The health of the others suffered very much as well as my own. In the 16 months that I was there many left ill, several looking as if they were in decline, and two who had left died; but this by no means shows all whose health suffered from the long hours, hot work-rooms, close bed-rooms, want of good food, &c. (*Details as to these facts, given very minutely, are omitted.*) In one little room where two cousins, of about 16, both orphans, apprenticed by an uncle at premiums of 50*l.*, slept, and which was so small that their bed had to be close under the window, I have many times seen their bed dripping wet from the rain, and they said that it was very often so. One had a dreadful cough. The hot air from the gas coming down from the low ceilings was almost unbearable in the evenings, particularly in winter, when the gas was sometimes lighted all day, and in December often by 2 o'clock. At these times I could scarcely get through the day, and could not sit up at night at all. I could not describe what I suffered then from the heat coming down on my head. I have very often seen girls faint back in their chairs at work, or fall on the floor when getting up to move. If so many suffered, more or less seriously, in the short time that I was there, what must it amount to in a a number of years? I believe that many will rise up in judgment against those who, knowing of such misery, and with the means to stop it, did not do so.

If the workers would all join together and say that they would not submit, in fact, would strike, as men do, the practice of late hours might be stopped; but I do not see how they can be stopped otherwise. Where I have worked only 12 hours a day I am sure that we got through much more work in proportion.

The late hours at ——'s, the house which I have spoken of, as I believe is the case generally, were caused by bad management. Bills were often made out with mistakes in, and things were sent to wrong places or mislaid. Even in the case of some work for one of the Royal Family, an article which was missing, about which there was a great fuss made, was found to have been in this house all the time. The fact was, that no one served with a good will or cared for their employers, so things were not likely to be well attended to. Another great cause of the late hours was the thoughtlessness of the mistress. Sometimes she would come in at night and take up a dress when quite finished, and look at it, and if it were not entirely to her taste, which certainly was exquisite, would take the scissors and slit everything up, and have it all done over again. Sometimes she did this merely in a passion, when the dress would really have done quite well as it was, as was plain, because sometimes it was made up just the same again, and sent off. I believe that half the night-work was caused by thoughtlessness of this kind.

Great good would be done if in all agreements on behalf of young people it were stipulated that they should not work beyond a certain number of hours. Young people should in all cases be protected by such agreements, and their friends should impress upon them not to work longer, otherwise the young people might be induced by threats or persuasion to give way. An apprentice who worked under me had it fixed in her agreement that she should never work beyond 9, and her friends told her not to do so, and the consequence was that she very seldom did. But generally there was no distinction between the hours of the apprentices and the others. But in very many cases those who board in the houses are orphans or without homes. Those in this London house were in this condition, and these, of course, were glad of a home of any kind, and unwilling to risk losing it by being too independent.

The younger ones were never allowed to go out except on Sunday. There was no place for them to spend that day in if it was wet or they were unable to go out, except their bed-rooms or the work-rooms in which they had been working probably 15 hours daily all the week before; and when it was dark only one gas-burner was allowed there. We first hands and the show-room young people had a room to sit in, but the others were not allowed to use it. My heart often used to ache to let some of the poor young things come in.

The holiday which was allowed out of the season was often used as a means of enforcing work, *e.g.*, by threatening that if they did not sit up to work they should not have any holiday.

Mrs. Steel's, Dress and Mantle Maker, Hanover Street.

28. *Mrs. Steel.*—I have had many years' experience in the business, both as employed and as an employer. From what I have seen I am convinced that it is quite unnecessary to keep young people at work so late as they are too often kept. Indeed, as soon as I heard that an inquiry was coming, my remark was that if I was visited I should say, that if mistresses would mind their work and manage it well, young people need not be slaves. For this, however, it is necessary that the mistress should not undertake more work than she can do in a reasonable time, and should be punctual in executing her orders, and should be firm and insist on punctuality in her workers. I act on this principle, and am always able to keep to my time, and my customers know that they can rely upon me, and also that on their part they must give me sufficient notice. I constantly have work a month beforehand. Sometimes it happens that something more pressing occurs, and then I ask if those whom I have promised can wait

a little. It also constantly happens that I cannot undertake to finish work in the time asked, and if people will not wait till I can promise to finish their work I refuse it. In this way of course I lose a good deal, but I gain in the long run. I have not too many hands, so can look after them well. Two are about 15, and the others grown up. When there is more than these can do, I get day-women to help. My regular hours of work are from 7 a.m. till 8 p.m., with breakfast, dinner, and tea, and supper when work is done, generally a little before 9. I give the young people plenty of plainest healthy food, as I know that they require it; and I am very particular to get them the best flour, as bread is really their chief support. It is very hungry work. Where I learned the business, at Chesterfield, the hours for the in-door apprentices were from 6 a.m. till 8 p.m.

I insist on there being no work after 9. It is much better to begin early in the morning. I have often said, when I have seen lights late in other mistresses' windows, that I am sure that they do not really get through more work with late hours than I do with shorter, and with an early day on Saturday, viz., from 6 till 6, which I always allow, as I know one of the chief milliners in the town does also. I also allow a fortnight's holiday in the year. My hours are, I am sure, quite as much as I can stand myself. It is impossible of course to regulate business so evenly in the London establishments. Want of proper space for work is a great mistake. Even in a good house in London we had to cut out on our knees, and were so muddled that we could hardly tell how to get on. At a house in Birmingham in which I had a situation there was no regular system of hours for the in-door hands when I went. They began when they liked, seldom before 9 a.m., and if they came late it was understood that they must work late, and in any case finish what there was to do. They had sometimes stayed very late, but as first hand I asked my mistress leave to get them into a more regular system. She said that I could never do it, but I did, and got them to begin at 8 and leave off at 8, keeping them to their work well during the day. The day-women, however, had always come and left at 8, as they could not be got to stay later. In London the first hands are much to blame for the late hours, as they do not keep their young people to their work, but let them chitter-chatter, and so waste time, which must be made up afterwards. Sometimes too a manager is in fault for not cutting out enough work in time, and half-an-hour is soon wasted in this way. If principals would only stir themselves, and see more to such points, girls would not be in such a state as they are. I have often said to principals, "Ah! you don't attend to your business enough "yourself, and, therefore, your inferiors don't."

I take apprentices usually for three years, with a premium or a yearly payment, but without a written agreement. It is much better to be able to part, if either finds out that it does not suit to keep on. I have given up one, who paid 20*l.* a year, simply because she did not get on satisfactorily, and it is no real use to a girl to be kept on learning if she has not ability enough ever to make a dress-maker.

For a long time I held out against using sewing machines, thinking that it would deprive people of work; but it saves so much labour, and works so beautifully even for the finest work, that I was obliged to use it, and I now see that the machine is a benefit even to the workpeople themselves. They can get through so much more with it, and it makes girls clever, because they have not to spend so much time over plain sewing, but get on sooner to finer and higher kinds of work. It saves the eyes too very much, as it relieves them of some of the work most trying to the eyes, *e.g.*, stitching bodies.

My health suffered much from the long hours of work at a London dress-makers. I went up there from the country a strong, fresh, and hearty girl of 18 or 20, but in nine months was quite white and like a skeleton, and had to go away, and my mother said that I should never go back to London. But I had become so fond of being in London, that after being away for towards a year in another situation I went back. But in the heavy season, which lasted for about three months, we were often up till 2 a.m., sometimes for several nights together, and all had to be up at work again by 7 a.m., or were fined 3*d.* each. It was the long hours alone which injured me, for we had every comfort, and always bread and a glass of wine at 11 a.m. Though those who wished could spend their Sunday in the house, it was understood that the mistress liked them better not to do so. I usually spent it with my friends, unless I liked better to lie late in bed. But I know that at some houses the young people are obliged to spend Sunday out.

The Misses Dixon's, Dress-makers, Gell Street Terrace.

29. *Miss Dixon.*—We do not like to keep our young people late. But we have had several persons come here who had left other places in the town on account of their late hours there; but no one here just now has spoken of being kept later than 10. When I learned the business in this town myself as an out-door apprentice, we often stayed at work till 11 and 12 p.m., and sometimes went to work at 7 a.m. A girl could not refuse without giving great offence, and probably would somehow be got to leave, and if so, would lose her premium, which few could afford to do.

When two of my sisters learned in London my parents would not allow them to board in the employer's house, as that would put them so much under her control; and they stipulated that my sisters should work only from 8 till 8. But still, though they generally did not come till 11, or from that to 12 p.m., my parents did not like to press the matter and insist on the agreement, as it was made quite a favour by the employer to allow my sisters to board out.

It is very desirable that the employment of young people in this business should be inquired into, but it will be very difficult to learn the real facts, as in so many cases they will not be allowed to be known. More regular hours ought to be secured in some way. Employers may do a good deal themselves by better arrangements; but there are often good objections to taking on more hands. Persons of skill and of good character cannot be secured for mere occasional work, and an employer does not like to engage them beforehand for longer periods, for fear of having more than should turn out to be necessary. A great objection is felt everywhere to taking on day-workers, because they learn the patterns and styles, which the employer of course wishes to keep private. My sisters and I prefer to do the extra work ourselves, and have sat up many nights for the purpose.

This difficulty might be met in some degree by giving out at busy times the plainer and easier parts of the work, and doing only the more particular in.

We do not like to keep the young people up to do the extra work, because it is bad for them, and we know that they get no benefit in return. In large establishments, where it is impossible for the employers to do the extra work by their own personal extra exertions, it becomes a matter of positive right and wrong to employ other hands or find some way of getting the work done without keeping up their workers.

A good deal might be done by means of dress-makers' institutions, like the London one.

If such places were more numerous, employers

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would be able to find additional hands, however suddenly they were wanted, which now they are often unable to do, and there would be some security for the good character of the persons recommended. Such institutions answer well in the case of servants, and, if adopted more extensively in this business, would much diminish its evils, proving a benefit alike to employers, the employed, and the unemployed, who would no doubt gladly contribute something to the support of such institutions in return for the situations obtained by their means.

30. *Miss M. J. Corker.*—I left another house in this town, where I was an out-door apprentice, to come here, partly because we were kept beyond our proper time in the evening, viz., 8, and partly because the mistress was so severe. In the month that I was there, I only came home once before a quarter to 9, and two or three times not till 10. At about 7 or 8 o'clock we used to be sent out errands, carrying something home to customers, and such long distances that, with waiting for the things, it took two or three hours. One night I had to start after 8, and go about a couple of miles to the outskirts of the town, and then, with the waiting, could not get back till after 10. I was 14. We all were sent out on errands at night in the same way.

31. *Miss E. Brown.*—There are four besides myself here under 18. All live away. Our hours are from 8 till 7, and we always have an hour for dinner and half-an-hour for tea. We have never stayed later than 8½.

At another place in this town, where no one besides myself was employed, I went at 8½ a.m., and generally stayed till 8½, very often till 9, and I have stayed till 10.

Miss Steel's, Milliner and Dress-maker, Glossop Road, Sheffield.

32. *Miss Moxon*, assistant.—Work from 8½ till 8½ in a general way; never leave later than 10, but sometimes when busy stay here all night, but do not work later than 12 then, and begin again at about 7. Have generally an hour for dinner and half-an-hour for tea. Work does not do me any harm, because I get a walk of two miles each way, coming here and going home.

33. I visited in Sheffield another private house, with much the same kind of business and hours as the above, and two or three shops employing milliners and dress-makers; the hours at the latter being 9 till 7 or 8, with meals, the hands sometimes staying till about 10, but not later; and at one which employs a large number, an assistant stated that she had come at 6 a.m.

Rotherham.

ROTHERHAM.

34. *Miss* ——.—I am manager of a millinery and mantle-making establishment here. Only one or two of the young people here are under 18. The hours are from 8½ till 8½, with an hour for dinner and half-an-hour for tea, but the hands are not kept very strictly to these hours. The short time that I have been here, being just before Christmas, has been rather busy. Last Saturday work went on till 11½ p.m., last night (Monday) till 10, and perhaps three nights in all as late as 11. The hours at such a place as this are very different from what they are in London and some other places where I have been. Once I had only 16 hours for sleep in a whole fortnight.

I have been engaged in several towns in Yorkshire and Lancashire. In one, a small town near Bradford, my health was so ruined by two years hard work that for a long time afterwards I could not do any hard work at all. The hours were nominally from 8 till 8, but in the season they were really very long, and we used to begin at any time almost; it just depended on the work. Sometimes we began at 6 a.m. and worked on till 11, 12, 1, or 2 at night. Twice while there I worked without rest from Wednesday morning till Saturday night. I was the only one who did so, and did it of my own choice; one of the times it was not even known by the employer but what I had been to bed. But it was my place to see that the work was done in time, and it would have been as much as my situation was worth if it was not done. I knew that, and also it was a very comfortable place, otherwise I would not have sat up at work so long. The fact was that there were not enough hands employed to do the work of the place, and the work must be done. Some of those employed were quite young; one 13, one 14, one 15, one 22, &c.

The hands were too few likewise for the work at a Lancashire watering-place where I took a situation, but the work in consequence fell so heavy on me as first hand that I would not stay, and left in three weeks. The work-room was good, but there was neither comfort nor cleanliness in the house, and in summer it was very unhealthy. The food was bad, and there was not enough in quantity, and too short time to eat in. Indeed, in all the places where I have been, though good in most other ways, the general custom has been for the in-door hands to have just time to eat their meals, and no more,—a quarter of an hour for dinner, or sometimes 10 minutes, and sometimes no time at all,—but the latter is chiefly the case when a person is in the shop as saleswoman. I went to this place as milliner in July, and was the ninth milliner who had filled the place since the Christmas before, so that you can imagine what sort of establishment it might be. There were nine dress-makers and milliners in all, seven living in the house, and six in one room.

At a small town in the east of Yorkshire I had to sit up many nights both for mourning orders and other business. The hours there were called from 8½ till 8½, and the younger girls, who all lived away, usually left at the proper hour, except perhaps on Saturday nights. This however depends very much on the disposition of a manager, and some first hands are very bad in this respect. I should not think myself of doing such a thing as keeping the young ones. As soon however as the young ones come to be useful they are likely to be kept late if they are wanted.

In London in the season the mistress did not profess to have any fixed hours. It would not have been much matter if she did, for in such places they are not taken any notice of. Sometimes we used to get up at 2 or 3 in the morning and work on till 11 and 12 at night, sometimes till 2 or 3 the next morning. There was Sunday-work too there for those who would do it. French women are the chief Sunday-workers. If they go to mass in the morning they feel all right, and think no more of working on Sunday than any other common week-day. The workers consisted chiefly of improvers, some about 16 or 17 years of age, who came up for a short time and paid a fee, say for a month paying two guineas, and then had good situations found for them by the mistress. The house arrangements were not at all comfortable.

But at other places, and indeed all where I have been, with the two exceptions that I have named, the rooms both for work and sleeping, meals, and house arrangements have been very good In Manchester,

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at a first-rate house (which I visited afterwards, J. E. W.) we found the half day, which each half of the hands got on alternate Saturdays, a great relief. It was very pleasant to be out of doors by daylight.

I wish that all these matters now being inquired into had been attended to a few years ago, before I began. It is impossible in such a business altogether to avoid pressure of work, but good management and punctuality will do much towards it.

35. *Mrs. Dawson*, dress-maker, Clifton Bank.—My hours are from 9 till 8. My own health has suffered so from late work that I would not think of allowing it here. I have had several bad illnesses, and cannot now sit past 10 o'clock. It is the greatest mistake for people to say, as some do, if they have a weakly child, that they will on that account bring her up to the millinery business. Milliners ought to be very strong. In one house in which I was we often had to work till broad daylight, simply because there was such waste of time by day, and no business management at all; indeed the business failed. I had to leave from ill-health. When I was an apprentice, between 14 and 16 years old, we worked like this, and have had to be up three nights a week, as well as the days, getting only two or three hours' sleep to refresh us, and have been busy two or three weeks together in this way; and I have had to get up at 2 or 3 on Monday morning and work straight away till Tuesday night, with sleep only for an hour or two, or perhaps three, once or twice. This, however, was long ago. The hours in many different towns in the middle of England, in which I have been engaged, were more moderate, though sometimes late, and much the same in all, and in all I have been well off for accommodation in work and bed rooms.

36. I visited in this town the house of another dress-maker who employed no one but two young nieces, but these as regular workers, from 8 till 8; and also a draper's shop, employing five millinery and mantle makers, as many, I was informed, as any shop in the town. At this the hours are from 8 till 7, and Saturday till 10. The master of a millinery establishment stated that his work had sometimes gone on till 12, but never passed 1, and that his apprentices did not work beyond 10 p.m.; also that Saturday night was usually the latest.

BARNSLEY.

Barnsley.

Miss Norris's, Dress-maker and Milliner.

37. *Miss Derbyshire*, head assistant.—This is the first business in the town, but the number of persons employed is small, and all but one live in the house. The regular hours are from 8 till 8, but in the busy times, viz., for about six or eight weeks in spring and about the same in autumn, they are longer, *e.g.*, from 7½ a.m. till 9½ or 10 p.m. There are also a few occasions, perhaps three or four in a year, such as balls, weddings, &c., funerals, &c., for which work must be finished; but I have not known work here later than 12. The meals are sometimes short, but it is the workers' fault. Some young people are careless, and employers think that they have a right to a day's work. In work-rooms it is a general principle to keep the hands up to the mark pretty well. There is no mistake about that.

I have been also in large wholesale houses. One was in Piccadilly, Manchester, and had a large shipping business for Australia, India, America, and other places. The millinery being made for wholesale purposes, and an immense stock kept, the hours, which were short, viz., only from 9 till 6, were also regular throughout the year. I have known as many as 3,000 or 4,000 bonnets in stock, and 1,600 sent off in a week. There were 80 milliners in my room at one time, besides a great many in another. The warehouses are generally more regular than private houses as they keep stocks, whereas private houses of course only make to particular orders. Ladies come in and suggest so many alterations that it is more trouble than to make the thing new.

38. *Miss Thacker*, assistant.—Have only been here a few weeks, so cannot speak much of the hours. The work and bed rooms are very nice, and the lady is very particular about us.

In two small towns in Lincolnshire and Cambridgeshire, places where I learned and improved within the last five years, my hours were from 8 till 8, and never beyond 10.

39. I visited another private dress-maker's house in the town, where the business was conducted in much the same way as at that just described, but the hours appeared a little shorter. I was informed the drapers in the town employed milliners and one of them dress-makers.

DONCASTER.

Doncaster.

Mr. Robinson's, Draper, &c.

40. *Mrs. Robinson.*—We generally employ about 18 or 20 persons in millinery and dress-making, never any under about 14 or 15 years of age. We have a separate house for boarders, where they are under the charge of a matron, and are made as comfortable as possible in every way. We find that it answers much the best to treat them in this way. We get a better class of hands, and they generally stay with us a long time. Those whom we have thus as boarders are generally a respectable class of orphans, fatherless or motherless, sometimes both. One whom we have now is the daughter of a clergyman.

The work-rooms are not large, but are well ventilated, and we take care that they are not in any way detrimental to health. The hours are from 8 till 8 in summer, and from 8½ till 7½ in winter. The boarders take their week-day meals at the shop premises, and have only half-an-hour for dinner, instead of an hour like the others. The time in which there is work beyond the usual hours is not more than three months in the year, if so much, and then they never work beyond 10 p.m. The only exceptions to this are very rare occasions, such as a public rejoicing, a general mourning, or a ball. I should think that they do not work all night once in three years. We never have to ask them to stay late, but they always do it voluntarily, and often ask to be allowed to work all night, but we will not allow it. I should think it blood money that was made by working for such hours as are worked in London, and could never have a quiet conscience with it. In an agricultural town like this there is very little pressure. People here give more time, and will consent to wait for their orders if necessary. Even here, when we want to get extra hands as day-workers we can get plenty; they are glad to come at 9*s.* each, as they learn our style and improve themselves. This is a great objection to employing them, and we avoid it as far as we can, but it is a necessary evil, and better than refusing orders or overworking the other hands.

Wearing Apparel.

Doncaster.

Mr. J. E. White.

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41. At two other private dress-makers, only a few are employed, now living on the premises. The hours are much the same as the above. One of the two had given up the millinery branch in consequence of some of the drapers in town taking to it.

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Messrs. Sutherland & Co.'s, Silk Mercers, Milliners, and Dress-makers, Bold Street.

42. *Mr. Sutherland.*—Our business is one of quite the first class. The establishments carrying on millinery or dressmaking of some kind in this street alone, which is the fashionable part for them, are very numerous. Besides half-a-dozen general houses, there are probably a score of smaller or private houses, most of them employing females more or less. All the persons in our employment live in the house, except a few day workers that we take on in the season. Of 22 that we have in the house now only one I believe is an apprentice under 18, but at times we have two or three apprentices, never, however, younger than about 16. In the season we have a few more assistants in the house. About April and May in the first half of the year, and from the middle of October to December in the second, we do as much as in all the remaining parts of the two half years. The stated hours are from $8\frac{1}{2}$ till $8\frac{1}{2}$, but for perhaps half the year the milliners might, if they pleased, finish between 6 and 7, and the dressmakers a little later as their work takes more time; but there is no recognised distinction as to hours. That would never do in the same house. I object very much to late hours, and am gradually bringing about an improvement, but they cannot be altogether avoided in busy times, and it is the most difficult thing in the world to get the young people themselves to give them up. They have the greatest possible dislike to being early, and would prefer to lie in bed in the morning and work even till 12 or 1 at night. I know that this is very bad for them, and am always telling them that if they would but drop work at 10 they might have plenty of rest and be up by 7. But if they stop up till 2 they are no use next day. I feel this myself if I occasionally am up late, and I judge the same of them. I believe in the saying that one hour's sleep before 12 is worth two after. In the season, however, it is necessary to work late, perhaps till 10 or 11, though not regularly, and sometimes later. I never, however, have asked them to work late, but they do it of themselves. It also occasionally happens that for a funeral or some exceptional order they must work all through the night, but then very likely next day they may have nothing to do. Such orders cannot be refused or customers might be lost. In this last winter season the milliners have not sat up at all, and the dressmakers have only sat up till 2 twice, and that was against my wishes, and one time I sent them off to bed. Winter is very busy from the number of balls, which give almost more trouble than anything. There are not so many of these here in summer. In the season, if we are very busy, they begin work at 6 a.m., and though it is very difficult to get them up and takes a great deal of ringing, it is better for them than working so much later, and more work is done and more satisfactorily.

The out-door hands, when here, leave punctually at $8\frac{1}{2}$, unless there is a great deal to do, when they are paid extra for staying later, and they always take their full meal times, *i.e.* an hour and a half, but the in-door hands take less. Sometimes the latter with dinner and waiting about afterwards take three-quarters of an hour. They always dine at 1 punctually to the minute. There is no regular time for their going out of doors except on Sundays, when they go where they please, and I should never refuse one leave to go out any time if she had occasion, or wanted a day, unless it were impossible to spare her. All are allowed a fortnight's holiday at the end of summer without any deduction from their salary, and two or three weeks longer if they wish with a deduction. The apprentices generally have three weeks or a month. I find very little ill health amongst any of them, and think the house, which is enormously expensive, about one of the best that I have seen for a business of this kind. Besides comfortable work and bed rooms, they have dining and dressing rooms.

It is, I should say, a universal rule that all business establishments are better and more regularly conducted under men than under women. Females are by nature less suited for business transactions of all kinds, and have much less system. The late proprietor of this house, Miss Jane Clarke, of London, had several establishments. It was impossible for her to attend to them herself, but she would never allow a man to have anything to do with them, and in fact they could not be properly regulated. As an instance, she always had 16 milliners in this house, whereas we usually have only six, and in the season 10; but by an improvement in system we do more with the smaller than she did with the larger number. She had nearly all apprentices, four perhaps where we have one. But apprentices cost as much in board as grown persons, while fair hands can always be got for about £15 or £20 a year, who do about double the work, so that as a matter of economy it answers much better to have them. I also consider it a great advantage for the principals to live on the premises, as I do. At least, I am sure that if I lived away our business would not be nearly so well conducted as it is. The young people are of course more circumspect, and there is likely to be greater regularity when the principals are known to be on the spot.

If I were asked whether it would be possible to do without night work, I should say that of course it would if it were law, but that it would be to the injury of all concerned, particularly of the workers themselves. They would much prefer to work longer for certain parts of the year and be kept employed all the year round, than be cast off as they must be if more hands had to be employed at the busy times. This plan, which is generally adopted in Dublin, where I once lived, would be greatly to their injury morally, as it is here as far as it is practised. As a proof of the numbers who are suffering from being thus thrown out of employment here, I have just had in two days nearly 90 applications in answer to an anonymous advertisement for two milliners and a few good dressmakers, most of them from persons evidently in a miserable state.

43. *Miss Burroughes,* first hand dressmaker.—This is a very steady business, though slacker before Easter and from the end of July to September, in which period we go for our holidays. Perhaps for two months in the year we work less than the nominal hours, but from March to July, and from October to January are our seasons, and we are generally quite busy then. In the season there are not many nights that we leave off before $10\frac{1}{2}$ p.m. We do not consider that late, and average about from that to $11\frac{1}{2}$, but we are not often after 12, and perhaps it does not happen that we sit up all night more than half a dozen times in the year on an average. Our employer, Mr. S., never likes us to work after $10\frac{1}{2}$. We do so because the work must be done. Besides the seasons accidental things come in to make us busy. The visit of the Channel fleet made us dreadfully busy, and the Shakspeare ball no doubt will, though falling out of the season. I never keep the young one here up after nine, though she has wished to stay. Whether the young apprentices work as late as the other in-door hands depends chiefly upon

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the first hand, and so, in a great measure, does the happiness of an establishment.

The rooms and everything are very comfortable here, and we can get out when we ask. If we sit up late, we always have something to eat. All the houses of business in this part of the town are, I think, nice for comfort. The hours are shorter, I believe, where there is a large shop business in addition to the private.

Till five years ago, when I came here, I was in a private millinery and dressmaking house in Regent Street, one of the first in London, so I know what late hours are. In the season we were scarcely ever off work at night till 12, 1, or 2 o'clock, and as often as not I should say, we began at 6 a.m. Indeed, we have got up at 6 a.m., and not gone to bed I am sure till 2 or 3 a.m.; in the season this was very frequent. Before a drawing room we always sat up all night. I went there as an improver, and sat up all night the second night that I was there. Those apprentices who were good workers sat up as late as we did ourselves. When the season was over the hours were very nice.

Some were very strong, and seemed not to be hurt by the hard work, others felt it more. We used to think that the excitement kept us up. We used to have nice things given to us, *e.g.*, an egg if we had been sitting up late, or some wine. The rules were usually very lenient, and altogether we were very happy. Some of the rooms were bad. I was also in a house in Manchester where we sat very late, later than here, but not so late as in London.

Miss Scott's, Milliner and Dressmaker, Rodney Street.

44. *Miss Scott.*—I have three in-door and three out-door apprentices, and paid assistants, of whom three live in the house. The youngest in-door apprentice is 15 and the youngest out-door 14. The apprenticeship of both kinds is for two years. The out-door hands work in winter from 9 to 8½, but in summer they come and go about an hour earlier; they have always a full hour for dinner and a full half hour for tea. They have only stayed beyond the usual time twice in the two years that I have been in business. The in-door hands usually work longer, and the time which they take for their meals depends upon the amount of work. Sometimes they merely just take a meal and return to work. They take all their meals with us. The spring season is about from April to July; the autumn and winter last from October till February, and, as the winter season is very busy with night-work for balls, there is little difference between this and the spring. All the year, except August and September, and six weeks or so before Easter, unless it comes very early, when parties are not so much stopped by Lent, is pretty busy. For about six months or so of this time, the in-door hands work usually till 10 or 11 p.m., and in exceptional cases, till 12, or later, but not much. I have seen so much of late hours myself, and know so well what hard work it is, that I would not on any account have any in my house go through what I have. I have been in three private houses in Liverpool, and in these the hours were far longer. For weeks and weeks there, I have never expected to leave work before 12, and thought that pretty good time, and many and many a time have been obliged to work all night, going to bed only for two or three hours at about 6 a.m. But after being up two or three nights in a week, you get so tired that you can do but little. It may happen that it is necessary to sit up in this way to finish particular orders, and that after this there may not be so much to do. Working late for long together is very wearing, and makes the work altogether lag behind so by day, that much time is lost by it. I know this, and when I see any getting tired, tell them that it is time to go to bed. I sit in the work-room most of the time myself, and cannot now work very late, and when I leave, all do. If they were kept later, there would not be so much done in the day as there is. I have no reason to think that my hours are longer than they are in other private houses here. Having a small number of in-door hands, and seing a great deal of them, we hear a good deal from those who come from other places, and should, no doubt, if my hours were much longer: I should think that they are about the same. Everywhere, however, that I have heard of in Liverpool, the hours are far shorter now than they were ten years ago. I cannot say at all to what this is owing. Certainly, however, where the employer goes much into the work-room and sees to the work herself, the work is shorter; because this enables her to see that the work is going on properly, and that no time is lost.

My young people get out on Sunday. There is no early closing on Saturday in private houses, and but little, if any, in shops.

I think that now most places are pretty well for comfort of living, but there is not always sufficient air, at least there was not in some rooms, bed as well as work-rooms, in which I have been. In one of the leading private houses where I was, the ceiling of a work-room is very low. My own work-rooms are very high. In one of the houses in which I was, now closed however, there was far too little animal food. Sometimes there was none at all, even for dinner, *i. e.* if there was pudding. The work is very exhausting, and not merely the work, but the anxiety and other things that fall on the first hands, or show-room hands, such as talking to ladies while fitting on things and attending to their wishes. The want of proper support, of course, makes the same amount of work more exhausting.

45. *Miss M'Kee.*—I was in a private dressmaking house at Southport, where there were eight living in the house, including three or four apprentices. We had to be in the work-room a little before 9 a.m. Worked in the slack time till towards 9 p.m., or a little earlier, and in the busy time till 10 or so. We worked sometimes till 12 and 1, but not later. The largest establishment in the town was in a draper's shop, at which the hours were, I believe, just about the same as ours.

Miss Newell's, Milliner and Dressmaker, Bold Street.

46. *Miss Newell.*—Mine is one of the first private businesses. I employ usually about 30 persons, of whom now four are apprentices under 18. The remainder are nearly all from about 17 to 25 and single. I find it impossible to keep them here when they once settle, as they do early, though I should often be glad to have them. Only seven live in the house, who are all heads of departments, and over 20. I do not approve of having many in the house, as I live here myself, and there are but few rooms to spare, and respectable young ladies like to be comfortable, and to have a room to themselves, as is the case in all the rooms but one. I have had ventilators put in all the work-rooms, of the best kind as I was told, and my doctor has been all through the house, and approved of the rooms. It is of great importance to have the rooms ventilated, and I am a practical worker myself, and in the work-rooms a good deal, so that I, perhaps, attend the more to their state.

The out-door hands come from 8½ till 8½, and whether they go home for dinner or tea, or bring them here, about which they please themselves, they

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take their full hour and a half for the two. The in-door hands take, say half or a quarter of an hour for dinner, according to the work, or, if not busy, perhaps have a little leisure then. I have fixed breakfast for them at 8½ on purpose to enable them to get a walk first, but they very seldom do, and as they are of reasonable age I cannot, of course, make them; but some of them generally have occasion to be out once or twice or more times during the week in the course of business to attend ladies at their homes. Of course they cannot be spared otherwise to go out by day, as it is just then that the best hands are most wanted to attend to customers. Beginning work by about 9, they leave off at different times. Perhaps a third of the year they leave off by 9, at other times generally at 9½ or 10 if they are busy; but by about 10 or a little after the room is always cleared. If I am busy the out-door hands, but only those who are paid, not the apprentices, make a quarter of a day extra, *i.e.*, till 10 or 10½, receiving extra pay. I prefer this to taking occasional extra hands, partly because it is not easy to get them good enough for my kind of work, and partly because I do not like fresh hands whom I do not know, and whom I cannot rely on with equal certainty, even if they are good. Most have been with me four or five years or longer, some eight or nine. A certain number of good hands must be retained anyhow. This is an obstacle to increasing or diminishing the number just in accordance with the amount of work. At certain times of the year, however, at which I am sure to be busiest, as in spring, and in December and January when there are a great number of balls, I always engage some extra hands. I should say that the hours in other houses are now about the same as in mine, though they were longer in a house here in which I was engaged.

47. *Miss Hawkins*, millinery assistant.—We very seldom stay at work later than 10 p.m., though we have done so. I think that last year a rule was made that we should not work later than 10.

Mr. J. Pearce's, Milliner, Bold Street.

48. *Mr. J. Pearce.*—My business is millinery only. Two show-room apprentices and six paid assistants live in the house. The out-door apprentices leave strictly to the time, viz., 8 p.m., except perhaps for six weeks or a couple of months in the year, when some of the elder may stay till 9. They begin at 9. I can get extra hands when I want them, but I usually keep enough good hands together, the work requiring much skill. The extra work falls as a rule on the senior and paid hands. In the busy time they work till 9, and very rarely till 10; that is the outside. The usual hours are in this trade are, I think, from 8½ till 8½, and are, I should say, seldom longer than mine in houses equally respectable. Dress-making, however, is heavier and more tedious work than millinery, and is more affected by balls and parties. But the two businesses are now done very much together, and where they are, it would not, probably, do to have different hours for the two sets of hands under one roof. Generally speaking, I should say that the millinery hands are of a higher class and better educated and conducted. I often find that those who have had a good education, as for governesses, prefer coming to millinery as there is less drudgery.

The practice of drapers carrying on millinery and dressmaking establishments as well, has grown up here almost entirely within the last ten years. They are driven to it to enable them to sell their goods, as good milliners and dressmakers object to making up any but their own. Some say what a troublesome business it is, but that they cannot do without it. This must very much diminish the number of private houses, but the change is no doubt much in favour of the workers. The capital is greater and the connection with hands wider, and thus more hands can be commanded, if there is occasion, than by a mere private house. The staff, too, is larger, and necessitates more system and supervision, and some of the hands are necessarily more or less strangers to the principals, so that there is not the same objection to taking on new and unknown hands that is felt by private mistresses. Besides the very fact of there being a larger staff affords some security for regularity, for what half-a-dozen would submit to, 50 together would not.

With me, and probably with most houses of the upper class, Saturday is rather an easier day than the others. Comparatively little business is done in Bold Street shops after 2 or 3 o'clock p.m., and as things are usually wanted to be finished by the week's end, they must of course be delivered or sent off in fair time. There is however little, if any, difference as to the time of closing, though I believe that in some cases where they did close an hour later than on other days, they now close at the same time, and a feeling seems growing for doing less on Saturday, *i.e.* amongst the upper classes. In the lower kinds of business the case is most likely just the other way.

49. *Miss Collins*, in-door assistant.—I am lately out of my three years' apprenticeship here, which I did not begin till 17, which is later than most. In the drive, *i.e.* for about two or three months in summer and a couple in winter, the apprentices have worked pretty regularly till 9, except those who live far off, and therefore leave at 8. We never worked later than 10, and that only for very large orders. As assistant, I have not worked much longer than as an apprentice. We have every comfort in the house in every way, and a large healthy work-room.

Mrs. Roberts', Dress-maker, Pomona Street.

50. *Mrs. Roberts.*—I employ no one but out-door apprentices, usually only two. They work from 9½ till 8½ with the usual meal times; or, if they take only half an hour for dinner, they leave at 8. An hour longer, or 12 hours, is, I think, the usual day in houses like mine, as well as in the large and general houses. Twelve is, I should say, the youngest age at which girls are employed by any dressmakers. I never let any stay beyond the time, I had too much of long hours myself as a girl years ago now. My mistress employed no one but six out-door apprentices, most of whom came at from 13 to 15 years of age for three years. In all the time that I was there we worked less than twelve hours only when the mistress was away for a fortnight each summer, when we left at tea-time; and we worked as little as twelve hours only about February and August; but at other times we never got out before 10 p.m., though, possibly, we may not have been quite so late always in winter, and for weeks together we stayed till 11 p.m., or after. We began at 8 a.m., or, in winter, when the mornings were too dark, at 9 a.m. One time, when we wanted to get off for an afternoon to see Prince Albert, we agreed to make it up, and worked all the other days in the week from 6 in the morning till 11 at night. Sometimes we were sent out on errands after our work, and I have been sent out as late as 9½ p.m. on a message which took an hour's walk each way. When we stayed late, the youngest stayed as well as the elder. Mother complained of our being always kept so late, but it did not do much good; for, though the mistress promised that we should leave early, in a month or two it was just the same again. I should not have stayed, but it was a very respectable

place, and mother said that it was better for me to put up with it than to leave and take the chance of another place. Where girls pay a premium, they are sometimes obliged to stay on anyhow, though they don't like a place, for fear of losing their premium. I do not think that my health was really injured from the long work, though I was not entirely well, for I have been able to work so hard since for myself. I never sit less than 16 hours a day. Still a sitting business must be injurious, particularly if a girl has a delicate constitution. What is most injurious, however, is working in rooms where there is a great lot of gas and bad air, as there often is both in the rooms themselves and coming up from shops or work-rooms below. When I have gone, after the gas has been lighted some time, into the show-room in a large draper's shop here, which employs a great many females working up stairs, I have felt the smell so offensive, almost fit to strike you down. I am almost positive that this injures the workers. When I was apprentice, we had a very nice ventilated work-room, which I think did a great deal towards keeping us well. I cannot tell what in-door hands at general or private houses may do, though I have no doubt that now some are working all night for this great fancy ball which is coming on, but the out-door hands, however, are seen coming out in the streets from work, at 10 o'clock or later, which is not at all proper for girls, and those who are the cause of it will have a great sin to answer for. Out-door hands do not have any holiday, except Christmas-day and Good-Friday, but I suppose that they can demand that. We never had any more where I was, nor do my girls here, and I think that the rule is general. It is understood that whatever time an apprentice loses she is bound to make up at the end of her apprenticeship, even if she loses it by having to stay away for illness.

Messrs. J. and W. Jeffrey and Co.'s, Drapers, &c., Compton House.

51. *Mr. Watts.*—This establishment is very general and of great size. Full 200 persons are engaged in actual work, and full 300 persons live, on the premises. Nine-tenths of the workers are females engaged in millinery, mantle and dress making, sewing, upholstery, &c.; about 25 or 30 of them are under the age of 18. Most of the workers come at 8.30 a.m., and none ever stay after 8 p.m.; not even the dressmakers and milliners in the height of our season. It is unnecessary anywhere, in London or in the provinces; and it most certainly is useless, for when the young ladies work late at night they are fit for nothing next morning: and no more work is done by prolonging the ordinary hours unreasonably. I became convinced of that some time ago, but we then had a forewoman who was obstinately attached to the old plan of always working late, and then the young ladies used to stay till 11 at night continually. Five years ago she left us, and I had my own way; the result of which has convinced me, beyond a doubt, that late working arises solely from a want of a proper system of management. It may be in most cases traced to the habits of the ladies, who are the mistresses, staying to serve in their shops or show-rooms all the day, leaving their work-rooms, if not without proper supervision, at all events without a supply of work to be employed upon: then, when their shop is closed, and no more customers will come, they go into the work-room and give their orders at night. It is with ladies that this is especially the case. I tell the forewoman "If the work is too much for you, come to me for more hands." In many cases, however, from our having such a large establishment, we can at a pressure strip one department, so to speak, that we may help another. We have 16 sewing machines altogether, and we do all that we can by them and finish as before by hand. None of the dressmakers' or milliners' apprentices are among the number that live on the premises, of whom there are more males than females. We found that when we had in-door apprentices of that class the mere sitting for the ordinary hours of the day work made them unhealthy, even though we used to send them out after breakfast for a two hours' walk twice a week, so they all live at home and go home for dinner. Our in-door female apprentices are all in the shop and show rooms, they are all in excellent health; they are standing or moving about during the day, and sit only to rest. The bed-rooms are of a very fair size; never more than three and generally only two sleep in one room. A bath room is attached. Great attention has always been paid to ventilation throughout the establishment, and we go on improving the premises as we can, and hope that in two years or so, when the whole block of building is in our own hands, there will not be anywhere a more spacious, comfortable, and healthy place, both for working and living in as well as for show.

52. *Miss Taylor*, head of millinery department.—In my room they have not stopped once all the year after 8 p.m., and we have had a more than usually busy season. It is entirely the forewoman's fault if they have to work late; she allows them to loiter in the morning or doesn't take care to have her orders early in the work-room. It is a great thing for the girls to know that they can always go at 8 p.m.; they come at 8.30 a.m., and are ready for work at once. I am quite sure that in London where they are expected to stop till 11 or 12 at night, whatever work they have to do, they do not get more work done by being 16 hours about it instead of only 12. I know London work. There are several most respectable establishments here in Liverpool where the young ladies never leave till 11 or half-past 11 at night in our season. The private houses, that is, where there is no shop, are worst.

53. *Miss Tanner*, first-hand milliner.—I have been at milliners' establishments in London and in the country, and in business for myself also. I am sure that wherever I have been it has been the fault of the manager of the department if they have worked late. The worst of it is, that if you once get into the habit of working late, you are too prostrate the next day to be of any use in the morning, and so can't recover yourself. I once worked all night and was ill for a fortnight afterwards: thus I resolved that nothing should induce me to work where late hours were kept. I will not work in London now; and my sole reason for refusing is my dislike of the system pursued there. You can't get them to send the orders up into the work-room however ready you may be to begin; but the work-room ought to be and always could be kept well supplied. No doubt there is a great deal of work in the season in London, but there is a great deal of time misused. If the girls were not so wearied that their fingers are sluggish and themselves out of heart with their work, they could do in 10 hours what takes them nearer 20.

[The evidence relating to the above house had been taken some time previously by Mr. H. W. Lord as Assistant Commissioner, but for convenience of arrangement it is inserted here with the evidence relating to Liverpool collected by me.]

Mrs. Wilson's, Shirtmaker, &c., Egypt Street.

54. The small dwelling-house parlour, of apparently not more than 11 feet square, in which the needlewomen work, was very warm and close, though occupied by only the mistress and three women,

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far less than the number that have worked in it. The house, however, is of a comfortable class, and therefore probably gives a not unfavourable specimen of the houses in which girls are employed on the same or like work.

55. *Mrs. Wilson.*—I employ women in making up fine shirts, &c., which I take out from shops, and use a sewing machine. I have had as many as 12 women in this room. The regular day in houses, where shirt work is done, of which there are a great number in the town, is 12 hours for all, girls as well as women. Mine is from 8 till 8, or 8½ till 8½. The women go home to meals or eat them here as they please. In a shirt-room a girl can earn about 5*s.* a week on plain work, but we do rather a superior kind.

My daughter, now 18, was apprenticed for three years in one of the large fashionable drapery and dressmaking establishments here, and has lately become a paid out-door hand there. She began at 5*s.* a week and now has 7*s.* Those who go on well rise 1*s.* a year. The proper hours were from 8½ till 8½, with an hour for dinner and half an hour for tea, which I believe day-workers have at all such places. The hours, however, were often later, but since the Government Inspector* went round a short time ago, perhaps a year, there has been quite a different method used there, more hands being employed and the work shortened to 7½ p.m., being also more regular, which is much better for young girls. So she does not ever work late as the others used to do, *e.g.*, till 10 and 11 often, and sometimes even till 12. The day-workers have 2*d.* an hour for working over their time. I understand that other places, too, are all on one system now, and that the girls see one another leaving the different houses at night at the same time.

* Another of the Assistant Commissioners had visited this and some other houses in Liverpool last year.—J. E. W.

56. At a charitable institution called the Liverpool "Society in aid of Unemployed Needlewomen," women, and occasionally girls, are provided with plain needlework and a proper work place. It has been contemplated to use the institution as a temporary home for women of the poorer class. I obtained some account of the way in which women and girls are employed at common needlework in small houses, from one of the number at work named ——

57. *Mary Dingwell.*—I used to sew at home to maintain my children, being a widow, but am glad to be here instead, because I am sure of work, and it is a very comfortable place. There are a great many women in all parts of the town who make a living by employing women and girls on work which they take out from shops, chiefly ladies' and gentlemen's and children's underclothing, and also some coarse work, such as smocks, &c. Girls are not employed so under about 13, unless they are very clever. In such places they usually work from 8 till 8 with an hour allowed for dinner, but no time for tea. If they take any it's only a stolen bite, and even at dinner, some just take a bite and hurry it over for fear of losing time. If, however, there are orders, they are obliged to work over hours a good deal, and sometimes all night, being paid, I think, 1*d.* an hour extra. They are all anxious to do this, the regular pay being very small. But it would not be for long times together unless they were very busy. They will earn about 5*s.* a week, but for this they work so dreadful hard and must never lift their head. Some who do finer work, such as stitching button holes, earn more, perhaps 7*s.* They generally work for fixed pay after they have been tried to see what they can do.

Some of the mistresses are very poor and their houses small and the rooms crowded and unhealthy. Where there is so many together, with the gas, and the number of breaths so unpleasant, it is very injurious to health, and they are so liable to cold at going out. Some of the rooms are cold and comfortless, with very little fire, and sometimes so cold that they can scarcely use their fingers, and if they don't work quick they are harassed and worried by those that employ them.

Using the gas and all, and the white work, and the fineness of the stitching, are very trying to the sight, and they mostly wear glasses to preserve it. They say glasses are good for this, as you can rest your eye on the glass and save the pressure on the eye.

58. *Miss Travis*, superintendent of the "Establishment for Needlewomen," Great Orford Street.—The needlewomen who take out work from the shops often have to leave a deposit, and in many cases to take half their payment in shop goods. I often hear the workers who come here speak of this, and they seem to think it a tax upon them. The object of this society is to provide needlework at a fair remuneration to the workers, but not done here. The price is fixed by a scale according to what I calculate the work to be fairly worth, not higher. Where we pay 2*s.* 6*d.* the shops pay about 1*s.* 6*d.* for the same work, as near as I can say.

Messrs. Johnston's, Waterproof Clothing Manufacturers, Pitt Street.

59. The work carried on here is simple needle and sewing-machine work. The material, calico or linen, is thus formed by women and girls into the shape of various articles of sailors' waterproof clothing, such as coats, sou'westers, &c., which are afterwards waterproofed elsewhere by oiling. The room is like a large store, low and dark, requiring gas on a moderately light afternoon. The foreman stated that it was burned all day in winter, and sometimes by day in summer.

60. *Miss Porteus*, forewoman.—There are 50 women and girls at work here, about half of them under 18, and the youngest about 12. The hours are from 8 till 7, and till 2 on Saturday, with an hour for dinner and half an hour for tea; all take their meals here as they live far off. They very seldom work longer. If they do it is till 9 p.m., but never later, and they have never done so for more than two months together. This late work has not happened more than twice this last five years.

61. *Lizzie Roberts*, age 11.—Came here when they were working till 9 p.m., and worked so for a month.

[She stated that she had stayed till 10 a few times, but the forewoman on my referring it to her said that it must be a mistake.]

Mr. Dillon's, Boot Maker, Kenshaw Street.

62. *Mrs. Dillon.*—We keep a retail boot shop and use sewing machines for stitching the leather. We have had as many as nine or ten girls at a time, as apprentices, working at the machines; but I found that they were too much trouble to look after, and I gave them up, and now have only two machines, worked by myself and a young woman. Our girls worked from 8½ till 7, or from 9 till 7½, with an hour for dinner and half an hour for tea. When we have been busy here we have sometimes worked till 10 p.m., but

never later, and never began earlier in the morning. I always, however, let the younger ones, *i.e.* those under about 16, leave early, as I did not like to keep them out late. This happens most towards the end of a week in consequence of the men having a very bad habit of being off early in the week and not having the work cut out and ready for sewing. My father employs a number of women and girls, 20 perhaps or more, in the same way, making boot tops and finishing off the straps, &c., but I think that their hours begin rather earlier than ours, but do not differ much. He takes young girls as apprentices for three years. In tailoring some women, I know, object to work in the same shops amongst the men. The men, too, have a feeling against the machine, thinking that it will deprive them of work. One sewing machine well worked will, I believe, do as much as 12 men. Tailors have, I believe, the same habit as shoemakers of idling early in the week, and this would throw the sewing late as in shoemaking.

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Miss Holmes's, Millinery, Mantle, and Dress-maker, Cherry Street.

63. *Miss Holmes.*—I have usually about three or four assistants and ten apprentices, of whom four and the assistants are in the house. The apprentices are usually girls of from 16 to 18, who have finished school. The stated hours are from 8 till 8, as is usual in this business in Birmingham generally, I believe. The out-door apprentices often come later, but would not stay five minutes beyond the time for anything. They take a full hour for dinner and a full half hour for tea. They are very independent and irregular. No holidays are allowed to them, but they often stay away a day or two without leave, and generally do so if there is a holiday in the town; on such a day the room is sometimes nearly cleared of them.

The hours of work for those who are in-doors depends upon the first hands. In the season they may, perhaps, work till 10 or after, but never later than 11. The gas is turned off then, and if it is wanted after that hour, the assistant has to come and ask me if I will allow it to be kept on. I never have them up all night. The seasons are about from March to July and October to January. The in-door hands take their meals with me as one family, and return to work as soon as they have finished. They are allowed to go out in the evening if they ask leave, the apprentices till 9½ p.m., the assistants till 10½, and they get occasional walks in the day besides. After the summer season they have a holiday. Late work is not at all necessary, and is caused chiefly by bad management. I am careful to make the in-door hands always begin punctually at 8.

Their work-room is very large and airy. They cannot work properly without plenty of room. As to health, my experience is, that both my assistants and apprentices have improved since coming here, which I attribute to the order and system which is observed, and to their having plenty of good, though of course plain food.

In my opinion it is a great mistake to suppose that the workers need protection against their employers. Just the opposite is the case, and I think that this ought to be generally known. No one has any idea of the extent to which employers are dependent upon the caprice and intrigues of their assistants, who are extremely independent, and will sometimes threaten to leave just at a busy time, when the business depends in a great measure upon their staying. They can always leave at a month's notice. I should say that generally all over the country, including London, the apprentices as well as the assistants are in a position to take care of themselves. Whatever evils they are exposed to are in London, and there exclusively; but there is one great evil in London, and that arises from the general practice of girls going up from the country for the sake of a reference from a London house and earning a name. This, of course, makes them to a considerable extent dependent, and unable or unwilling to leave the house in which they are engaged, in case of their being dissatisfied with it. This forms a great distinction between work in London and elsewhere. But in the provincial towns, even the largest, such as Liverpool, Manchester, and Birmingham, though the work is of the same class as in London, they are not exposed to any evils, and the independence of the people would not allow of it. The general independence here is extraordinary. The use of the sewing machine will do away with a good deal of unremunerative work, and place the dress-makers in a position of still greater independence.

Under these circumstances, however, the employers do need some protection, and I am convinced that in order to secure a proper mode of conducting business, it is of essential importance that they, or the chief of them, should associate themselves together, and lay down general rules for their guidance. This would conduce to a better understanding between employers and employed, and ultimately place both on a better footing, especially in the case of private houses. There is already sufficient combination amongst the assistants, and the Milliners Institution in London works for their benefit almost alone. So far as they derive benefit from it, it is good, but such institutions, unless conducted with great caution, are liable to great abuses as regards employers through partiality.

64. *Miss Hodder*, first hand dress-maker.—Our hours here, *i.e.*, of the in-door hands, depend on the amount of work promised. (*Gives much the same account as above.*) The apprentices do not work so late as we do, very seldom till 10 p.m. In a house of this kind they are well attended to, though in some their health is not much cared for as long as they do the work. The work-room here is very healthy, and we always open the skylight before leaving. It depends entirely on the arrangements in different houses whether apprentices are treated on the same footing as assistants as to the hours of work.

I have been in situations in houses in Chatham, Maidstone, and Southampton. In these nearly all the persons employed were day-workers, and their day was about 12 hours, viz., from 8 or 8½ till 8. In two of them, however, we in-door assistants sometimes worked much later than the day-workers, *e.g.*, till 10, 11, and 12 p.m., and in one, which was a draper's establishment, we have been as late as I ever was in London, viz., till 1 and 2 a.m. We were not told to work late, but did so from choice if it was necessary in order to finish the work. Sometimes we could spare very little time for meals, and might, perhaps, take not more than five minutes. In the first we never worked beyond the proper time, and always had an hour for dinner and half an hour for tea, which is what you scarcely ever meet with. The lady, however, was not dependent on her business.

While I was in a situation in London, a lady came to ask if we could not manage with working only from 8 till 8, and the mistress tried, but could not make it answer, because there is so little work out of the busy times of the year. But at any rate the work and bed-rooms might be ventilated; and indeed this is necessary. In one house in which I was several years ago, six persons worked by day in a room in which four slept at night.

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Mrs. Jane Smith's, Milliner and Dress-maker, New Street.

65. *Mrs. Jane Smith.*—The day for my out-door young people was from 8 till 8, but they would not come regularly, so I changed the hour of beginning for them to 9 a.m., and insist on their being punctual. They go away an hour for dinner, and take tea here. These take their meals with me, just a short time, but not fixed. When I am busy, chiefly May and June, and December and January, the in-door hands, viz., a few assistants and an apprentice, work longer. There would be a jealousy if a difference was made between apprentices and assistants, but my apprentices are never younger than about 16. At these times I should call 11 or 12 p.m. very late, as a rule; but in cases of mourning, and some occasional orders, they might have to work later, and to be late several nights together. But, as a rule, when there is more to do, they exert themselves more to clear up in fair time; and also, as work increases, I increase the number of out-door, and sometimes of the in-door hands, and can do so if I provide myself in time; not generally if I put it off till the pressure comes. So for a time I must incur the loss of keeping more than I need for the present work. So much work is now sent from London already made, that it is not necessary to keep so many regularly employed as it was formerly.

I do not consider the work-room airy enough, for though I have had three ventilators put in, the workers always block them up, and the house itself is a good deal blocked up at the back. I think that not only with me, but in all work-rooms, girls injure themselves by not having air enough. My dress-maker said that she would not stay if I insisted on the window being open.

66. *Miss Young.*—I am in the shop, and occasionally go into the work-room to help in the evening. The shop closes at 7 in winter and 8 in summer. In the work-room the proper day is 12 hours. The latest time they ever work is till 1 or 2 a.m., and that only on great emergencies. They have worked all night, but not more than twice, or once, I think, and then had a holiday next day. In the season it is only sometimes that they work later than 9, because more hands are taken on. We generally take about a quarter of an hour or 20 minutes for dinner, and less for tea. We always have our dinner as soon as the mistress. The out-door apprentices never stay beyond their time in the evening. If in-door apprentices are much younger than the assistants, a difference is made between them, and the apprentices leave work earlier, otherwise not. The apprentice here now cannot get out of doors much. There would be another young lady in the house now if there were room. There have been two more till within the last two months, the winter season being now over. But there are two good sized sleeping rooms, with windows that will open. The work-room has no fire-place, but a stove in winter.

Mrs. Howe's, Milliner and Dress-maker, Bull Street.

67. In two visits at this house, I found such unwillingness to give information, and while I was questioning one of the assistants, at length called for the purpose, such objections were raised, that seeing no prospect of obtaining any information that I could consider satisfactory, I discontinued the inquiry. I record, however, the statement made by the employer.

68. *Mrs. Howe.*—About 20 persons in my employment live in the house, three of whom now are apprentices. The hours of the out-door hands are from 9 till 8½. These sometimes like to work a bit longer as they are paid for it; but in the busiest times none work above half-an-hour or so more. I can manage this by having a good system, and not taking more work than I can do in time. All get proper meal-times, not of any particular length; but my orders are to take them as quickly as they can. The young people are a week away in summer.

Messrs. Holliday and Lewis's, Drapers, &c., New Street.

69. *Mr. William Holliday.*—We have a large and *general* business of the highest class, and employ on our premises a great number of persons, male and female. Of these as many as 100, consisting of clerks and others engaged in the mere sale of goods, as shop men and women, and the principal milliners and dress-makers, reside on the premises, about 30 of those who do so being females, all adults. Others, who are day-workers, and do not reside on the premises, are females, of from about 14 years of age upwards, engaged as day-workers, the number of whom varies from about 40 to 100, according to the seasons, and the amount of work. In addition to dress-making, millinery, bonnets and mantles, the work includes the making-up of some kinds of upholstery, as sewing carpets and curtains, stuffing furniture, &c. In addition to this we give out a large amount of needlework, such as the making of under-clothing.

We first took to millinery and dress-making towards six years ago, because we had been so constantly asked by customers to get things made up for them, owing to their difficulty in the country of finding good dress-makers able and willing to do it; and as we had an opportunity of enlarging our premises. But I determined from the first that the work should be carried on with perfect regularity as to hours, and with as great attention as possible to health and comfort. I know well some of the chief needlework districts in London, such as the Minories for clothes and slop-work, and the West End for millinery and dress-making, and have seen how much misery arises from the system on which those works are carried on there. I am convinced that even in millinery and dress-making over-work is wholly unnecessary, and arises simply from want of system and courage on the part of employers. At first some of the heads of departments said that regularity in such work was impossible; but I insisted on it, and said that no matter who a customer might be, or however high her position, she must wait for her dress till it could be finished, without working beyond the proper hours. We have refused some orders, such as those for mourning, on this account. But so far from injuring our business, this has, I believe, done us a great deal of good. It is true that people sometimes complain that we are so unbending in our rules, and will not oblige them as they wish in undertaking to finish orders quicker than we properly can; but we keep our customers.

In the long run people in general will, I believe, always come to where they can get the best goods and the best work, without regard to a slight delay, especially if they see that it arises from no want of attention to them, but simply from the observance of a proper system. So strictly is this regularity enforced throughout our establishment, that even if a clerk asks to be allowed to have the gas left on to enable him to make up his books, I refuse him. I know that for every hour that he works beyond the time he is likely to lose far more, perhaps double, the next day. Persons may perhaps make a push now and then without injury, but the practice, if allowed at all, is so likely to be abused that the only safe way is to forbid it altogether.

There have been a great many movements in this town at different times to shorten the hours. They are generally considerably shorter than they were some years back, but they might be shortened still further if people could be got out of the habit of

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shopping late. This would save us burning gas and carrying on work as late as even we now do. The out-workers come at 8½, and leave at 7, and have a clear hour for dinner, and a clear half hour for tea. We find it much more desirable, for several reasons, to have the latter taken on the premises by the day-workers, and a room, with hot water, &c. is provided for the purpose, as well as for dinner for those who live, as many necessarily do, at a considerable distance, or for any who like to stay in case of the weather being wet, &c.

I am thankful to say that we have found the general health of our people excellent, and that in the whole 27 years that I have been in business here a death has never occurred in the house. I attribute this in a great measure to the pains that we have taken in our arrangements, especially in securing plenty of air and light. Every work-room and shop has thorough ventilation by means of shafts, and the bed-rooms also are roomy and properly ventilated. Every person in the house has a single bed. There are also lavatories, a dining room, a library, and a smoke room, all of large dimensions. The young men are thus enabled to find amusement without going out so much at night.

We are extremely particular about the character of those whom we employ, and take only girls whose friends we know to be respectable. An apprentice to dress-making, millinery, &c. is not bound, but comes for two years, after which she receives a salary, according to her abilities. The lowest pay received by a day-worker is 7*s.*, which may be received by a girl of 16 or 17, as some begin at about 14. Others receive up to 14*s.*

The question of education does not arise with regard to the kind of persons that we employ, but its importance is brought strongly before me in my present official character as mayor. I have been much struck with the number of boys and youths who are found in our gaol, some for the third, fourth, or fifth time. Strong objections are, I know, entertained by enlightened men to a compulsory system of education, but in my opinion it is the only effectual way of diminishing the present amount of crime, and I should be glad to see some such system adopted.

Messrs. Bach and Barker's Mourning Warehouse, New Street.

70. *Mr. Bach.* — We make mourning millinery, mantles, and dresses on our premises here, and such a business is, of course, equal to any as regards the difficulty arising from the suddenness of orders, but we manage to be very regular, our hands, even those that live in, very seldom working beyond their usual hours, viz. from 9 till 8,—perhaps not three weeks in a year, and then never beyond 9; the out-door hands being paid 2*d.* an hour extra. We get through the work by taking on more hands, and have no difficulty in getting them, but on the contrary find them very glad to come. We keep a list of persons on our staff to whom we apply, and if more are needed a good house can command a ready supply. Besides we always keep a large stock of things nearly prepared, and this takes off much of the pressure, though some persons of course require things made fresh for them. If the hands are not employed on orders they work regularly to keep up a stock. The out-door hands have an hour for dinner and half an hour for tea, and can take them in a room set apart for the purpose. Those who live in take no fixed time; as much less as they please or the work requires. We insist on beginning punctually in the morning, and anyone coming after 9 a.m. is fined, losing a quarter of a day. If there were occasion to fine the same person several times she would be discharged as setting a bad example. There is no difficulty in working a regular system when it is once established, and we find none with ours.

At first we tried to get the work done out by giving it to women, who perhaps employed two or three hands, but we found that it was not so well done, and that we could get it done much better, and with much more regularity under our own control here, though it costs more. There are nine young ladies altogether besides the apprentices living in the house.

A head assistant often gets 50*l.* a year salary, and board costs probably 20*l.* or 25*l.* each. Our in-door apprentices come for three years with a premium, or four without, and our out-door for one year, after which they receive a small salary which gradually rises. In dress-making, though not in millinery, the amount of manual work required is so great that we pay every week more than we charge customers for it. The labour of making is charged in the country at least as a separate item in a bill to satisfy customers. It is impossible to make dress-making alone pay, unless unpaid labour, such as that of apprentices, improvers, &c., is employed. We gave up dress-making once, but returned to it again for the convenience of customers, and because it enables us to sell more goods over the counter.

[The head of the bonnet milliners stated that the girls always left work at 8. The pipes over some gas lights were said to carry off the heat nicely, but the lights over another table, I was told, begin to smell soon after they are lighted.]

Messrs. Smith and Greaves's, Milliners, Dress-makers, &c., New Street.

71. *Mr. Smith.*—In most houses of our class shopping is now done and the shops closed pretty early,—very much earlier than it was a few years ago,—but in shops dependent upon the lower classes, which form the greater number, probably most of the business is done from 7 to 9 p.m. after people come out of the factories. The effect of people coming to shop and give their orders late is to throw the work of those who make up the orders late also. The hours of the out-door hands here are from 9 till 8, but it is not the custom in the trade for in-door hands to keep to any fixed hours, but they work according to the requirements of business. Here sometimes they leave off quite early, and at other times they work late, as till 10 p.m. or even 12, and occasionally begin at 6 a.m., but such long hours are quite exceptional. It happens now and then, perhaps two or three times a year, that they must work all night under very special circumstances. But the general feeling is now quite altered, and whereas formerly people expected to have to work excessively long hours, now they do not and will not put up with it as a rule, nor will good hands submit to work in unfit work places. A great amount of work too which was formerly done in houses of our kind is now not necessary, as things can be obtained from wholesale houses to a much greater extent, and but few are employed here altogether.

The only thing which has produced, or is able to produce, real improvement as to the mode of carrying on work in houses of business is improved public opinion. There is no doubt that drawing attention to evils has tended to excite this improved opinion. But laws will always be liable to be evaded, as they so easily can if it is to the interest of a person to evade them.

ANDOVER.

Andover.

72. *Miss Batt*, dress-maker, Andover. — Many country hands, like myself, go up to London regularly twice a year, for a month in each season, to learn the fashions, and paying a small sum for board. This helps to increase greatly the number of workers there at the busiest times. When up there we usually work

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till 11 p.m., sometimes 12, and have worked all night, but not often. From what I hear I am very fortunate in being at that house, both as to hours and the air in the work-rooms; yet, large and high as these are, they are very close in the evening from the gas.

At 13 I went as apprentice for five years at a house at Reading. We were very well cared for and strictly kept; indeed it was more like a school. But there were too few hands for the work, and we were kept very closely to it. The out-door hands worked only from 8 till 8, but we in-door apprentices had no regular hours. From the end of April to the middle of August we generally worked from 7 a.m. till 10 p.m., very seldom later, and the rest of the year from 7 a.m. till 8 p.m. We had to take our meals and get to work again as quickly as possible, just the same as in London, stopping perhaps about a quarter of an hour for dinner. It was these long hours, I believe, which injured my sister's health so. She is now very ill. It is 12 years since I left there.

A few of the drapers in this little town have taken to doing millinery, and give out some other work to persons who employ a girl or two, in one or two cases, I know very young. Girls working in this way would expect to go from 8 till 8, and, though they do not always keep strictly to the time, still, in a small town like this, their friends would see that there was no great abuse.

EDINBURGH.

Edinburgh.

73. A statement, of which the material facts are given below, was kindly placed at my disposal by Mr. R. Denholme, S.S.C. of Edinburgh, as, so far as this knowledge went, equally applicable to the stated facts now as when it was prepared by him a few years ago. The register of a month's work was, he informs me, kept by a young lady, whose accuracy may be relied on. It may be remarked that the summer season appears from other sources to be the busier time in Edinburgh, as in most places, so that probably this month was taken merely because it happened to be the month then passing.

74. *A Statement of the Long Hour System in Private Millinery and Dress-making Establishments in Edinburgh.*

In these establishments the young ladies are generally of 14 years of age and upwards, and are composed of those in Edinburgh and from country towns and villages. On the average of the whole year they rise between 7 and 8 a.m., then have breakfast, and commence work immediately thereafter, generally at 8. They continue sewing, with intervals of about 20 minutes each for dinner and tea, until about 9 p.m., when they have supper, and on very rare occasions stop work altogether; but generally, after the interval of about 20 minutes for supper, they sew on again till 10, half-past 10, 11, half-past 11, and sometimes until even 12 o'clock, which often happens on Saturday evenings. They never get out through the week, except on the Sabbath, unless they specially ask, and that is very seldom; and they only get 14 days of holidays in the autumn. The following is an abstract of the hours of employment in one of the first-class private millinery and dress-making houses in Edinburgh for the month of November last, and may be taken as a fair sample. It will be observed from this, that on the average of four weeks the young ladies were closely employed more than 22 hours per week longer than what females are allowed by law to work in factories:—

November 1856.

Days of Week.	—	Began Work.	Stopt Work.	Deduct 1 hour per Day for Dinner, Tea, and Supper.	Total Hours employed each Day.
Monday - -	3	¼ p. 8	¼ p. 11	1 hour.	14
Tuesday -	4	„	„	„	14
Wednesday -	5	8	10	„	13
Thursday -	6	½ p. 8	¼ p. 11	„	13¾
Friday - -	7	8	¼ p. 10	„	13¼
Saturday -	8	8	½ p. 11	„	14½
					82½
Monday - -	10	8	10	„	13
Tuesday -	11	8	½ p. 10	„	13½
Wednesday -	12	¼ p. 8	¾ p. 10	„	13½
Thursday -	13	„	„	„	13½
Friday - -	14	8	11	„	14
Saturday -	15	8	12	„	15
					82½
Monday - -	17	8	½ p. 10	„	13½
Tuesday -	18	½ p. 8	½ p. 10	„	13
Wednesday -	19	½ p. 8	½ p. 10	„	13
Thursday -	20	8	½ p. 10	„	13½
Friday - -	21	8	½ p. 10	„	13½
Saturday -	22	8	½ p. 11	„	14½
					81

Days of Week.	—	Began Work.	Stopt Work.	Deduct 1 hour per Day for Dinner, Tea, and Supper.	Total Hours employed each Day.
Monday - -	24	8	½ p. 10	1 hour.	13½
Tuesday -	25	9	11	„	13
Wednesday -	26	½ p. 8	11	„	13½
Thursday -	27	8	½ p. 10	„	13½
Friday - -	28	8	½ p. 11	„	14½
Saturday -	29	8	12	„	15
					83
				Total	329

¼) 329 hours per month.

⅙) 82¼ hours per week.

13 hours 42 minutes per day.

Their rooms are pretty comfortable, and their food is in general plain and wholesome, but, in consequence of the incessant labour and the want of exercise and fresh air, they cannot relish it properly. They have no time for reading or amusement, or even to sew clothes or anything for themselves. At night, when they stop work, they are fit for nothing but their beds.

On the Lord's day, as they are quite worn out with the incessant work of the previous week, and the want of exercise and fresh air, they are much more fit to lie in bed or to take a walk to recruit exhausted nature, than to go to church; and even when they do go they are wholly unfit to attend properly to its services. They must encroach on this day, too, to call on their relatives and friends, or else never see them at all. Thus, and being unable to attend Bible classes and prayer meetings, they are deficient in religious knowledge.

In consequence of this pernicious system many of them have been brought to an untimely grave, whose medical attendants have stated that they blamed the long-hour system entirely for it.

After the universal and overwhelming testimony of the first medical and scientific men and other writers as to the pernicious and demoralizing effects of the long-hour system upon young ladies, it is quite evident that both the heads of these houses themselves and the ladies who employ them are losers by the present system, because the work cannot be done

so well, or even so much of it, as if the short-hour system were adopted. It is well known that if the human body exceeds a certain amount of work each day it has a strong tendency to become exhausted and worn out. It is submitted that, if reasonable hours of work were adopted, the young ladies would take much more interest in their mistress's business than they can be expected to do at present, and would most assuredly be much better fitted to fulfil their duties both for this world and the next. If they could leave work on Saturdays at 2 p.m., those of them also whose parents and relations reside in or near Edinburgh could go home on Saturday at 2 o'clock and see them, go to church with them on Sabbath, and return on Monday again well fitted for the duties of the week.

The good and beneficial effects which have followed the adoption of the short-hour system by the male portion of the community in business must of necessity be derived from its adoption by the female community also. If the heads of these houses and their customers have any feelings of humanity at all *for their own sex*, not to speak of the great benefits that would be derived by society at large, they will at once see the propriety and absolute moral duty and necessity of this course; and it is sincerely hoped that the day is close at hand when it will be universally adopted.

75. The young person, aged about 21, whose statement follows, was stated to me by a lady of good position, well acquainted with her and her family circumstances, to be thoroughly accurate and trustworthy, as she appeared.

76. *Miss* ———, millinery assistant, Edinburgh. —About four years ago I went as scholar to a private house here with a first-class business. A scholar usually lives out of the house, and pays a guinea for a year's learning. After some months I went to live in the house, paying 25*l.* as a fee for my board for the first year. It is usual for a young person living in the house to pay about this amount for the first year, to work as improver for the second, neither paying nor receiving anything, and in the third to get a small salary, about 6*l.* In good houses 14 is about the youngest age at which girls begin the business. Those who work at shops live away, but in private houses a considerable number live in, and there is often an indoor apprentice or two. At first apprentices only go messages, but afterwards there is no difference in their hours and those of the paid assistants. At the house where I was, from 12 to 16 assistants lived in, and there were also a few day-workers and a number of scholars. We had very regular hours there, scarcely ever working after 10 p.m., and never much, if at all, later, even in the seasons, which are about six weeks for the summer and eight for the winter season. We breakfasted at 8, and then had worship, so that it was nearly 9 before we began work. The proper hours are from then till 9 p.m., and out of the season we often got away early. We had meals at regular times, but they were short, about a quarter of an hour for dinner and 10 minutes or perhaps a little more for tea, and supper after work. The food was not very good, and we could not eat much. The meals were the only thing that we had to complain of. I do not think that it was merely our being tired or not getting out which prevented us from eating better. In the season it was understood that we were not to go out at all in the week. Even with these short hours, I used to be quite done up at the end of the season. Three girls left ill and died; but they were delicate to begin with.

After being at this place two years, I went to another private house, where the dress-maker and I were the only workers that lived in, the rest being all scholars. They worked from 9 till 9, with an hour-and-a-half for dinner: they never got away after that till 9 or had any tea. We two began at 8 all the year round, or earlier, according to the work, and in the seasons scarcely ever left off before 11 or 12 p.m., as we had to stay and finish the scholars' work. I had to work late to help the dress-maker. One time, for a mourning order, we had to work regularly for three weeks till 3 a.m., and get up at 5 a.m. to work again. One night the mistress kept three of the scholars to work all night, they sleeping with us for a short time just as we did. This was the only time while I was there that she kept any scholars all night, but she had done so before I was there. She might easily have got extra hands to help, but she did not like. It was in February (*i.e.*, in the dull time.—J. E. W.) During this time we had to run to our meals just as we could, and could scarcely eat. It was, I think, only the excitement that kept us up, as we were so anxious to finish the work. At the end of the three weeks I was utterly done up, and have never been well since, *i.e.*, 14 months. The doctor told me that I must give up my place, and never board in a house again, and I have therefore taken a situation as a day-worker. He said that my chest was affected by the stooping. It was the pain which I felt there which obliged me to stop work.

At this house we had just about the same times for meals as at my first. Even when we were busiest we left the work-room to eat them, but it was only to go into another room on the same flat. At first our food was very good, as two young ladies boarded in the house, and we had meals together; but when they left it fell off.

At both places our work-rooms were airy enough, and our bed-rooms upstairs. When we were working by gas, as we had to do a good deal in winter, it was bad for our eyes.

Late hours are, I believe, not confined to the house of which I have spoken. At one private house, which I could name, they are, I understand, even worse; but the shops are said to be pretty regular. Of houses with an inferior kind of business, I know nothing.

77. The milliner whose statement is given below, quite a young woman, had no objection to her name appearing, but her father thought that it might do her harm. She was well spoken of to me by competent persons as perfectly trustworthy. She looks delicate, and has a frequent short cough. The dress-making house is one of those which I visited. The statement as to hours agrees pretty closely in both accounts.

Miss ——.—I was lately millinery forewoman, living in a fashionable private dress-maker's house in the new town. It was in February, one of the dullest months in the year; but we never left off work before 11 p.m., beginning always at 8 a.m. Some of the girls said that they had not been out of doors since the beginning of the year, *i.e.*, six weeks, as they were so tired that they could only lie in bed on Sunday. I understood from them also that in the seasons, or for mourning orders, &c., they often worked much longer. I have seen a dress sent out by a message girl, a small thing of about 12, after 12 o'clock on Saturday night. She would have to walk a mile and a half and come back again, as she lived in the house. Most houses have message girls, but not living in the house. Young girls are not afraid to be sent out so late, as they are quite accustomed to it. Owing to the long hours, I could not take my meals well; we had just time to swallow our dinner. That was pretty good, but the breakfast scanty; viz., a halfpenny roll and a half slice off a four-pound loaf; the same allowance to each. The mistress once caught a girl sending out for something, and was very angry. Out of 13 or 14 who lived in the house, only four of us, the

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principal assistants, were paid, the rest, most of them about 18 or 19 years of age, and not learners or improvers, but good workers, working for their board. Advertisements are put out for girls to "finish." Some were without parents or home to go to; some who wished to learn stayed, hoping to get a situation from the place, as it had a good name for work. One who came from London, having her expenses paid down, said that she would have left at once, not so much on account of the hours as the discomforts, but she had no money to pay her way back, so was forced to stay. They complained greatly of the want of cleanliness in their beds and rooms, and of suffering from the cold there. I would have tried to push through, notwithstanding the hours, if things had been any way comfortable, as my salary was good, viz., 40*l.*, but I could not, and left in a fortnight, and now take in work at home. The day-workers came from 9 till 8. At several other private dress-making establishments in the new town the hours are much the same as the above; in the old they are shorter.

Before this I had been at a millinery shop in the old town. To such shops a learner usually goes at 14 or 15 for a year, and pays a guinea. No worker lives at any of these shops. In some in the new town the forewomen do, and at the private houses in the new town many do. Our proper hours were from 9 till 8, but in the season usually till 9, and on Saturday nights till 12, or, out of the season, till 10. I have seen us go earlier if they were in a hurry, as early as 6 a.m., and once or twice work from that till 12 p.m.; but this was quite of our own free will. They were very nice people, and we would have done anything to oblige them. This house is quite as regular as any of the kind on the south side, *i.e.*, old town. Their usual hour for closing is, on Saturday nights, in the season, 12 p.m., and out of it, 10, and other nights 9. At the shop when it was as late as 12, the customers, being of the working classes, were generally waiting for their own bonnets. The seasons are from March into June, and from the fast (October) to the end of the year. We had an hour and a half for dinner, and took as much unless we liked to stay, but we had no tea till we left work. We got used to this when leaving at 9, but we thought it too long when we stayed till 12. They do not feel this so much at the time, but it tells on the health afterwards. We could send out for something, *i.e.*, those who had the money, but some could only raise a halfpenny or a penny and join for something, or get old day's bread because it was cheaper, and some could get nothing.

I used often to feel very tired, and when it came to near 12 on Saturday nights my head was going roundabout. Before I went out to business at all I was subject to a cough and pain in the side, but work has not improved it, and even in that fortnight for which I was so late, when sitting till 12, I could have screamed with this pain. I have heard others complain of pain in the side or across the chest, particularly dress-makers, who have to stoop more than milliners. At both my places the work-rooms were good. In some places they are below the street, and gas must be constantly used. It was so at a tailor's here, where my younger sister, whom you saw just now, and who is now at a dress-maker's, worked a sewing machine. Sitting long by gas would affect anyone's eyes, as dress-makers, &c. find.

Miss Forsyth's, Milliner and Dress-maker, George Street.

78. *Miss Forsyth.*—My hours are very long, I am sorry to say, throughout the year. The indoor workers, usually about a dozen, begin directly after breakfast at 8 and work till 11 p.m., and for a time they get up at 7 a.m. Their hours are a little shorter from the middle of August to the middle of October, and perhaps for a month about February; but it is very seldom that they are after 11. They have just time to take their meals; perhaps 20 minutes for dinner. All get away for a fortnight's holiday, and the head assistants for a month. I let any get out to make their own purchases, &c., unless particularly busy. I seldom have any in the house under 15 years of age. They generally pay a premium for board, &c., say 25*l.* the first year, and less the second and third. Some do but little good even in four years. The out-workers have much the best of it, as they work only from 9 till 9, with an hour and a half for dinner. I have understood that at one private dress-maker's, where they used to be late on Saturday, they now clear by 5 p.m., the hands having said that they could easily manage it if they were allowed to try. I wonder to see how healthy my young people are, notwithstanding the long hours. The doctor has not been in the house for years. I attribute it to their having plain food and also a very large airy work-room.

I hope that this inquiry will do good. I remember how I used to be kept up myself, sometimes almost asleep. I should be glad if an Act of Parliament could diminish late hours in the business. It would also be a great benefit, if persons had time to take it up, to have a society for milliners, &c. here.

79. *Miss M'Intyre*, head dress-maker.—(*Gives same general account of hours, &c.*)—I have been here 11 years. We scarcely ever work after 12, but are up till 1 or 2 a.m. one night in a week, just now and then; perhaps half-a-dozen times in a season, to get a box ready for sending away by train, or something of that sort. For about a month or so we begin at 7 a.m., and have done so for a season. The reason that our hours are not much later in the seasons than at other times is, that when we are busy we work quicker and get through the work so. Two or three of us are under 18, and most of the rest between that and 25.

I have very good health. Of course, at the end of the season, I feel done up, but then I get away for a month. Most of us get out on the Sabbath, unless for illness. Sometimes, however, we like to lie and take a rest. That is suitable to the Sabbath.

80. *Miss Smith.*—Here a year as improver. Came when 15. Am very seldom up after 11 p.m., and only three or four times after 12, then perhaps till 1 or 2 a.m. Till 2 was my latest, and it was in August, when some of the others were away. Begin at 7 sometimes, breakfasting first, sometimes afterwards. Have very good health. Five sleep in one room, which has only a skylight (and no fire-place, I was told by another.—J. E. W.).

Learned at Montrose. All were scholars, and worked from 10 till 8, with meals, except the first hand, who lived in the house.

Misses Bartholomew and Law's, Milliners and Dress-makers, Queen Street.

81. *Miss Bartholomew.*—The hours of work for the in-door hands here, usually about 18 in number, have been much shortened in the last two years. Now they are from 8½ a.m. till 9 p.m., and in the seasons, or any other time when we are busy, usually till 10 or 9½. When we were apprentices here years ago, we used to work in the seasons regularly from 8 a.m. till 12 p.m., and often till 2, 3, and 4 a.m. In the afternoons we could hardly work at all, and two hours of them were lost so; and we had longer periods of leisure than now. We can keep shorter hours, because the business is now well established, and can afford it, and we do not take more than we can do fairly; but in a business just beginning it is very different. Starting without capital is a natural cause of late hours. The sewing machine also has

much shortened the work. Our skirts are done out. We are at comparative leisure only about two months of the year. At first the apprentices, who usually come at about the age of 14 for three years, most of them from the country, are not regularly set down to work, but take messages, &c.; but afterwards all in-doors work alike. They should not, but I have not been able to arrange otherwise. We must train up some, because the good hands, who want to get forward or like to change, are drawn away to London.

The day workers, about six, come from 9 till 9, having meals with the others, the time being just as long as sufficient to take them in. In summer the in-door hands can get a walk after 9 p.m., and in autumn after 8. Early in the year we can finish at 5 p.m. on Saturday, but for the remainder are little, if any, earlier on that day than on others. The work room is large, but pretty well packed, and we should like more room if we could have it.

It is about 12 years since it became general for shops to keep workers, and now it is almost universal.

82. *Miss Blair*, head dress-maker.—Till two or three years ago, for eight months in the year, we were seldom away from work before 10 p.m., often not till 11, and a few times we were into the morning. These hours were thought nothing of then; but we applied to our employer for shorter hours, and though she said nothing at the time, I think she has done what she could, and certainly the work has been gradually shortened since. Last year we seldom worked beyond 9 p.m. We may get out till 10 p.m. after we have finished work, which sometimes is by 8. I wish very much that we could get a short day on Saturday. I know one private house where they leave by 5 then. About six of us are under 18.

At another house in Edinburgh, a newly established business, which afterwards failed, where I worked just before I came to this house six years ago, our hours were horrible. We often began at 6 a.m., our proper time being 8, and seldom left off before 11, and often worked till 12, and in the season often till 2, 3, and 4 a.m. Once we worked all night. We, five, lived in the house. There were only about a couple of day-workers, and they left at their time.

Our room here is large, and it looks as if there was plenty of air, but we have not always plenty. Some wish the windows opened and some object. One or two who had delicate health have failed.

At Falkirk we were all scholars, about 10, and no paid hands. Our hours were from 8 till 6; but we have worked there till 10 p.m.

Miss Lamb's, Dress-maker, George Street.

83. *Miss Lamb.*—My in-door hands, about eight, breakfast at 8 and begin directly after, and in the seasons work till 9 or 10 on the average, sometimes later, but seldom, if ever, till 11. The day-workers come from 9 till 7. Most are between 17 and 24 years of age. On Saturday all leave off at 5, and there are other private houses, I believe, where the same is done. If some do, others wish to. When I learned the business here, in the season we often worked till 4 and 5 a.m., and indeed seldom went to bed on the same day on which we rose. Private houses did more business then, and there were not so many shops doing work. There is a great deal of room in this house; and it is this and the regular meals, I think, which keep the young people healthy. Where they are much confined for space they are usually very pale-faced.

Messrs. Smith and Girvan's, Dress-makers, George Street.

84. *Miss Smith.*—Only my first hand dress-maker lives in the house usually, and just now I am without one. She and I are the only persons who sit up late. That has been till 2 sometimes, and once all night, but now it is seldom beyond 9 p.m. From 8 a.m. till 9 p.m. is her regular time all the year; but on Saturday work is finished by 4 or 6 p.m. That is the only time in the week-days when she can get out. There is a dinner time but no tea time; but if work is going on at all late, I usually send in a cup of tea. Learners seldom stay late. They come from about 14 years upwards, and after about two years become paid workers, at a salary say of 2*s.* 6*d.* a week at first.

85. *Catherine Ross.*—Am a learner. Came when about 14. Do not stay very late, because I have such a way to go home; it takes me 20 minutes. But when we have been in a great hurry, the other learners and I have worked till 10½, and left the paid workers sitting. Two of them were kept one night to sleep so as to work late. Their proper hour to leave is 9, and some come at 8, but not regularly.

86. I visited the house of another private dress-maker, who stated the usual hours for her indoor hands to be about from 8 a.m. till 9 p.m. and sometimes longer; but she was unwilling to say how much or how often so. One of the assistants, who was then sent to me by the mistress at my request to be examined, stated that "sometimes we rise at 5 a.m. and work till 3 a.m., but we are not oppressed;" and the mistress herself afterwards said, "Sometimes they rise earlier and work later, till 10, 11, 12, 1, "and 2." These statements, however, were not made till the mistress had shown violent displeasure from having overheard from outside the answers of the assistant to my questions as to hours. These she considered it improper for me to put, after I had questioned herself on the point, though she had declined to give any details as to later hours, and my object in examining the assistant had been stated to her. I do not think that these statements give any ground for assuming the work at this house to be habitually or even often late, and under the circumstances I did not think it desirable to inquire further so as to ascertain how this might be; but as I have no doubt that the statements are true, I thought it right not to suppress them, but give them with this explanation of the unsatisfactory circumstances. I also visited one of the principal retail establishments, that of Messrs. Kennington and Jenner, drapers, Princes Street, employing from 80 to 100 milliners and dress-makers, with from 20 to 25 girls as learners, ranging from 12 to 16 years of age. The latter receive dinner and tea each day as partial board, and from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.* 6*d.* per week in money, but only the sales people, about 100 male and female, are boarded and lodged. The hours and system differ little from that of other large and well conducted retail establishments already described. Extra work is said to be never required, extra hands being engaged instead. Work ceases at 5 on Saturdays, and all have a fortnight's holiday in summer, wages allowed.

Mr. Middlemas's, Clothier, South Bridge.

87. *Mr. Middlemas.*—My business, in which I have need of good needle-workers, gives me occasion to observe a great defect in the general industrial training of girls here. The principle of division of labour, which is of such importance in manufactures, should be applied equally to the training of needle-workers by means of classes devoted to the different stages of work, *e.g.*, in skirts, hemming, body making, finishing, &c., so that all may be able to do at least one thing well enough to take their part in the manufacture; otherwise the manufacture itself is discouraged, and they may be unable to obtain employment of any

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kind. I am frequently obliged to reject persons because, though they may be able to do many kinds of work indifferently, they can do no single one well. The advantage of getting work done by a person who can do it well, is such as to induce me even to incur the loss of time and trouble in sending it backwards and forwards to different workers for each stage. At ordinary schools the practice of the material being supplied by the parents, and made up complete by the child for the use of the family is of course unfavourable to such a course of training. In Edinburgh, however, at the schools for girls and boys, supported by Herriard's hospital, of which there are, I believe, 13, with an average of some hundreds of scholars in each, and each with an industrial department, the material to be worked upon is supplied by the institution. It would be a great benefit to the female working class in particular if this opportunity of carrying out a sound system of training were turned to account.

88. *Mr. Maxton*, foreman.—I am well acquainted with the general system of employment of females in shops and warehouses in this city. About 20 are employed here in tailoring and shirt-making, but this is the greatest number so employed in any house of the kind. For about the last year, however, it has become very general to employ them in such places, and almost every tailoring house of note has a few at sewing machines or basting. One female at a sewing machine, can work for six or seven men. At first the men objected to it, but now they find that those who are helped by females can earn more, so they are obliged to give in. One person to whom we give out shirts to be button-holed employs girls, and teaches them.

The North British Rubber Company's Works, Fountain Bridge.

89. Waterproof clothing of all kinds, such as coats, overshoes, hats, &c., is made here on a very large scale, though other important branches of manufacture, such as mechanical rubber, *e.g.* machine belts, tubes, buffers, &c., and as air proof goods, are carried on in the same premises. The india-rubber is worked up into thin layers or sheets, which are spread on a fine woven fabric, such as cambric. This compound material is then cut and made up into the forms required, which is done by females with the hand, and consists chiefly of fitting the articles together by pressure, after applying an adhesive solution to the edges. The articles being then submitted to heat, are sufficiently held together by mere adhesion, without the aid of sewing. But sewing machines, driven by power and attended by females, are used in forming some articles, which consist in part of cloth or felt.

90. The simple india-rubber is prepared from its rough form of fleecy masses by men almost exclusively. The preparation consists chiefly of "grinding" or squeezing, and rolling in powerful machinery, and vulcanizing by combining it with sulphur, and exposing to a strong heat. This process is said to keep the india-rubber from becoming too hard in cold, or melting and sticking in heat. Some of this machinery has formidable looking and unprotected cog wheels, but only three or four females, who sew lengths of fabric together, and "tenter" rollers, are ever engaged near it.

91. It is a fine airy factory, with closets and washing places on each floor, and strikingly clean and pleasant. The hours, 7 to 6, with a dinner hour, appear closely observed, and there are strict regulations for keeping the place clean. The appearance of the workers was correspondingly good.

92. *Mr. Firth*, Secretary to the Company.—This factory, the only one of the kind in Scotland, employs on the average about 700 persons. Towards half of the number, which is now lower, are females, but few of them under 18, and are principally engaged in making waterproof clothing. Our method of waterproofing differs from the M'Intosh process, by which the india-rubber is dissolved instead of ground. There is scarcely ever a case of sickness amongst them; indeed several manufacturers and others have remarked on their healthy appearance. Their wages are exceptionally high, which is a great benefit to them. I have noticed in the case of several how very much their general condition has improved since coming here, as well as their dress and manner. But good wages are I think no loss to employers. Many of them going the full time of 10 hours could make 15*s.* a week, sometimes 18*s.*, but they are often not doing so, and average perhaps 11*s.* It obtains, I believe, as a general rule through all kinds of work, that labour by night does not answer so well as by day, and we never practise it unless under peculiar circumstances. Just now, owing to a late serious fire, it is necessary to have a set of men and a few boys working by night. The factory is whitewashed or painted yearly, and kept constantly cleaned. Two acres of grass are being put down adjoining the factory, as a park, for the benefit of the workpeople. I took a great interest in a night-school, but it fell off, chiefly from want of support in numbers. I can speak from facts that it would be a great good to have all workers well educated; if they are, they are much quieter and better behaved.

Glasgow.

GLASGOW.

93. In 1861 the "Glasgow Milliners' and Dress-makers' Association" was started under favourable circumstances with the patronage of several ladies and others, persons of high rank or local influence, and with the personal services of an experienced and hardworking secretary. But already it is crippled by want of support, and has had to give up its office, having been able to publish only one printed annual report, viz., in February 1863. The secretary still acts to the extent of his power, but it is plain that the want of an office, and the means of making the existence of the society more widely known, must very much lessen its power of effecting its objects. These include, in addition to the keeping a free register for persons seeking employment and providing for assistance in temporary difficulty and other useful provisions, a limitation of work by principals to 10 hours actual work per day, and improved ventilation of work-rooms. The report states the number of young females engaged in the millinery and dress-making establishments in Glasgow as "upwards of 8,000," the greater part of them "under 20 years of age." Some of the facts stated in the report are included in the following statement of the secretary.

94. *Mr. James Belford*, Caledonia-road, Secretary of the above Association.—Both just before and since the institution of this Association I have been engaged in obtaining statistics and information as to the employment of milliners and dress-makers in Glasgow. An attempt to obtain these by means of tabular inquiries sent by the Association to every employer in Glasgow met with very partial success; but I was able in other ways to arrive at what I believe to be an accurate and trustworthy account of the principal facts.

In the year 1862 there were in Glasgow, according

to an inquiry then made with great care, though some may possibly have escaped notice, 249 private establishments and 89 retail houses, in which milliners and dress-makers were engaged. The practice of employing them in retail houses has grown up chiefly within the last few years. In such a house from 12 to 20 is probably as common a number as any; some I believe have considerably more, viz., from 30 to 40 in a full time, and many much fewer down to about four or so. There are I should say, few, if any, private houses employing over 20. In small places of either kind the same persons often act both as saleswomen and workers. The total number of persons engaged cannot be given with accuracy, but I believe that it may properly be estimated, as stated in the report, at upwards of 8,000. The mass of these are females between the ages of 14 and 25.

In private houses the in-door hands begin work at 8 a.m., an hour before the out-door workers, or often in the season at 7. They leave off in the dull part of the year at 9 p.m., and in the two seasons, which together make towards half a year, at 11, frequently 12, but I believe not later unless on exceptional occasions; in most cases the day-workers stay till the same hour. They have a quarter of an hour or 20 minutes for dinner, or sometimes only just time to swallow it; and perhaps 10 minutes or a little more for tea, and generally, but not always, supper. They cannot get out of doors except on Sabbaths and in the dull seasons; and have usually, I believe, but 10 days' holiday in the year.

In retail houses all, even forewomen and saleswomen, live away. Their hours are from 9 till 7, with an hour for dinner about 3, but no tea. They are however kept late in the busy time, especially in the last three days of the week, often till 11 and 12 p.m., and often quite into the Sabbath morning, because so many bonnets are brought in on Thursday and Friday to be trimmed for the Sabbath.

I could not get admission to any of the private houses, where I was generally told that my object was too inquisitorial, but I visited between 20 and 30 of the larger and moderate retail houses, seeing the employers or heads of departments, and went into the work-rooms, in about a dozen of the middling class of houses. In any that I saw there was space enough, but the air felt close and heavy. Very few had fire-places, but some have, I was told, stoves in winter; some not. A complaint made by many is that the constant breathing makes the place disagreeable, and they are obliged to open the windows, which makes a draught and gives them colds. Some who live in private houses complain both of the amount and quality of their food, and also of their sleeping rooms.

I also communicated personally, by means of meetings to which I invited them, with, I should say, from 60 to 70 of the assistants engaged in different millinery and dress-making establishments, chiefly first hands; most of them day-workers, though a good number also were persons who lived in their employers' house. At the first meeting those who attended were timid and seemed to fear that they might be prejudiced by their stating anything, but at the later meetings they had more confidence and spoke out more. They spoke temperately and without showing bitterness or spite towards their employers, though some blamed the heads of their departments as tyrants and unfeeling. I only remember one employer being spoken ill of. In general they seemed to regard their condition as something which could not be helped, at any rate by themselves. They can do no good by leaving if they are dissatisfied. There are too many in the trade for this; indeed the number of persons in it always wanting employment is one of the great evils. The opinion which I formed was that their statements were truthful and not biassed or exaggerated. Their complaints as to the bad effect of the work on their health were borne out by their appearance, which in general was sickly and sallow.

The following are some of the evils resulting from the employment most commonly complained of by this class of persons. Headaches, which frequently lay them up for a day or so, loss of appetite, and such fatigue that at night they can do nothing but get straight to bed, and on the Sabbath are often obliged to stay at home because they are too sleepy to go to church, or, if they go, to follow what is said. They are prevented too from availing themselves of the means which are provided for religious and other instruction. I endeavoured to get some to attend prayer meetings, and know that many were inclined to come but could not, giving their late work as a reason.

95. *Miss Rankine*, Duke Street.—I have worked in four millinery shops, in a private dress-maker's house, and am now in a lappet and wholesale millinery warehouse; all in this city. My health has suffered much from the long hours which I have had to work. I am now just 19, and began as a scholar when barely 14, which is about the usual age.

The usual hour for going to work is 9 a.m., and scholars should leave at 7 p.m. While I was a scholar and unpaid, which was for two years, I was never kept later than 8, though we often were till that. But during the busy season, *i.e.*, from May till the end of July, the paid workers at the shops where I was had to work only till 8 perhaps in the first three or four days in the week, but in others gradually later. On Saturday nights till between 12 and 1 was the usual time. I have wrought till 1 o'clock on Sabbath mornings, but scarcely later than that. One of the shops was not quite so late, but at this and another we had to take work home, and I have sat up at home for it till 1 and 2 a.m., and later, just according to the work, and indeed all night many a time. Not strictly all night:—you are obliged to get a bit of rest, say go to bed at 4 or 5 a.m. and rise at 7 a.m., and be back in the work-room at 9 to the minute, the master looking at the clock and scolding you if you were not. I have sat up till 4 a.m. three nights in a week, and been in bed by about 1 a.m. the other three. The next day you must work as well as you are able, but you are that done you hardly can work. You *must* take the work home, and cannot refuse, or they would say, "You are no use here: we will get those "who will take it." I know young girls themselves who have worked at other places till 4 and 3 o'clock in the morning, and my father, who is a policeman, has very often seen girls sewing at one place at 3 and 4 a.m. At private houses assistants and apprentices sometimes live in the house, and they are much worse off, sitting up many a night and not getting an hour's rest,—sometimes only an hour or two's. You see they can force them to that, as they sleep in the place. Some of them complain of sleeping in cold rooms, usually attics, and sometimes sunk floors, and also of being half starved, and altogether in a miserable condition. They often have only a few minutes for their meals, just as long as it takes to swallow their meat. In shops an hour is allowed for dinner, but sometimes they are so very busy that you cannot go and they will not let you, so you just send out for a piece, just some dry biscuit or something of that style. It was when I was staying in this way that I first found the pain in my chest coming on. However late you stay they don't give you anything, and you cannot get tea, nor did we till we went home. When you get home at night, indeed you are scarcely able to eat anything,—you feel quite sick and weary. Indeed at Sabbath mornings it was very often the case that you lay in bed and tried to rest yourself instead of going to church.

Some of the work-rooms are very uncomfortable. While at one place I had to work away from the shop in a room up a court where a great many low people lived. It was a room about the size of a small bedroom, and had been used as a dwelling before. There were a dozen girls in it, though four would have filled

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it sufficiently. Several were obliged to drop off from ill health. Another place was also dreadful, just a narrow attic with skylights. We nearly all had bad headaches. In summer it was very hot, but in winter there was no fire or warmth of any kind. When you came out at night you were quite stiff with cold, not so much your fingers as your feet, so you could work. Though it was a frost you had just to sit and endure it. In shops most rooms have no fire-place, and are generally at the top just under the roof. In private houses many I believe are in a sunk floor. Indeed you have no idea what the girls suffer in winter time; they are almost frozen. The gas does not keep you warm then, though it is often very oppressive.

Some of the milliners and dress-makers are extremely delicate, and few who live in the private houses have colour in their face. The constant bending gives such a pain in the chest, and I have found this very much myself, especially of late. Some are troubled a good deal with a bad cough. One who worked with me took consumption and died, it was thought from her sitting close by such a waft of air that came up through a trap in the floor, which served as the door. Another died from consumption caused by the close confinement. Headache is common, and I had a fearful one which did not leave me till I was idle for awhile. I have felt my eyes quite hot from constant looking at the work, and after you come out at night they quite glimmer, and everything appears a sort of strange. Many become short-sighted, and at the table at which I work now two or three are so.

When I went to the lappet warehouse where I now work, the headache, which had left me while I was not at work, came back just the same as ever. Many a time I have it for a whole day, and there is not one girl there but what is troubled with it. My own health has been worse since I went to this place. Few girls in these places enjoy good health, and the appetite is not quite so good as at a milliner's, because the place is not quite so wholesome. There is so much gas used for the gauffring and making-up machines, and it smells a good deal. I have nothing to do with these myself, but we sit near, and it makes you sweat fearfully. Very little girls work at the gauffring machines, some of 7 or 8, I should say, at least, I never saw such young girls at work anywhere. There are several of these lappet warehouses in the town, and the masters are called lappet manufacturers.

The private dress-maker with whom I was had about 18 scholars and no paid hands. She takes scholars for three months at a payment of a guinea, and when the three months are up will not keep you a day longer as a paid worker, but you must make room for fresh scholars. When I left my first milliner's shop, after my two years as a scholar, being then 16, they were going to give me 3*s.* 6*d.* a week as a paid hand, which is about the common pay to begin with; but I got 4*s.* elsewhere. After a year or so, perhaps, you rise 1*s.*; but 9*s.* is about the highest earned, except by those who are in charge. When you go to apply for a place, they look at you from top to toe, to see what you have on, more as if to find whether you will look respectable for the house than what you can do. If there is an association for milliners in the city, I do not hear it spoken of.

96. *Mrs. Rankine.*—I sent my daughter (b. 95) to millinery, thinking that it would be nice easy work for her, but if I had known what it really was, I never would have let her take to it. She looks stout still, but for the last four months her health has been quite breaking down, and I am thinking of sending her to the salt water. She is not fit to sit at work, and besides having severe pains, brought on by her work about a year ago, cannot take her food. She very often takes her piece with her to eat at the shop, but if she comes home, it being a long distance, she only just stands and takes a mouthful and has to be off again. In the busy season, *i.e.*, for two or three or four months, she is often not home till 11 and 12, and I have several times seen her coming home on Sabbath mornings, *i.e.*, after midnight. Even now, after being five years at work, she gets only 6*s.* a week, though she is remarkably clever, and after she left school they came twice to ask me if she might become a pupil-teacher.

Mr. W. M'Donald's, Draper and Milliner, Crown Street.

97. The appearance of this small shop and the street in which it is, seem to point it out as being, as stated below, a fair specimen of the class of shops in poor neighbourhoods dependent upon the custom of the lower classes.

98. *Mr. W. M'Donald.*—I am intimately acquainted with the usual practice of the smaller retail houses doing a millinery business in the city generally, and can speak freely on this point. My own house may be taken as a fair specimen as to hours of all others, of which there are now great numbers, in the old or eastern end and all the outskirts and other parts in which the working classes live. I close my shop at 8½ or 9, except on Saturday, and then at 11 or sometimes later; but the work goes on in the season till 9 generally, and two or three hours later on the last day or two in the week, and on Saturday up to the very last moment, *i.e.*, as long as it is Saturday. They begin at 9 a.m., and sometimes, as yesterday, at 7, having always a clear hour for dinner. One season begins at the end of March, and lasts till the middle of July, the other from the beginning or middle of September till the end of the year, each increasing to a crisis and then ending with a full stop. This increase is certain, and may be calculated on. Out of the season, I try to give them a night now and then.

It is not generally from the mere desire of employers for profit, though there are probably some who like to get the last penny, so much as from the wish to make things go sweet with customers, and indeed from actual necessity, that employers practise these late hours, to which the bad habit of customers in shopping or giving orders late leads. As far as I am personally concerned, I would never have late work, if I could get a living without it; but as long as others work late I must. It is a sickening business, even as it is, and scarcely pays, though with the late hours. The business comes so little earlier in the week that it is impossible for me to keep more hands, the number being enough to do the work as easily as possible, if only people would give their orders earlier in the week. For the last year I have made a rule not to take in bonnets after Tuesday, unless in a dull time, and customers are beginning to find this out now and bring their things earlier.

Bonnets and hats are often brought to be cleaned and re-made. This usually forms a separate branch of employment, and is carried on in private houses in almost every street by women, either alone or with two or three girls, though some large establishments have a separate department for the purpose. The bonnets are taken to pieces, washed, and re-made in the shape required, and stiffened on blocks. Felt bonnets and hats usually go to a hat-maker for the purpose. It is often far on in the week before the milliner can get the bonnets back, and they must be trimmed by Sunday.

At many of the larger establishments, though the shops are shut at 7 p.m. the girls will, as I understand, be working on till 11 or later, and things sent home at hours later than I have ever sent them. It is quite a common thing for girls to be in the streets on their way home from work after midnight, as many live so far away. A friend of mine in a populous part of the city, who had a great number of applicants for a situation was obliged to refuse them all

simply because they lived at such a distance, and advertised again till he got one who lived near, as he could not brook the idea of a girl going home through the streets at least one night a week after midnight. This indeed is the greatest evil of the whole, and more harm comes from it, and the temptations to which they are exposed than from all their over-work and fatigue, though they are tired enough at the end of the week.

It has become very common, chiefly within the last eight years or so, for drapers to keep milliners, but comparatively few have dress-makers. There are three or four such houses employing probably as many as 40 females in the season. No retail houses have any of the workers living on the premises. Generally there is not room even for the young men. Girls are pretty generally in the business at 14, or often 13. The great bulk of females employed are between the ages of 17 and 24. It is hard to say, why there are so few older. Some houses have only a first hand and apprentices, and almost all have at least one or two apprentices. I employ two young women, who also act as saleswomen, and an apprentice, sometimes two. Apprentices come for three or six months, or longer, some paying a guinea, and after that receive a small weekly payment, *e.g.* 2*s.* 6*d.* at first. Whether they are kept late with the paid hands or not is a matter depending on the good feeling of the employer or the forewoman, and when she is severe they suffer.

99. *Miss E. Hendrie*, millinery assistant.—Just before coming here I was for six weeks of a season at a large general shop in the city, where milliners, cloak makers, and dress-makers were employed. The shop closed at 8 p.m. but we worked nearly every night in some weeks till 11 or more often 12 p.m. but never later. On Saturday it was generally 12, and was expected to be 11. I had to go home by myself. When I engaged myself, I did not learn anything about the hours further than being told "you will be late some nights." We were paid nothing more for it: I had my set 6*s.* a week only. I was then about 16, and most of the other milliners were about the same or a little older. We began at 9 a.m., and took an hour for dinner at 2, but had no tea time. At first when staying late we took a bit of something with us, but the girls all complained and they then gave us something to eat at about 9 o'clock. But this was far too long to want, and I felt done up. I left because they would be getting slack there, but I did not like the late hours; and I could not take my meat, had headaches, and was bad in my stomach. The girls used to say that it was no good to leave and go to another place, for that all were just about the same.

In a millinery shop in a large country town some distance from here, where I was just before that, *i.e.* three or four years ago, the kind of business, seasons, and hours were just about the same as here. When we stayed late in the busy season, it was generally till 12, once or twice a week, sometimes 1, never later. I was about 15, and after being a learner 15 months, got 2*s.* 6*d.* a week. The learners were not always obliged to work as long as the paid hands, but of course if the mistress had got an order they must stay till it was finished.

100. *Jane Crombie*, age 12 years and 6 months.—Here four months, and have ceased to be a learner. Come from 9 till 9, sometimes later, but always get away before the big ones, if they are staying on late.

Mr. A. Gardner's, Straw Bonnet and Millinery Establishment, Trongate.

101. *Mr. A. Gardner.*—Some of the scholars come here only for a short time, to learn merely for their own purposes, and not intending to follow the business. I have little control over their hours, and it is a rare exception for any scholar to stay late. None live in the house. The paid hands, also, from 10 to 15, running from the ages of 15 or 16 up to 25, a few perhaps older, all live away. They should come at 9 and leave at 7, but in the summer season they are seldom away before, though not often after, 9 in the first half of the week, and towards the end stay till 10½, 11, or 11½, and on Saturday nights generally 12, but never later than this. The parcel book (*shows it*) shows that on last Saturday, being at about the beginning of the season, the last parcel was despatched at 10 minutes to 12 p.m., and on the Saturday before at 11. I employ boys for this, or sometimes the customers come themselves if it is late. The saleswomen have to stay late too, but not quite so late as the workers, though the principal ones must see that the orders go out properly. In the winter season work is not so late. I have often tried to get the hands to come earlier, but cannot, and see no way out of the late hours. The public might diminish the pressure, if they thought about it, by sending their orders earlier in the week. If I engaged a greater number of hands in the busy seasons, I should have to keep a smaller number than I do in the dull, so as to make up for the extra cost incurred. I have, however, known the hours so much longer than they are. A fortnight's holiday is allowed, and I have a rule that if any are away sick, which often happens, I pay their salary all the same. I have a separate department in some premises near for cleaning and making up bonnets.

102. *Miss Latimer*, assistant.—In the busy season we expect to get away early on Monday, usually about 8, and get gradually later; Wednesday perhaps 10, Thursday and Friday 11, Saturday 12. We have an hour and a quarter for dinner, but do not go at the same time, some being always wanted in the work-room. Sometimes I have to wait for it after my usual time, but not often as much as two hours.

Misses Murray's, Milliners and Dress-makers, 10, Regent Street.

103. *Miss A. Murray.*—We have a first-class business, but employ only day-workers, as we like to have our house free. All are paid hands, averaging from 17 to 26 years of age, and they work from ¼ to 9 to ¼ to 8, with a dinner hour. If they stay later, which is very rare, and never beyond 10 p.m., they are paid extra, and have tea. In the last three years there has only once been work all night, and that was for mourning. We consider that working long hours is not economical, and that it is indeed a loss, as after being late the hands cannot work well next day. In the busy seasons we give out what work we can, such as skirts, and, unless for old customers, we do not take in the less profitable kinds of work, such as making-up dresses for which we have not sold the material, though we are willing to do this in slack times, as it gives the hands employment, and pays their wages; but it does little if any more, and it is considered that the only system to make mere dress-making, without selling the material, answer, is to work for too long hours, or give low salaries. To allow of the mere making being properly carried on at a fair profit, the charge should be double what ladies now think a very high charge. Drapers admit that there is no profit in mere making, and only do it for fear private establishments should take the sale of their goods out of their hands.

Dress-makers have plodding hard work, and sitting as they do all day with their heads down, should have a shorter day than other people, and yet they have a longer. I do not see why they should always be at it and have no relaxation. What we should aim at would be to get an hour shorter day than we have here, and to get Saturday afternoon free.

I have tried to get a ventilator put in the work-room, but doubt whether the landlord will do it. The window of course cannot always be down, but it is always left open at dinner time

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104. *Miss Campbell*, millinery assistant.—(*Gives same account of hours.*) At another house in the town we were less regular. In the seasons the in-door hands worked from 8½ a.m. till 10 p.m. as a rule, sometimes till 11. In three months I only once worked till 12. You had to eat your meals as quick as you could.

Misses Beattie's, Milliners and Dress-makers, Bath Street.

105. *Miss Beattie.*—The in-door hands begin at 8½ a.m., and in the seasons, *i.e.*, about four months, work till 10 p.m. The out-door work from 9 till 8, and have their dinner hour at 4; but if they like they may dine at 2, when we do. We give the best room in the house, what ought to be the drawing-room, for the work. Many, I understand, have to work downstairs by gas-light.

106. *Miss M'Kay*, millinery assistant.—In the house four years. (*Hours as above.*) We, in the house, sometimes begin at 8 a.m., but work later than 10 only a night now and then, and never beyond 12. In the slack season we leave off at 8. Perhaps a quarter of an hour or 20 minutes is given to dinner; tea the same. In my former situation my hours were much the same.

Messrs. Arthur and Fraser's, Silk Mercers, &c., Argyle Street.

107. *Mr. Malcolm.*—I have charge of the millinery, cloak, and dress-making departments, in which towards 50 females are now employed; none live on the premises. All come at 9. The cloak-makers never stay after 7 p.m., but can take work home if they like. For about two or three months in the season the others are seldom away before 8, and are sometimes kept perhaps twice a week till 10, but are never allowed to stay later than that. We always manage now for them to leave on Saturday at 7. Formerly, when we had a lower class of business, we were much later, and very often till 11 on Friday and Saturday night. It was perhaps partly the forewomen's fault.

[This establishment is spoken of as of the highest class.]

Messrs. M'Intyre and Hogg's, Shirt Manufacturers, Brunswick Street.

108. The workrooms are at the top of a warehouse. The principal one was closely filled, but the windows were open, and an eminent medical gentleman who was with me considered the place not bad.

109. *Mr. M'Intyre.*—This is about the largest shirt-making establishment in Glasgow. We employ here usually from 80 to 100 females, sometimes double the number, but seldom under 50; but we have a much greater number of out-workers. We try as much as possible to obviate "sweating," and to deal directly with each sewer. The hours here were from 9 till 8, with a dinner hour, but we took off an hour in the evening; indeed the thing was forced upon us, and the people looked pale and unhealthy. The work is close and confining, and even 10 hours a day, were it constant through the year, which it is not with us, would be too much. Even an engine cannot properly do more than a moderate amount of work. The great object is to get the business steady, and the hours regular, as our experience is that the work is so much better done then. For the last twelvemonth we have been getting towards this; but if we are busy we have to go on till the work is done, though this is now seldom later than 10 p.m. They have occasionally begun at 8 a.m., perhaps half-a-dozen times last year.

What occasions over work is chiefly shipping orders; home orders can go any day. Other houses no doubt find the same difficulty. I believe, however, that no loss would arise if all were precluded from over-time; buyers would have to place their orders earlier, whereas they now frequently delay them. If we were employers of children I should be glad to be under legislative compulsion to set apart a portion of their time for education. Children should not remain at work more than four hours. Education should be made generally compulsory on all. I do not think that there would be any difficulty in legislating for employments such as ours, if the objects were such as those which have been explained to me (*i.e.*, of factory regulations,—J. E. W.), and there would be no difficulty whatever, in Scotland at any rate, in requiring a half-holiday on Saturday.

110. *Mr. A. H. Turnbull*, in the warehouse.—This list (*hands it in*) of about 15 names, comprises, I believe, nearly all the wholesale houses in the town where shirts or such work are made on any scale of importance. In most cases some other kind of work, such as underclothing, slops, muslin work, &c., is carried on in conjunction with the shirt-making. One is a skirt, *i.e.*, crinoline house, and two are slop houses. The hours at most are from 9 till 6, some an hour or two longer, and till 2 p.m. on Saturday. The half day on Saturday has become general in the last six years for the simply wholesale drapery and dry goods warehouses. It was much opposed at first, but when people began to see that the same amount of business was done as before, so that nothing was lost by it, they began to come into it. The places where the shirt, &c. work is done, are usually flats in warehouses, which keep a stock. Several have, I should say, 80 girls and women, some perhaps more, several less. Besides these there are some small establishments of a more private kind, which manufacture for wholesale houses.

Mrs. R. Morrison's, Stay Manufacturer, Candleriggs.

111. The factory consists of a flat with street shops beneath, and a flat used for a boot factory above. Many of the workers are barefooted. The door is left open, and any of the workers are allowed to go in or out as they please without asking. I met a girl on the stairs who had gone out in this way, to fetch some water. Such liberty might in general be thought likely to interfere with work, even though piecework, but there can be no doubt that it is far more favourable to the health and comfort of the workers than the very opposite practice which prevails in Dublin in works of the same or a like kind, of not letting the workers out even for dinner.

112. *Mrs. R. Morrison.*—I believe that we are considerably the largest makers of stays or corsets in the city. We employ about 100 persons, all females, from 10 or 11 upwards. Monday and Saturday are short days, viz., from 10 till 7 and from 6 till 2, with one hour each day for a meal, and the other four days from 6 till 7 with two hours for meals. Having Saturday afternoon and Monday morning allows of getting away to the coast, as we do ourselves. The people stand all day, and could not work well without their rest at meals, or if they worked longer hours than they do, which is long enough. Some years ago working over-time was tried here for a bit, but it was found to be a loss. Steam power for the sewing machines would be a gain, but the premises are not suited for it; it would save the machines a

good deal; now, the girls being on piece-work, will come in late, say, on a Monday, and work like fury to make up time, and make the machines so hot that you can hardly bear to touch them.

There are other stay manufacturers here carrying on business in the same sort of way, in flats of warehouses, &c.; one makes millinery as well. Some of the "caning" and hand sewing is given out in the town, and a few persons probably work with a machine or two at home. But I like better to have the work all done in; when it is carried away so much gets stolen.

113. *Sarah Foyle*, age 13.—Have worked at a sewing-machine here two years. It is very sore on you at first about the legs. (Hours as above.) Never worked over-time since I was here. We don't work in meal times. Make 6*s.* or 7*s.*

Can read a newspaper, write, and do small sums. Do not go to night-school; it is too late when I go home. If I left at 6 I should go, and pay 3*d.* a week, but I don't care very much about it. Whiles I should be very tired. Go on Sabbath.

114. *Elizabeth M'Neile*, age 10.—Put in eyelets. Work from 6 a.m. till 7 p.m. Was not at school a month. Don't know A, or what is the first letter. (Knows O.)

[Her father is a mason in good pay. Another girl of 10 at the same work could barely spell; her father gets 23*s.* a week in a printer's office.]

115. *Ann Heslop*, age 12.—Same work. At school about a year, but not regular. Can read a little. 3 times 5 is 17,—is 15.

Messrs. J. Blair & Co.'s, Hat and Cap Manufacturers, St. Enoch's Square.

116. This is, I was informed, the largest manufactory of the kind in Glasgow, and it employs a great number of persons. Steam power is used for one or two operations, chiefly for "luring" or putting a gloss on the hats. The hat-makers are principally men, a few females being engaged in "trimming," *i.e.* sewing and putting in the linings and leather, and binding. Cloth hats and caps are made chiefly by females, whose work consists in the use of the sewing machine and needle, and ironing, which, as one said, is no doubt "very oppressive and hard in summer." The part near the irons and stove is very hot. Much of the cap work is given out. From inquiry which I made of the forewoman who has charge of the giving out, and from one of the out-workers whom I saw, this appears to be done much as described at Cork (b. 214–216.).

117. *Ann Robertson*, adult.—Hat trimmer. About 20 of us do this. It is a trade fit for girls from 15 upwards, and is all needlework. The machine girls do no part of the hat work. We work from 9 till 7, with a dinner hour, and make no over-time, but sometimes take work home. On Saturday leave at 4 or at 2. The machine and cap girls when very busy stay till 9 or 10 p.m., perhaps as much as a week, but it is very seldom. Where I work is hot from the irons, but we mostly every day have the windows open. Don't look strong, but have good health.

118. *Margaret M'Farlane*, age 15.—Iron caps all day. It is not hard work, but very hot. Was at it last summer.

119. *Ann Walker*, age 14.—Finish caps, which is needlework, and have to iron the seams. An hour is the most that ever I ironed in a day. It is very warm work. Have not stayed at work later than 8. On Saturday we leave at 4, and do not take anything to eat between then and when we come in the morning, viz., 9. Get 7*s.* 2*d.* a fortnight. Am no very good reader, and cannot write.

Messrs. R. and J. Dick's, Gutta Percha Boot and Shoe Works, Greenhead.

120. In this large manufactory, employing nearly 1,300 persons, steam power is used for reducing the hard blocks of gutta percha by crushing, rolling, and passing through rollers, to a pulp and from that to a thick paste, in which form it is used for making into soles by moulding. Men alone are engaged in this preparation of the material, but boys work as helpers to men in applying it. The remainder of the work is that of ordinary shoe-making. The females are engaged with sewing machines or the use of the needle in preparation for the sewing machines, putting in eyelets, &c. Their general appearance was decidedly favourable, and the place seems well conducted in every way.

121. *Mr. J. M. Davidson*, manager.—This is the only manufactory of this kind of much importance in the three kingdoms. We continue a regular routine of business from year's end to year's end, and in the many years which I have been here, there has been only one period in which I have seen the work carried on as much as an hour beyond the proper time. It is seldom that it is for as much as half an hour. The males work from 6 till 6½, with two hours for meals, and the females from 8½ till 7 with one hour, and both have a half day on Saturday. They have separate entrances, and their times are arranged so as to give them no chance of mixing. The females have a cooking house, where those who live far away can eat if they prefer it to the work-rooms, and one is in preparation for the males. The females are of a superior class, and none are taken unless they are highly recommended. I should think that there is not one of them who cannot read and write. As a proof of the good feeling of the men, I may mention that they held a meeting and gave 2½ per cent. of their earnings for six weeks to the cotton operatives of Lancashire and Lanarkshire in the late distress, and gave 30*l.* to a man who lost his arm in the machinery here. The work is probably about the best paid in the town. The females average 7*s.* or 8*s.* a week, and there are very few boys in the works who get under 4*s.*, while most get 5*s.*, and from that up to 10*s.* In the lasting and moulding departments they work under and are paid by men, but the foreman sees that there is no abuse. In the retail shoe shops in the town, a girl or two are sometimes employed to work sewing-machines.

122. *Christiana Blair*, adult.—Machinist. There are, I believe 157 sewing-machines in this room, all worked by women and girls. Have been 6 years in the factory, and never had any over-time.

123. *Margaret Orr*, age 15.—Machinist. Rubbed down seams before. Here 3½ years. Work from 8¼ to 7; dinner from 1½ to 2½.

Can read, write, and can sum only a little. Liked to come to work better than school, but go on Sabbath.

124. *John Service*, age 14.—Am beginning to cut out leather. Get 5*s.* 6*d.* a week. (*Hours as stated above for men.*) Here 4½ years.

At school till here. Can read and write and do accounts, but not much.

125. *Thomas Houston*, foreman of cutters.—No boy is taken as a cutter unless he has been at school and can read, write, and do figures, because otherwise he cannot succeed in his work. After being here they can generally get engagements as cutters in common shops. They begin earning 4*s.* 6*d.* a week here and rise to about 23*s.* Those two youths there, each about 16, get 16*s.* each.

[In the last and the moulding departments nothing transpired different from what has been already stated.]

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Dundee.

126. I visited a small manufactory of the same kind as the above, employing males and females from 11 years of age upwards. The work is from 6 a.m. till 7 p.m. for males, and from 7 a.m. till 7 p.m. for females, with two hours for meals, and work till 1 only on Saturday. The hours are never exceeded; "It takes the spirit out of them and they can't work," said the master. Part of the boys' work consists in blowing a large blowpipe. A boy of 11 had never been at school, one of 12 could "read a wee," a girl of 15 could write once, but was "beginning to forget it."

DUNDEE.

127. Being in Dundee on a Saturday, and wishing to judge for myself of the extent to which the millinery, &c. shops were open on that night, which appears in Scotland generally to be late, I walked between 11½ p.m. and 12 through the street in which are the principal shops of the kind, as well as through other streets. In the principal street, as well as those in the poorer parts of the town, I saw many such shops still unclosed, though in the better kind with only the door open, and customers in them. Young females, either customers or message girls, were coming away with their light parcels, such as bonnets, &c. are carried in; and from one the workers came out just after 12. I had seen them at work in passing only a short time before; the work-room being, as in so many cases in this town, a cellar, and therefore not needing to be closed like rooms above ground; and lights were seen in other cellars. In the poorer streets, shops of many kinds, butchers, &c., were also open. The practice of working in cellar-rooms is a marked and objectionable feature in Dundee. A parent informed me that he had been prevented from sending his daughter to a house that he wished in consequence of the supposed unwholesomeness of these rooms. Drains, damp, and the work by gaslight have been much complained of to me.

Mr. James Soutar's, Milliner.

128. The work-room is a gloomy front cellar, in a poorer part of the town, just opposite the very large factory of the Messrs. Baxter. The factory workers in the neighbourhood are the chief customers. It is reached by a door from a back half-cellar, hot and steaming from the work done there by the master and two men, viz., washing and re-shaping bonnets. There is also a trap-door into it through the floor of the shop, where I was somewhat surprised by the sudden appearance of a girl's head and shoulders before my feet. It is proper, however to state that this work-room is only temporary. The future work-room, though on the same level, is only a half-cellar, *i.e.*, the ground at the back being much lower than the street.

129. *Mr. James Soutar.*—This is a most unpleasant business to carry on, owing to its irregularity and the difficulty of getting the work done. I would gladly let the girls away sooner if I could, but in a district in the outskirts like this, nearly all my customers are employed in the factories, and do not come in till after their day's work. I employ about 10 persons. The work-room was what is now the back of the shop, but I had to take that in to enlarge the shop, and was obliged to use the cellar for work. At the next term, which is very soon, I shall have possession of another room at the back, and shall use that instead.

130. *Sarah Lindsay.*—Have been a paid worker here for four or five years, being 14 when I came, and having learned for 12 months elsewhere before. When I came I got 3*s.* a week, and now get 10*s.* Our proper hours are from 9 till 9, but in the busiest part of the summer season we are seldom away before 12 p.m. on Saturdays; nearly the same on Fridays; and Thursdays leave at about 11 p.m.; but usually at 9 the other three nights. Some live a quarter of an hour or 20 minutes away from here. The summer season altogether lasts from March till July or August, and the winter from October to December, but this is scarcely so busy. Some nights we are very tired, you know—especially on Saturdays. In the busy time I am not often at church in the forenoon. I usually get up at about 12 on Sunday then. I have been pretty healthy as yet myself, but some of the rest of them complain of pain round the back from sitting; but I feel giddy when I rise up on nights that we are late, and have not been so well since we have worked down stairs, *i.e.*, two or three weeks. It's awful close and hot, particularly at night. It is hot not only from the gas, but from the steam from making up the bonnets in the next room. We could go out for meals twice, viz., three-quarters of an hour at 1 and three-quarters of an hour at 5, but we like better to have an hour and a half when we do go, which is at 3. When we stay late at night we do not eat or stop work again before leaving. Of course we feel it; but it's custom, and we get into it. I am not so well at the busy time as at others. We get sometimes a fortnight's holiday in summer.

Mrs. James Farquharson's Juvenile Clothing Establishment, Seagate.

131. But few persons, about half-a-dozen, are employed here, and the hours appear moderate and regular, and the work-room is above ground and good. The statements below relate to other millinery, &c. houses.

132. *Miss Agnes Smith.*—Last spring and last winter seasons I worked at ——'s, a draper, in this part of the town. The work was millinery, mantles, and shirts, all done in the same work-room, and the same person doing one or the other, just according to the season or as she was wanted. I was a milliner in summer and a mantle-maker in winter, and also had to make shirts. There were about 15 of us altogether, including improvers and learners, the youngest about 13 years of age, and most of us somewhere about 18, more or less.

Our hour for going to work was 9, but there was no time fixed for leaving. In the busiest time, which was about three months, we, *i.e.* the paid workers, very seldom left before 10 p.m. any night, or on Fridays and Saturdays before 11 and 12; indeed, on Saturdays never before 11, but many times at 12, and even after. Thursday was sometimes nearly as late, particularly for millinery work. One Saturday night we stayed till 12.20 p.m.; that was our latest. The learners and improvers generally left at about 8, but sometimes if there was push, and they liked to do it, they stayed till 9 and 10 p.m., and I have known it till 11, but not later. We always went out an hour and a half for dinner, but had no rest or refreshment afterwards, even when working late. We were very tired, but were obliged to work on. There were plenty of us who looked forward to the Sabbath more for rest of the body than nourishment of the mind or for anything else. I often was in bed till 11 in the morning, and sometimes was obliged to stay in all the Sabbath, but I liked to go to afternoon church when I could.

The work-room was a low, dark cellar with a stone

floor, but with a board to rest our feet on. A tall girl's head would nearly touch the ceiling if she stood up. It must have been damp, and I have seen some moisture on the walls, but not much, and we had a fire. We also had to have the gaslights burning all day, from morning till night, from the beginning of October, when I returned there, till January, when I left, except sometimes on a clear day; and we were obliged to have it, too, all the day on dull days in summer. It was very unpleasant to the eyes. The room was very seldom cleaned, and not properly; in parts the plaster had fallen off, and the wall showed through.

When I went to this place I was very strong and in good health, and had always had a good constitution, but there I was not at all well. No one could be if so shut up. I dare say that I took to it worse from having been brought up in the country, and having had regular hours, viz., from 9 till 7, and never later than 10 in the busiest time, at Forfar and Montrose, where I had worked before. I could not take my meals well, and was very much annoyed with pain in my side, which the doctor said came from sitting too much in one position and the long hours. He told me that I must have exercise. The young lady in charge was very kind to me, and let me go away when not well. There was scarcely one but what complained either of headaches or pain in the chest. The head mantle-maker had many a time to go away and be in bed, sometimes a whole day, owing to her headaches and being over-worked, and some had to leave entirely. One who had learned there, and who had been very healthful before, died of decline, and her friends blamed the damp place. Though she had left ill, I saw her there looking very poorly; she seemed about 18 or 19. When I came out late at night I could not look or rest my eyes on anything for a time, and many a time I have felt giddy then. When I came to my present place my mistress was always noticing my eyes, saying how bad they looked, which was perhaps from the constant gas and long work, but they are better now.

133. *Mrs. J. Farquharson.*—When Miss Smith came I used to notice how bad her eyes looked, and I have noticed just the same in a young person who came from another under-ground work-room. I think that many must lose their health from the damp of such rooms.

134. *Miss Menzies*, saleswoman.—It is a rule here for millinery shops to be open till from 10 to 12 on Saturday nights in the busy season. Though I have not myself been engaged in these work-rooms, I am well acquainted with several girls who have, and I see them here. They all complain very much of their long hours and going home through the streets so late at night, and say that the work is perfect slavery. Numbers of them suffer much in health, and often have to stay away from work for days. The late hours and badly aired work-rooms, which are often in cellars, and damp, affect the stomach, and through that the whole system, causing headaches and other complaints. Within about a year I have known two young persons of 18 or 19, and one of about 25, die of decline. They worked in two of these cellar work-rooms, and with two of them their illness began with bad colds from sitting in them and in damp clothes.

Mr. Thos. Cockburn's, Milliner, Reform Street.

135. *Mr. Thos. Cockburn.*—I employ several young females, nine as workers and three in the shop; none ever younger than 13 or 14, and most under about 24. They come when the shop opens, viz., at 9 a.m., and leave usually when it shuts, viz., at 8 p.m. for the four summer months, and at 7 p.m. for the remaining eight. On Saturday nights, however, it never shuts before 10 p.m., and in the busy months they seldom before 12 then; they have not been for the last four Saturdays (April). They have 1½ hours for meals, for which they leave at one or two times, as they please; but when they stay late, they divide the time, as they could not sit so long. After 12, however, as a rule, no stitch is done, as we are very particular to observe the Sabbath; and none, I think, would work on that, and I would not for the world ask them. But this is perhaps the only thing that stops us; for often even at that hour, 12 p.m., there are a row of people waiting for bonnets, &c. I have tried to get the hands to come and leave earlier; but they prefer coming late. I believe that the hours are much the same in all the shops near. My business is with a medium class of customers, but the more genteel are no better as to hours.

Nearly all the work-rooms in this, which is the principal street for this kind of business, are below ground, as mine is. I should very much like to have a better work-place, but it is difficult to get, and rents are so high in this part. In winter they want gas here nearly all day, and have a fire all the year, unless sometimes in summer they ask to have it let out. It carries off the air and keeps away the damp; though it is only in the back cellar that it is very damp. On that side is a graveyard, higher than the level of the street in front, and I therefore cannot get any open space behind, though I have got leave to sink a very small shaft just outside to let a current of air into the cellar. The burying-ground was closed a few years back, I believe, in consequence of complaints of a bad smell in these houses. For two months last summer we were greatly annoyed by a very bad smell, even upstairs in the top flat, and there was a great discussion in the public papers about the drainage in this street, which is said to be too flat, which lets sewerage accumulate. One drain ran under a corner of my back cellar into a neighbour's premises, and it was only after many applications that I got it taken up. The smell was dreadful in the next cellar, but that was not in use. The smell cannot have been from the gas. We noticed it most when the tide was up. The drains were all cleared out, and we have not yet been annoyed since.

136. *Miss Sharpe.*—In the month that I have been here (April) I have stayed till 12 p.m. each Saturday, and till 11 a few other nights. Towards the end of the week it is generally 9 or 10 p.m. At another house here my hours were not quite so late, but the girls, who were many, all worked in a cellar.

Mrs. Davidson's, Milliner, &c., Reform Street.

137. *Mrs. Davidson.*—For three or four months now we are late at the end of the week; on Saturdays till nearly 12, but not so late on Friday, and other nights regular. The hours for the scholars, of whom I sometimes have as many as eight, are from 9 till 8 in summer, and from 10 till 7 in winter; and as long as they are scholars, usually a year, they do not work late. All the workers go away an hour and a half for dinner, and often take a little lunch in the place. If they stay late at night, I generally send in something, such as biscuits.

A great deal of money has been laid out in improving the work-room, which is below ground. That small space just in front of the window has been opened to admit more daylight, and the wall boarded round behind the girls' backs, not on account of damp, but for comfort.

[A girl in the work-room had stated to me her impression that the boarding was put up as a protection against the damp.]

138. *Miss Smith*, head milliner.—The scholars sometimes stay beyond their time if they choose, but are not required to do so. They very seldom stay after 9, even on a Saturday night. The youngest

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now is just under 13. Last Saturday we left off work at ten or five minutes to 12, but never work after 12. For about three months, on the busy nights, from about 10½ till 11½ p.m. is our usual time. We have a fire summer and winter. It is useful for part of the work, and also for warmth, unless the weather is very warm.

We have holidays on the Queen's birthday, the two fast-days, a day after the fair; and sometimes a half-holiday when we are not busy.

Mr. Lorrimer's, Straw Hat Maker, Reform Street.

139. *Mr. Lorrimer.*—The number of young females that I employ varies from six to 12 or 15. The saleswomen take no part in any of the work but millinery. The hours are from a quarter to 9 a.m. till 8 p.m., with an hour and a half out for dinner and tea in one. On Saturday nights the workers are often kept till 11, and in the five or six busiest weeks it may be towards 12. I have seen it 12, but in winter it is not so late. To-night (Wednesday, 8.20 p.m.) the shop ought to have shut at 8, but we cannot do it, and it will be 9 probably before they are away. Sometimes they take work home, which can be done in such work as making straw again for new hats, &c.; but regular millinery work could not well be taken home without injuring it. If all wages were paid earlier in the week it would help to diminish our late work at the end. People cannot buy their bonnets till they have got their money, and after this they leave them to be trimmed.

140. *Henrietta Nicholl*, age 13.—Last year I was a message girl here, and then have been sent out from the shop with a message as late as 11 p.m., and not home before 12. Have been a worker only a month, and have not stayed past 10 p.m.

[This also is a cellar work-room.]

Misses Brown's, Milliners, Reform Street.

141. *Miss Brown.*—We take seven or eight scholars or improvers of from 14 or 15 upwards, and one paid hand. They come at about 9½ or towards 10 a.m., but there is no particular time to leave off, but it is 8, or 9, or 10, according as we are more or less busy, and sometimes on Saturday nights 11, or even after, but never so late as we work ourselves, which on Saturday nights in the busy time is usually 12.

[The work-room is above ground.]

142. At the establishment of Messrs. Watson and Henderson, drapers, &c., High Street, a house of high standing, articles of ladies' and children's dress are made in comfortable upstair rooms, with moderate hours of work.

Messrs. Keating and Co.'s, Clothiers, High Street.

143. The work is ordinary tailor's work, but in one room nearly all employed are females. The men's room, in which is a quite young boy as apprentice, is a low attic, crowded, and so hot from the stove and irons in use, that a hot, close air rushes out through the open hatch into a small room, in which two young women stitch parts of the work for men with sewing machines. I was informed by the person who conducted me over the premises, that often after staying in the men's room for some few minutes, he could feel his skin moist from the heat for a considerable time.

144. *John M'Culloch*, foreman.—In one room 17 females from 14 years of age upwards and three boys sew with the needle or machine, iron, &c. They work from 8½ till 8, with an hour for dinner, some taking tea also, and scarcely ever stay till 9. Some who are on piece-work do not go away for dinner, but those on week's wages do. The boy in the men's room works with them from 6 a.m. till 8 p.m., which are their proper hours. This was the first tailor's shop in the town to employ females, and began it about 4½ years ago. Another has about the same number, and others have just a few. Several of the bootmakers also now employ females.

145. *Margaret Bashley.*—Another young woman and I work sewing machines in this room (opening to the men's). From 8 till 8 is our time, but we oftentimes work till 11 and 12 p.m., but we are not asked to do it unless we like, and we are paid extra. We two lodge in the house. The girls in the large room never stay much after their time.

Perth.

PERTH.

Mr. J. Jamieson's, Men's Clothier and Outfitter, Athole Street.

146. In this building, formerly a theatre, every provision has been made to secure the health and comfort of the workers, who are almost exclusively females. About 100 of them work together in a large, clean, well ventilated, and well-lighted room, open to the roof, most of them sitting in rows on the floor, or on low stools, doing common tailor's work with the needle, pressing with irons, &c.; others working sewing machines, and some of the youngest being employed merely in running with pieces of garments from one worker to another. The heat so much complained of in tailors' working rooms, arising from the stoves and irons used for pressing, is avoided by entirely cutting off the stove-room, where one person alone attends to heating the irons, and by arranging the pressers in a row at one end of the large room. The air was perfectly cool and pleasant. Beneath is another room of the same size, which was intended for shirt makers, but is not yet used for that purpose. The statement of Mr. Jamieson is of interest in several ways; in particular with regard to the probability of common tailoring becoming a large female employment.

147. *Mr. John Jamieson.*—For six or seven years I have carried on my business by means, almost exclusively, of female labour, and had done so partially for four or five years before. I was the first in this town to employ females in any number worth mentioning on such work, and had begun it before I had any sewing machines. The advantages of employing them instead of men are so great in so many ways, that I have no doubt but that in a few years the trade will be entirely in their hands. Already there are fewer men employed here, and far fewer apprentices being brought up to the trade. At first I had great difficulties, and could not have succeeded without great effort and determination. The idea was only laughed at till it was found to succeed, and then the men, thinking it serious, struck, and I gave up men altogether, employing only four or five as cutters. As I have retail shops in this and other towns, other masters, especially in Dundee, have been obliged to follow in employing females, or they would lose a great amount of business. Two tailors in this town now employ several females; others, I believe, have one or two working at machines with the men, and others give out work. There was great difficulty

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at first in getting the females taught, men objecting to do this. Several of those, also, whom I had taught were drawn away by other masters offering more. The small country tailors in the neighbourhood are being knocked up, as much of their work, *e.g.*, coarse clothes, such as moleskin, &c., for working men, is now passing to these town establishments, because it can be done in them more cheaply and better. I also make woollen shirts, mechanics' jackets, and sometimes caps; in fact, every kind of general men's clothing. The floor below I intended to use for shirt making, but the dearness of cotton has prevented this at present.

One great advantage of employing females is, that they are so much more under control, and will work so much more regularly. The men would insist on doing their week's work in the last four days, not beginning regularly till Wednesday. This, however, has been very much the fault of masters not having work cut out, say on Saturday, and ready for the men to begin at once on Monday, and thus the men learn the habit. Men, too, are given to strikes and complaints, not merely for wages, but on grounds of other supposed rights or dignities. Again, females have so much finer a touch, and do the work so much more neatly, that the advantage of employing them would be even greater in a high class of tailoring business than it is in the common work which I chiefly do. In rough work strength is more important, and it is chiefly owing to the help of the sewing machine that females are now enabled to do such work properly.

They now work only 10 hours a day, viz., from 8 till 7, with a dinner hour, during which they are not allowed to work and, as a rule, go home, and only till 2 on Saturday; but I am sure that they do as much as when they wrought 12 hours, as they used to do. Before the 12 hours were out, I felt that we were getting listless and fagged. As for the half holiday on Saturday, which I gave five or six years ago, when there was a movement of the kind amongst the men in the town, because I thought that the business would afford it, I would not now give it up on any account. I look forward to it myself as much as my people do. I find no more difficulty in getting through the work on Saturday by 2 o'clock than I did formerly in finishing by 12 at night, to which time the men used to work. There is nearly always full work: and, indeed, the only broken time that there has been for nine years was caused last year by the scarcity of cotton; but it is only a few of the finishers that work overtime, and then only for half an hour, or an hour at the outside, and that very seldom. I made a rule to pay double for overtime work, partly as a motive to myself not to have any unless absolutely necessary, or if it were so, as a means of obtaining it more easily from the workers; but, in effect, overtime here has almost entirely disappeared. There is some difficulty, of course, at times, in getting through the work, as orders come very much in seasons, but at these times I confine the hands chiefly to the orders, and employ them in the slacker time in making stock for shops. The larger number, too, of females that can be employed, and the division of labour amongst them, well carried out, allows of the work being got through so much more quickly. On the whole it answers better not to have overtime at all. Females of a better class prefer coming here and getting steady work to getting higher but less regular wages elsewhere. Several come who have been to milliners and dressmakers, and I prefer them after they have learned a little sewing in this way,

There is a great improvement in the health and appearance of the girls, and their cheeks are ruddier, since they have worked in these premises, now three years. In their old work-place the rooms were low and crowded, and hot from the stove and irons, and could only be ventilated by opening the windows, and if it was at all cold this was objected to by those who sat near the windows, as many must. But what was one of the greatest objections, and which made me most anxious to get another work-place, was the want of proper convenience in the way of waterclosets, which I have provided here on each floor, not opening into the rooms. At the old place it was a very common thing for the girls to complain of turning sick, or not being able to sit any longer, and saying that they must go, as they did for the day or a few hours. Since they have been here there have been none of these short illnesses, and I am inclined to think that they had more to do with the want of proper accommodation referred to. The place was, no doubt, unhealthy from want of space and fresh air, and also from the heat, as tailors' work-places, which are often attics, generally are; but the effects appeared more in a general depression of health than serious or fatal illness. After sitting in the room three hours they would become languid. I used to feel it myself as much as any, as I was in the rooms superintending. The heat from the stove and irons were very disagreeable, and we felt it very much, especially in the summer time, and we find immense advantage in quite shutting off the stove from the work-room. It would take too much labour in carrying backwards and forwards to use the irons in a room separate from the work-room. The room is swept twice a day, and washed once a week, and the varnished pannelling is also cleaned. It is said that the depression arising from working in unhealthy places induces people to resort to drinking. Certainly a woman who was much given to this has now become quite sober, though this may perhaps be owing in a great measure to my looking after them so well, as I always do, in this respect.

I do not take girls under 12, but the number at about that age who come to seek for work is wonderful. While they only carry articles and messages, at which work they begin, and while they are learning to sew or to use the machine, they get 2*s.* a week, and from this wages gradually rise up to 8*s.* The greater number get 5*s.* or 6*s.* Several of the workers have to keep their own books of their work, and most to read the written directions given for making up the cloth, but I have no like means of judging of the attainments of the younger girls.

I am strongly impressed with the good behaviour and feeling of the women and girls in my employment; indeed, they are such as to make the practical management of the work, which I take myself, a wonderful pleasure to me; very different from what was the case before I employed females only. I have never had an instance of dishonesty or discontent amongst them. If I had occasion at any time to push on work a little, I should have nothing to do but just to go into the room and ask them to work a little sharper to oblige me, and this would have more effect than if I were to offer them higher pay.

DUBLIN.

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Madame Meyer's Millinery and Dress-making Warerooms, Dawson Street.

148. *Mrs. Cummings*, head English dressmaker.—There are now about 20 dressmakers and 12 milliners here; in a full time there are about 30 of the former and 16 or 17 of the latter. There is no difficulty in finding hands when wanted; they are very plenty. The dressmakers get on an average from 5*s.* to 8*s.* a week. Only the head French milliner and head French dressmaker and the young ladies who attend on the customers live in the house. The hours are from 9 till 7, and when the dressmakers go away for dinner at all, they take an hour. If, however, they see that there is much to do, they often bring something with them, and eat it in a separate room, while some never leave the room at all, but eat a bit

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beside them. Nor do all go at once, so that there is always some one in the work-room. All the dressmakers work in the same room, and it gets very close, especially when the gas is lighted, and many times it causes headaches.

In the busy times, *i.e.*, for three months about twice a year, we run to about 9 p.m., but do not often pass that, though it is sometimes 10½ or 11, but that is the outside. The business has lately changed hands, but I have been here 14 or 15 years. During that period we have been up all night two or three times only, and that on great emergencies. One time there were about 40 or 50 persons at work, and all but the apprentices stayed up, some going home at about 6 a.m. and others going on with work. A girl would usually be out of her three years' apprenticeship at about 17. Some have begun at 12, but if they were supposed to be younger than that, they would be objected to. Except on these occasions we have never worked after 12. When the hands stay late tea is prepared for them.

149. *Miss Cahill*, assistant.—When I served my time as dressmaker here the hours were from 9 till 9, or, if we did not go to dinner, till 8. Generally, however, I stayed till 9½, and sometimes till 10, but not later as an apprentice, nor did any of the other apprentices. As a worker, I have often stayed till 12 p.m. some nights together; three or four one week, and two or three another, and so on for a few weeks; but I only remember being up all night once, and then had a holiday next day. Altogether I have been here 14 years. For the last two or three years we have had shorter hours, because a young lady, who came to manage the business under the late principal, thought that it would be a good thing to leave earlier.

The work-room is very close. There are two windows that open, but small and near together at one end, and they are not opened much, because some sit near them and are afraid of catching cold. I love to have a window open, and would sooner be perished with cold than not have air enough. We cannot all be pleased; but I have strong health myself and do not suffer from it, though some do.

[There are two trap doors in the ceiling, but said not to communicate with the outer air.

150. *Eliza Foley*, age 13.—Am one of five out-door apprentices; here nearly a year. We come at 9 and never stay after 7, and usually go to dinner from 2 to 3.

151. *Miss Corbett*, in the show-room.—I have been engaged in the show-room in two other houses in Dublin, besides serving my time as milliner in a third. In all the hours were about the same as here. In a show-room, though your day is supposed to be finished early, if you have been much engaged in the day, you are sometimes obliged to be up late putting up things and arranging work for the work-rooms, &c. I have oftentimes been up so till 11 p.m. myself, but never later, though in busy times work-rooms will sometimes be going on till 2 a.m., but it would be a very rare and extreme case for any to be later than that.

152. *Mr. Weldon*, in the counting house.—For the last five or six years it has been becoming very general in Dublin for milliners and dressmakers to be employed in general drapers' and mercers' houses. It is the general rule, in fact almost without an exception, for the workers not to live on the premises, with the exception of the head assistants, and sometimes some of those in the show-rooms. The general hours are from 9 till 7. There is a general inclination towards closing shops earlier.

153. I visited another house of just the same fashionable class of business as the above, and though employing rather fewer persons, found the system almost precisely the same as at the house just described, but work appeared not to be carried beyond 11 p.m., though sometimes till then.

———, Dressmaker, Grafton Street.

154. Part of the paved yard at the back of the house, close under the staircase window, is covered with a large pool of dark stagnant water coming from adjoining premises. The street is said to be one of the first streets in Dublin for business, and contains several of the principal mercers', milliners', &c. establishments.

155. Mrs. ———.—The house is very unhealthy. The pool of black water in the yard is the washings from a photographer's rooms in the next house. It has been there for months,—I mean literally months; and though I have applied to the landlord, and he, I believe, to the houses on each side, we can get nothing done without laying out our own money, which we cannot afford. There are, I believe, two pipes and the drains of both stopped. There seems to be no one in the town to see to such things. I have not applied to a sanitary inspector. It would be of no use now, as we are just going to move. My daughter is quite unfit to work as she does, and so am I, but we must do it.

156. *Miss* ———.—My sister, who carries on the business, has now only out-door hands. They begin at 9, and if they take a dinner hour, work till 9, otherwise till 8; but one, who is an apprentice, has an hour less at each end. When there are two or three in-door apprentices, as there sometimes are, they have no fixed hours for leaving off work. The day workers do not care for stopping, and very seldom do stop so late as 10, or at most 11, though my sister works till 1 a.m. always. Last winter, for a drawing-room, she and her workers sat up two or three nights running, not going to bed at all, and only having a cup of tea or so; but I cannot speak to this personally, as I was away.

Mrs. Ridgway's, Milliner and Dressmaker, Molesworth Street.

157. *Mrs. Ridgway.*—Out of upwards of 30, whom I employ, only about six, including sometimes an apprentice or two, live in the house. They work from 9 till 7 without going to dinner, which they like better than till 8 with it.

158. *Miss Magee*, in-door dressmaker.—In my 10 years here I have never been up at work later than 11 or 11½ p.m., and that but seldom; but of late years 10 is the latest that we ever work. We get about half an hour for a meal in the middle of the day, sometimes more, sometimes less. I do not get out in the week except in summer time, though I might in an evening. I cannot say that it suited my health when I first came, or that it does now. The sitting is bad, and affects me and some of the others too, but my chest is naturally weak. Black work is bad for our eyes.

159. I visited the houses of three other private milliners and dressmakers, but found little variety in system or hours from that just described. In one of them, employing from 25 to 30 persons, none live in.

Messrs. Forrest and Sons, Silk Mercers, &c., Grafton Street.

160. *Miss Costello*, head of the millinery department.—I have been many years in this house, and served my time here. About 15 milliners are employed here now, all living in the house; I should say all but two or three under 18, none over 20. Girls come at about 15 as apprentices for three years

at a premium of 50*l.* Their hours are from 9, or often towards 10, till 6. In busy times they may work later, perhaps till 8, but very rarely indeed in this house till 9. There are always enough employed to do what is wanted in proper time, a few out-door hands being engaged at times. Everything depends on having system and keeping a sufficient staff of hands. This house is, I should say, exceptionally good, both as to hours and comfort, and in every way. Many come from England to it in consequence, and this morning I have had letters from two persons there, speaking of the happiness which they had here, and scarcely one has left but has said the same. One of the two writers complains that in Lancashire she has to be in the work-room from 8½ a.m. till 7½.

Late hours have gone down very much of late in Dublin, and it is a great mercy, as people were injuring themselves before. For about the last two years shops, such as this, have closed at 6 instead of 7.

161. *Miss M'Garry*, head of the dress-making department.—I have been in this house nine years. Only one of the dressmakers under me now lives in the house, though we sometimes have some apprentices in-doors, and generally four or five out. Apprentices come from about 14 upwards, and usually serve three years. In a dull time about 12 persons are employed; in a busy, 20 or 30; but not all working here. The day workers are seldom under 18, sometimes perhaps 17 or 16. They are paid by the week, some getting 9*s.* or 10*s.*, most perhaps 6*s.* The persons taken on as extra hands are usually the same each year, as they like to come back. The hours are from 9 till 7, but if we are very busy, I am obliged to keep some later, but not ever later than 10, and for this they are paid extra, and have tea provided for them. This is only a few nights in the season, or now and then, for drawing-rooms, &c. They might go away for dinner, but do not like, and usually take some lunch here. The apprentices do the same, but they only work from 10 till 6, and never stay later. The regular hours are secured simply by employing enough hands.

Messrs. Todd, Burnes, and Co's., Silk Mercers, Drapers, and General Upholsterers, Mary Street.

162. *Mr. Williamson*, one of the two acting partners.—Our business is very general, probably the most so in Dublin, though there are about half a dozen large houses of much the same class. Nearly 50 females, but none of them apprentices, or under about 16 or 17 years of age, are employed on the premises in several branches of work. Some are milliners, including in these, because the work is done by just the same class of persons, some who sell goods, and cut out the materials for children's clothing, &c.; others work at tailoring, in which they are engaged at sewing machines, or in preparing the materials for them; others at upholstery. A great number are employed off the premises in making up materials cut out and prepared here for children's clothing, mantles, &c., and in shirt making: as many probably as are employed on the premises. We do no dress-making, and I think that the large houses generally do none.

Some of the milliners (as above defined), but no other persons in the work-rooms, and also some of the shop young ladies, live in the house, and form part of a number of nearly 200 persons engaged in the establishment, exclusive of servants, who do the same, each having a separate bed. The young ladies have a sitting and a dining-room, both separate, and can take books from the library, but not sit in it, as it forms also a reading and news room for the young men.

The milliners' hours are the same as in every department of the establishment, viz., 9 till 6, with half an hour for dinner for those who take it here, and an hour for those who live out and go home to it. Dinner begins at 1½, and is not over till 5, the different sets taking each half an hour in succession, so that they must be punctual and go when their bell rings. We have nothing like the system of hours in some of the London West-end houses. If we take a large order, which must be done in an incredibly short space of time, we do it by putting on more hands to whatever work is needed, instead of making overwork. We have no difficulty in getting them. Every day from 9 till 10, we receive applications, and have a great number of them. We set our faces against overtime, and it is expensive in several ways. There is the additional superintendence and the burning of more gas, and also, if any stay at all late, we find them some extra refreshment. But this very seldom happens. For the last 12 months I think that no single person in our establishment has worked a minute overtime: there has been no occasion. It sometimes happens that if there is a run upon the millinery stock one day, the hands may have to work an hour later, not more, to make it up for next day, but as we have two departments of millinery, viz., making for stock and for order, and both are very seldom busy at once, one can generally help the other. We always despatch the last goods at 6 p.m.

Generally speaking, at all the other large houses here, as far as I am acquainted with them, the conveniences are good, and the rooms spacious, and their hours also much the same, except that they begin, I believe, at 8 a.m. At various times the hours have been rather clipped by the early closing movement. We considered whether we could not dispense with the hour from 8 to 9 a.m., and have lost nothing by it, and it gives the people an opportunity of getting out in the morning, and in summer of going down to bathe. There was a little inconvenience at first from the habits of some old customers, but they soon fell into the change. In fact, this is the case with early hours generally. Where a house adopts a regular system it soon brings customers to regularity, and they find that they must give longer notice.

Mrs. Corbett's, Needlewoman, Great Ship Street.

163. In this room a boy lay in his bed, in which he had been confined for six years, moaning with pain, and, as I was told by his mother, dying. No girls or women were employed in it at the time of my visit, but they are at times, *i.e.*, probably whenever the mistress has enough work out; and from the whole account it seems that girls and women must have worked in what has been a permanent sick room.

164. *Mrs. Corbett.*—I take in shirts and make them here. I worked 20 years for a large clothing establishment lately closed, and then did both shirt and tailoring work in the same way. I sometimes employ three or four women and girls here, and have had them as young as 13, but generally older. They come about 9 a.m., sometimes a bit earlier, and usually stay till 7 p.m., going away at dinner-time. When I have been full of work some have stayed here till 9, 10, and 12 p.m., but never past 12. I may sit all night myself at times if I like, but that is no affair of any one else's.

A shirt maker used to be able to earn 1*s.* a day, but now 2*s.* 3*d.* a week is as much as a woman can get at common work. It takes four hours and a half to make a shirt of the common kind, of cotton or jean, such as working-men men wear, so that she can only make about two a day, or a dozen a week, and the price paid for the work on these is just 2*s.* 3*d.* a dozen. Out of this she has to pay for the thread used, which costs 7*d.* for two dozen shirts, or 3½*d.* for one dozen, leaving rather less than 2*d.* for each shirt. Flannel shirts are better, perhaps 4*s.* a dozen, and regatta or coloured shirts 3*s.* 6*d.* a dozen.

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My child there has been confined to his bed for six years, with a spine disease, causing the loss of the use of his limbs. Now the dropsy has got to his chest and up into his head, and his eyes are closed up. He has been moaning like that since yesterday and all through the night and to-day. The doctor said that he could not live.

MRS. SMITH'S, NEEDLEWOMAN, STEPHEN STREET.

165. Some of the family sleep in the room in which several females work. In one of the two beds was a grown-up daughter, suffering from bronchitis, coughing and looking very ill. The work-tables at which the workers sit seem to show the room to be a regularly established work-place.

166. *Mrs. Smith.*—Employ females at shirtmaking. Girls are not put down to it here till about 14 perhaps. Have sometimes a dozen workers or more in here, enough to fill these tables. They work by the piece, and come as they please, but not earlier than 9 a.m., and do not stay later than 10 p.m. Would not have them after that, as I want the room, but they take work home. Have one other room, my kitchen, besides this one. My family consists of myself, my son, two grown-up daughters, and a grandchild. My daughter there has been ill a few days.

167. *Catherine Keen.*—Don't know what age I am. Indeed, I'm over 20 and suppose under 24. Have worked here eight years. Come and go at different hours, but never stay here after 10 p.m. Go home to dinner. Sometimes work at home too. The longest day I have made is from 4 a.m. till 10 p.m., but have very seldom worked so long as that.

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168. *Mrs. Taylor*, needlewoman, Little Ship Street.—Employ about 10 women, and sometimes a girl or two in my room here at shirtmaking. They come from about 8 till 8, and take tea twice in the day here, *i.e.*, dinner and tea, about an hour for the two. Sometimes when there's a hurry they stop up all night. If they did not they would lose the work. This happens perhaps about once a month, and then they leave early the next morning. Some lie down anywhere and take a nap: there is a sofa, but no bed. We make every kind of shirt, but none on which the machine has been used. The hands are paid by the shirt, and most make about 3*s.*, 4*s.*, 6*s.*, and so on, according to their skill and work; some 8*s.* or 9*s.* Most houses are on about the same scale as to hours, *i.e.*, from 8 a.m. till about 8 or 10 p.m.

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169. *Mrs. Stephens*, needlewoman, St. George's Street.—I employ a woman or two on shirts given out to me from a shop to make up, but they work at their own homes. The stitching, *i.e.*, the work of the collars, wrists, and bosoms, is done by the machine before the shirts are given out to me; and this is the case at all the shops which have machines for the purpose, as all the large houses, with two or three exceptions, have now. The machine, however, takes off only a small part of the work, much less than half, as all the making up, button-holes, buttons, &c., remain to be done. But it has so sunk the rate of payment, that with the same amount of labour we can now earn only about half what we did before the machine was used for shirtmaking here, *i.e.*, about 3*s.* 6*d.* a week instead of 7*s.* The price paid now for making good shirts, *i.e.*, such as gentlemen wear, made of calico, with linen fittings, is 3*s.* 6*d.* a dozen, or 3½*d.* each. When no part was done by the machine, we used to get 14*s.* or 15*s.* a dozen for such shirts, *e.g.*, those sold at 72*s.* the dozen, sometimes more, up to 18*s.* and 1*l.*, but now there is never more than 5*s.* a dozen given for white shirts, however fine. I could make one fine shirt in a day of less than 12 hours entirely myself, *i.e.*, the machine having done nothing, but with the stitching ready done by the machine I could not make two shirts in a day, unless they were of an inferior kind. Of course many shirts are paid lower, *e.g.*, working men's are down to 2*s.* 2*d.* a dozen, and I have understood, in the case of one house, as low as 1*s.* 9*d.*, or 1¾*d.* each. Again, for flannel shirts, such as gentlemen pay 12*s.* each for, we now get only 4*s.* or 3*s.* 6*d.* a dozen, though up to only 15 months ago we got as much as 10*s.* Of course different shirtmakers' earnings vary. Some working 12 hours a day can make perhaps 5*s.* a week, or more if they sit up all night; but others working a full week will not get more than 1*s.* 9*d.*, I suppose because they are not clever.

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170. *Margaret Oxley*, age 17, Aungier Street.—Am making shirts now at home. Till three months ago I was for four years in a large tailoring establishment here, which has now nearly closed. There were a great number of girls and women, mostly the former, varying, according to the work, from 50 to 200. The youngest girls at sewing were about 14 years old, but there were some younger, down to 11, 10, or 9, who did odd work, such as picking out threads, putting labels on to cloth, &c. Others were sewers, machine girls, finishers, &c. We made soldiers' clothes of all kinds, coats, shirts, caps, boots, &c., as well as blue smocks for sailors, and other things. Men's boots, quite thick, were sewn by machines worked by girls, of course not the soles. Indeed, it's very tiring working at a sewing machine, but more so at some than others, as some are heavier. I began when I was about 14, and could only work about a couple of hours at a time at first. I used sometimes to have to stop behind at night to learn.

Our hours were from 8 till 6, or if we took a dinner hour, till 7. We were allowed to take tea there for dinner. In winter we began at 9. If we were in a hurry, so as not to disappoint an order, we often stopped till 9 or 10 for two or three nights together, and have done so for a week, and sometimes brought work home. We stopped till 12 twice, and would have stopped all night, only some of the foreworkers would not, and it was no use for some to stay without the others. All stayed the same time. I have often made as much as 9*s.* or 10*s.* a week there, though it was usually less, depending on the kind of work. When girls work in houses they expect to work from 8 till 8, with a dinner hour, but no tea till they get home; but the time depends on the wages. If the pay is good they do not mind working longer, but if it is not they won't. We called this tailoring place a factory.

171. *Mrs. Oxley.*—Take in shirt and tailoring work, but only my daughter (b. 170) works for me now. My little daughter, who died at 9 years old, could do linings and pockets beautifully. She began at 8 years old, working after coming from school.

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172. *James Daly*, Wine Tavern Street.—I have held situations in two large clothing establishments here for upwards of 25 years, and employed girls from 12 years old up to young women on some of the work in my own house; at one time as many as nine of them, and my wife superintended the work. Just

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lately, however, a great part of the work of these factories has gone elsewhere, and I have not been able to employ any. Their regular day's work was from 7 a.m. till 9 or 10 p.m., and if there was work which must be finished they stayed later. The busiest time was always in winter, and towards spring I have had them up all night, but then, generally, made them a cup of tea or gave some refreshment about the middle of the night. They could go away for breakfast and dinner. An hour is what is generally allowed in Dublin for dinner, and my girls would not be allowed to stay away longer anyways; but we were not very particular as to the time, and some would just run and swallow their cup of tea and come back to work again. Girls are not like men—not so particular as to their hours. They live but poorly, unless their parents or some of the family are well off; for what can a girl do to keep a bit of anything decent on her back on 3*s.* or 4*s.*, or even 5*s.* a week. They mostly go upon a cup of tea or potatoes and milk, or perhaps a bit of bacon now and then. They used to work on the floor, *i.e.*, just sit round the room in which we lived. The plan of work runs just the same all over Dublin, wherever girls work in private houses at the tailoring business or shirts, both as to place of work, hours, meals, and everything, and I have carried it on just the same ever since 1837, when I left the army. My wife makes shirts, and my little girl there, now 11, has worked at it for about a couple of years, and can sew nicely now. She sews after she comes from school in the afternoon till dark, or perhaps, if there is much to do, for an hour or so after candlelight, but she is too young to keep her at it. She can read and write on a slate.

When my hands worked late, all worked the same, the younger as well as the elder. They received no extra pay, but then I did not cut them of their wages if they were half a day or so short of work. The younger girls would seam, make hems, and do linings, and get 3*s.* or 3*s.* 6*d.* a week, others 4*s.* or 5*s*; and some good finishers, who could make good holes and finish garments well, 7*s.* or 6*s.*

Mr. James Crotty and Co.'s, Stay Manufacturers, Christ Church Place.

173. *Mr. James Crotty.*—I was the first to establish this manufacture in Dublin, which is now its great seat, and make stays for all parts of the world. Mine is the largest stay factory here. When I began the business in 1851, there were no sewing machines in use here, and I gave out nearly all the work. I was the first person to use the sewing machine in Dublin, having the one that was in the Irish exhibition. Now I employ about 500 persons on my premises, and have had about 550, nearly all of them females, and of these nearly half under the age of 18, but less than 20 under 13. Of the females over 18 years of age, probably half average about 22 or 23. I give orders not to take any under 11, as under that they are, I think, too young for work, and I can get plenty older. I have 144 machines, but I do not use steam. My premises, which are like the rooms of house buildings, are not suitable for it; there would be great expense in having the steam machinery; it would wear out the sewing machines faster; and I believe that there would be no great advantage to be gained by it. When a girl gets used to a common machine she can work it with her foot quite as fast as she can follow with her hand. I used to make skirts, but gave it up, because my premises were not large enough for both branches, and they are in a corner where I cannot enlarge them. The boys, of whom there are 11, are chiefly employed in putting in eyelet-holes, &c. The stays, when made, are pressed with irons by men. This work wants strength, and I have only lately put on men to it, as it was too severe for women.

I think that the factory day is quite as much as people ought to work, and that any more would be injurious. People ought not to have to make slaves of themselves altogether for the purpose of living. When I began business, I settled that I would not have any late work. It makes work-people discontented, and breaks up their health. My hours are from 9 till 6½, with half an hour for dinner, and are never lengthened by more than an hour. I have persons here now who were with me when I began business, and who are quite as fresh in health and strength now as they were then. The hands are not let out at dinner time, because the people are so badly trained to work, that if they got out you would have great difficulty in getting them back again.

I tried a half day on Saturday, but found it inconvenient and gave it up. The inconvenience was that I was busy myself on Saturday morning, and could not begin to pay early. But if there were any great advantage to be gained by either employers or employed by a half day, I would pay on Friday instead, and could do so as easily as on Saturday. This would be the best plan, if any such change were required, and would do away with the objection. In places where the workers in factories are very numerous, and they have to go long distances, as in country places, for their shopping, there would be an advantage in a half holiday, but in Dublin they are a small class, and the shops close at hand.

If any distinction were made between factories using steam power for sewing machines and others, I should not refrain on that account from its use if I thought it otherwise advantageous, as a man is likely to follow his own interest, but I should not employ any children, as there is such a surplus of labour here, that almost any number of persons of any age that may be wanted can be had.

The health of my workers is very good. I am very particular to make the head person on each floor see that the windows are kept open, and in winter there is a little space left. There are so many together in each room, that there is no need of fires, as the natural heat of their bodies keeps them warm enough. I find no injurious effect either from the use of the sewing machine or from the standing position of others, *e.g.*, the cutters out. I never heard of their having swelled legs. A physician, whom I know well, and who was in here just now, has remarked the same, and said that he wonders at it. Indeed the machine is much lighter work than hand needlework. At that girls sit all day, stooping over their work, with one knee up and the work pinned to it, while at the machine they sit quite upright, and get some exercise, and the work is more interesting. They earn more, and at the end of the day are much less tired than hand needle-workers.

All are in my direct employment, and this, I think, the rule in establishments of this kind here. I would not allow of any under employment. Some little girls, who are smart things, can earn quite as much as women. They do best when they begin at about 12 years old. Till they are grown up they are expected to hand all over to their parents to be spent on the family, but I know that many do not pay all, because parents apply to me for the wages in consequence. When much more work was given out, it was the practice for women to employ girls on the work, as is still the case with shirt work. But I give out very little now. Where any work is given out, it is usual to require security. But girls in Dublin are strictly honest.

Leaving work at 6½, as my people do, they can go to evening schools and week-day services, and I think that a great many do. Work ought to end soon enough to allow of this. I think that the lower class here are more anxious for education than the same class in England, and scarcely any, I should say, come here as old as 12 or 13 who cannot read.

174. *Rosa Kensall*, age 12.—Am "boning" stays.

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Mr. J. E. White.

b.

Have half an hour for dinner, but usually stop work only for a quarter, which is as long as most do. Get 3*s.* 6*d.* a week.

Can read, write, and do compound division. Have not been at any school, evening or Sunday, since I came to Dublin.

Mr. Thomas Crotty's, Stay and Crinoline Skirt Manufacturer, 57, William Street.

175. *Mr. Jos. Caithness*, manager.—We employ here usually about 150 persons, but in a busy time have had over 200. Nearly all are females, there being only half a dozen boys, two or three of whom punch holes and put in eyelets, and about as many men. We used to have work done out, but gave it up because the workers disappointed us, and we could not secure any regularity. On the average, about 35 machines are in use, there being generally a few besides out of order. We do not like children under 13 at all, and only take any for trifling jobs. About a quarter of the females are under 18.

The hours are from 9 till 7, with an hour for dinner, which is taken on the premises. We are obliged to keep the hands in for this, for in Dublin they are so irregular in their habits, that if they got away several would not come back at all. There is very little irregularity in the hours of work. For about three months in the year some of the hands have to stay an hour longer, or at the outside two, but this is chiefly the machinists, and it is seldom that we are busy in both branches at the same time. Sometimes we have shipping orders or orders for London houses for shipment by them, but this does not interfere to any great extent.

The factory day would be quite long enough for the requirements of the business at any time, and a half day on Saturday would be a great boon to the workers. The wholesale warehouses are the only places that I know of in Dublin which have a half-day then. I wish that the Government would enforce it, and it would be easy enough to carry out if all were obliged to adopt it alike. On Saturday I frequently have to let some out for an hour to go and make purchases by daylight. The shopping after work on Saturday of course throws the shops late, often till 11 and 12. A half-day would of course be some loss to the manufacturers, as they could not turn out so much stock. I do not think that the effect would be to make the people work better at the beginning of the week. There is great difficulty in getting them to work at all, especially on Monday—Saint Monday. Some make a system of staying away then; but we should never be able to have the factory hours so as to begin earlier, *e. g.*, at 6, because we cannot get the hands in time as it is. Some live a long way off, and many are not entirely dependent on their labour. For the last half-year we have begun a system of closing the doors at 9 and opening it at 9½, and again afterwards, with gradually increasing fines, and since this system has been introduced the attendance, which before was very irregular indeed, has been much better. If earlier hours could be secured, they would suit the work as well. All the manufacturers in these branches of trade in Dublin, of which there are about half a dozen, have nearly the same hours.

Years ago, stays were, I believe, made by men; then were given out to be made by women who worked at home, but these are nearly ruined by the introduction of sewing machines and factories; still it is for the benefit of all, as many more are employed in the trade than were formerly.

176. *Eliza Clarke*, age 15, machinist.—Here four years. Work from 9 till 7; when in a hurry, till 8; have never worked till 9. Have half an hour for dinner in the work-rooms; we skirt girls dining from 1 till 1½, and the stay girls from 1½ to 2. The treadle is heavy, but I am never tired of it, and like it very much. Have made as much as 7*s.* 6*d.* in a week at the machine, though I have been at it only three months.

Can read, but write only middling. Do not know of Edinburgh, or if it is a town. Was taken from school very young when my da died.

177. *Mary Ann M'Dermot*, age 19, tacker.—Here five years. Stayed one week till 9, and have once or twice till 10, not longer. Get 4*s.* 6*d.* a week. Take dinner in my work-room. It holds about 20 of us sitting close together, and is not very airy in summer. The fire-place is boarded up. When I first came the noise of the machines made my head ache.

Know the letters pretty well, but not all of them. Am going to night-school after Easter, and will pay 6*d.* a week.

Mr. E. Smyth's, Crinoline Skirt Manufacturer, William Street.

178. *Mr. O'Doffey*, in the warehouse.—The hours are from 9 till 7, with half an hour for dinner, for which the hands prefer to stay here. They seldom work much longer, perhaps a month in the year till 10 p.m. About 80 females, chiefly those who cut out material and use the machines, work on the premises. There are on the books the names of about 600 women who make up the material at their homes, some of whom work with their sisters, or a few girls under them, making an estimated number of about 1,000 altogether. We manufacture skirts chiefly for England. Dublin is the only place in Ireland in which this manufacture is carried on. When we get into staymaking, which we are just beginning, there will be about 600 altogether engaged in it, in-doors and out, in just the same way.

179. *Mary Hall*, age 20.—Hours are from 9 till 7. When we have been busy we have come at 8 or 7½, and have worked till 8, very seldom till 9. The latest is between 9 and 10. Work beyond the regular time about five months in a year; are not allowed to work in dinner time, which is half an hour.

Mr. E. D. M'Crea's, Shirt and Collar Manufacturer, 51, William Street.

180. *Mr. E. D. M'Crea.*—I make some shirts, but the chief part of my business is collar making, which includes also cuffs and ladies' collars and sleeves. London is the chief seat of this manufacture, and I am about the only person that carries it on to any extent here. The work consists chiefly in cutting out the material and preparing it by tacking, turning down edges, &c., and sewing by machines, which are worked by the foot. The dressing, *i.e.*, washing and getting up, is also done on the premises. All the persons employed, except a few men, are young females, most, I should say, between the ages of 18 and 25, about 70 in all. The very few younger girls are the children of respectable parents, and are, probably, better educated than many of the elder. Young girls beginning as learners get 2*s.* or 3*s.* a week, the others average from 5*s.* to 8*s.*, and some get as much as 14*s.* or 15*s.* I give out work besides to about 30 persons, and it is probable that several of these employ girls under them, but I object to this as the rate of prices for my business, being wholesale, is necessarily low already, and if work is farmed out the actual workers must be cut down still further. The out-door shirt-workers in Dublin are of a low class, and do not average more than from 3*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.* a week, but this is simply owing to their want of skill. If they could work better, we could pay them much better, and find a market for the goods too. I also have work done in three convent schools, but do this only from necessity, and should prefer getting it done in any other way. I have many applications from places of this kind in various parts.

The hours are from 8 till 6¼ in summer, and from 8½ till 6¾ in winter, and till 2 only on Saturday. A short day on Saturday is not usual in factories here, I believe, but it is in wholesale warehouses. I am very

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particular that they should have their dinner-time clear. It was an hour, but they would not come back in time, so I made in 1¼ hour, and insist on their being punctual. Most go home for it, which I prefer, but a few take it in the cloak-room. There is very little variation of season or hours, and as mine is simply a city business, I have no pressure for shipping orders. Perhaps about four weeks in a year we may work about an hour and a half longer daily. If I had girls under 13 it would be very inconvenient to to have to teach two sets, but there would be no difficulty whatever in getting them.

My work premises are the rooms of a private house, and a small new part built over a yard. There is a sort of place for washing, but not very good, and I have thought of putting a better. All the girls are required "to be particular in having clean hands, and "the machinists, and to see that there is no oil or "dust about the machines or benches;" and one of these printed rules placed in the work-rooms is to this effect, the nature of the work requiring attention to these points. I have also thought of providing some sort of dining-room, but they do not seem likely to value this much.

181. *Kate Budd*, age 14, machinist.—At first turned up collars. Hours are (*as above*). Have never worked longer. Here a year. At first turned up collars. The machine does not tire me. Get 3*s*. Have a sister a year younger in the laundry here.

Can read and write pretty well, and sum middling. Sister can read and can write middling. We do not go to any school now.

The Dublin Sewing Co.'s Factory, Grattan Street.

182. The factory is a light wooden building, of a single story, open to the arched felt roof, well lighted and ventilated, and warmed by two stoves, and has closets opening into one end of the single large work-room.

183. *Mr. Beahan*, manager.—The factory has only been built six months, but the business was begun two or three years in a house. About 60 females, all from 13 upwards, are employed in it. They work from 9 till 6, and are not allowed to go out during the day. They are very seldom kept at all beyond 6; if they ever are asked to stop, it is very difficult to keep them to attend to their work, as they do not care to work more. If an hour were fixed by law for leaving off work, and I wanted to get more done without passing it, I could easily put on another machine and more hands. One machine will keep 10 or 11 with the needle going. There are some amongst the makers, *i.e.*, at needlework, who can work the machine, and could be put on to it if necessary. Work is given out to about 120 women, and of these several employ other women and girls at their house. The work that is given out is that which cannot conveniently be done by the machine, but machines are in use in some places which can overcome some of the difficulties, as, *e.g.*, machines with arms so as to sew sleeves. The common machines would sew through both sides of them. Whether a girl or a woman works a machine the best is entirely a matter of quickness and intelligence, and has nothing to do with strength, which is not needed. Some will make scarcely anything at it. A machinist will average about 6*s*. a week, though some get nearly 10*s*., a buttonholer 5*s*., and a maker, *i.e.*, common needle-worker, 4*s*. The cutting out and the pressing want strong young women, and they have to stand all day.

184. *Bridgett Phinn*, age 14.—Worked a machine before I was 14, and could do it at once from having watched others do it when I was winding the reels for them, and in a week or two could do the work well. Could make 7*s*. or 8*s*. a week at it, though only at it six months. Was taught sewing shirts at a convent school.

Can read, write, and was at compound division.

185. *Mary M'Evoy*, age 20, machinist.—We bring our lunches; most stop half an hour for this. Average 7*s*. a week, by piece-work.

Was at a dressmaker's here before. If we took no dinner, but just stopped to eat, perhaps a quarter of an hour, we might leave at 7, otherwise at 8. Saturday nights were very busy, and later than any others, sometimes till 11.

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Mrs. Dering's, Milliner and Dress-maker, The Diamond.

186. *Miss Hopkins*, first-hand dress and mantle maker.—The general custom of the millinery and dress-making business here, the two being usually carried on together, except in the shops, is to employ several apprentices of from 14 years upwards, but scarcely any paid hands; *e.g.*, out of about 20 persons employed in the largest private establishment in the town, only about three are paid. The business here will not afford to keep paid workers. A first hand usually lives in the house, but no other assistant or apprentice. There are generally about five apprentices under me, but no paid worker, and the first-hand milliner has one apprentice and no paid worker. This is about the average size of the houses in the town, except the largest one just spoken of.

The hours for a first hand in the north here are very different from what I had in Dublin, *i.e.*, much longer; but in this house they are, at least, as good as any other house in the town, if not better. The apprentices' hours are from 9 till 7, with an hour for dinner, and their work is regular. If they work longer it is not more than twice a week, or above an hour or so. Saturday night is the night on which they are most often kept. But in the season, *i.e.*, from April to the end of June, and from November to the end of January, I have to work regularly as much as from 8 in the morning till 12 at night. As first hand, I cannot leave off earlier than 12, but am often later, sometimes till 1 and even 2, but not later than that. Sometimes I can spare very little time for meals.

Millinery and mantle-making are done in drapers' houses in the town, but not dress-making. One shop had a large establishment of 20 or 30 milliners and dress-makers, but has now given up these branches. At the shop establishments, not even the first hands live on the premises, and the hours are perfectly regular, from 9 till 7 only. From the opportunities which I have I should be sure to hear if they worked later.

Till I came here three years ago I was in a house in Dublin for two years, as in-door apprentice, and for one as an assistant. From about January, when the drawing-rooms begin, to the end of March, we usually worked till 11, but never once passed 12; and all the rest of the time only from 9 till 7. There were two other in-door apprentices, and there was no distinction between us and assistants as to hours of work. It is not many that go as in-door apprentices in Dublin, on account of the large fee required, *e.g.*, 40*l*., or even more. If you have been apprentice in a house where you have to pay a very high fee, on leaving you can of course obtain a situation at a good salary.

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187. *Miss Kennedy*, first-hand milliner.—I have to work the same times as the first-hand dress-maker here, because we have to help one another, and my own work, millinery, is much the lighter, depending more on taste than work, and more quickly finished.

I was first hand in a house in Belfast. The hours were very early, viz., from 9 till 7, and never longer, even in the busy times. The house was a shop, and all the shops there are early in just the same way; and the private houses are late, quite as late as they are in Derry, as they are stated above (b. 186). The reason is that the shops increase the number of the hands very much in a busy time; but the private houses do not like to pay for this, and prefer to get more out of their present workers. The business is conducted on just the same system as here, the work being done by apprentices, with scarcely any paid workers, perhaps one to a house, besides the first hand. In private houses the first hands live in, though not in the shops. They must do so, because their hours are too late for them to go out in the street after they have finished work. Besides, they must settle and prepare the work to be done next day.

188. *Miss Peggs.*—I came to one of the chief private houses in this town as an improver, and was told by the mistress that my hours would be from 9 till 8, but when busy she often asked me to stay till 9 and 10; and those of the apprentices who had been at work long enough to be useful were asked to work on in the same way. I would not stay longer than that, and the apprentices also turned out against being kept. The paid workers of course could not help staying; and I think that in no house in the town would paid out-door hands ever be kept later than 10½ p.m. I came here to learn the business of the shop and millinery.

Mrs. Rankyn's, Dress-maker, &c., The Diamond.

189. *Miss Bushby*, assistant.—I am the only person employed here that lives in the house. There are 16 or 18 out-door apprentices who work from 9 till 7, and two paid hands, who work from 9 till 9. I work till about 10, and so on; but I have only been here about six months. Came from London.

[An out-door assistant stated that as improver here she always left work at 7 p.m., recently as assistant at 9.]

190. *Mrs. Rankyn.*—Ten o'clock is what we, *i.e.*, ourselves and the in-door assistant, call our hour for giving over at night. I do not say that we are never later, but there are no balls, &c. here to cause late work.

191. Londonderry has within the last few years become the seat of a new and important trade, described as the "shirt" manufacture, though in fact it includes several other articles of clothing, and it seems likely to be extended to more. Within the last 10 years the prosperity and population of the town have greatly increased in consequence, and the manufacture here as elsewhere gives signs of becoming daily of more importance. Three fine large factories, those of Messrs. Tillie and Henderson, M'Intyre and Hogg, and R. Sinclair and Co. have been built, one only a year ago, and another scarcely yet completed, all capable of accommodating very large numbers of workers, and using steam power. All are spacious, cheerful and airy, and one remarkably fine. There are several smaller factories consisting of adaptations and enlargements of house buildings. The abundance of unemployed female labour in this part of Ireland has afforded great facilities for the growth of such a manufacture.

Messrs. Tillie and Henderson's, Shirt, &c. Manufacturers.

192. *Mr. Wm. Tillie.*—We are the largest employers here in the shirt manufacture, which I was the first to introduce 14 years ago. Our factory, which has been built about eight years, has accommodation for 1,000 persons, and we have had that number in it, though at the present time, owing to temporary circumstances affecting the character of the trade, we have only about 800, nearly all females, from 11 years of age upwards. We object, however, to employing married women with children; and though they often beg to be admitted, saying that it would be a charity to them, I refuse, telling them that I would almost sooner pay to keep them at home. I know that they cannot attend to their work so well if they have to be thinking of their children, and absence at work prevents them from giving proper attention to their families. The work consists chiefly of cutting out the material and preparing it for the sewing machines by various kinds of hand work, and then stitching parts by the machines, most of which are worked by steam.

The shirts are then sent out into the country to be "fitted" or put together, *i.e.*, made up, a work which is done exclusively by persons living at their own homes. When these persons live at a distance, as is usually the case, the work is distributed to and collected from them by means of agents stationed at different centres. The workers are provided by us with materials of every kind, except merely their needles; and to ensure their receiving proper remuneration, the price to be paid for their labour is fixed by us, and marked upon a ticket which accompanies each piece of work, and the money paid in cash when the work is returned. This prevents what was a great evil in the sewed muslin manufacture, carried on in the same system, in which the workers, though paid in cash, had usually to wait for this until the work had been reported upon, and the money could be remitted from the Scotch houses, to which a great part of it was sent. The agents too are paid either by a fixed commission on the amount of work done, or by a salary. It is important to state these facts to show that no system of "sweating" prevails. It is of course necessary to keep a strict control over the agents; and any case in which he or she attempted to make any profit beyond their legitimate pay would be instantly stopped, and indeed one person was dismissed by us for this. The number of persons employed thus by us outside our factory is very large indeed, and is spread over a wide extent of country, as much, I should say, as over a radius of 40 miles from this town. When we had 1,000 persons in the factory, they took only a sixth part of what we paid for labour; and reckoning, as probably would be near the fact, that 1,000 persons in the factory were paid as much as 1,500 out of it, we must then have had altogether about 10,000 persons in our employment. The relative numbers, however, of those inside and outside vary with the kind of work; and since the great increase in the use of woollen materials, and the diminution in the use of cotton, owing, in great measure, to the increased price of the latter material, the numbers now employed by us outside are not nearly so great in proportion. The tendency too, from improvements in machinery, no doubt is and will be still further to diminish this proportion, and centralise the work more in factories.

In addition to shirts, we make collars (paper and linen), cuffs, men's smocks, duck trowsers, ladies' collars and under-clothing, &c.

The benefit conferred on this part of Ireland by the introduction of this manufacture is enormous.

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The amount paid for wages by our house alone would be a substantial benefit to the population, and I estimate that the whole sum paid for labour in this branch of manufacture in this district now amounts to nearly a quarter of a million yearly, circulating in cash for the general benefit of all. In addition to this, it has had the effect of drawing away the bulk of the work formerly done in London as "slop" work in a manner so unfavourable to the workers there, though of course the actual amount still remaining there is in itself considerable. The population too has been greatly increased. Owing to a change in the division of the districts adopted at the last census, the exact increase cannot be stated, but it is computed that the city alone has increased from about 20,000 to 25,000, the increase of females being about 3,500, or so much in excess of that of males as to show a large importation of female labour.

Our hours are from 8 till 6, except in the four winter months, and then from 9 till 7, with an hour for dinner throughout the year. Our busy months have been much changed with the change of the material chiefly used. They were in the winter time, but now are from about May till November. When we make overtime, the workers go out for an hour for tea and return and work till 10 p.m., but never make more than three hours overtime in one night or for more than three nights, always alternate, in one week, and children are not allowed to work overtime.

The short hours introduced by me have been adopted by all the other houses in the trade here, or nearly as short.

I am acquainted with the Factory Act, and had occasion to direct my attention specially to it about a year or so since, owing to a visit from a factory inspector, which led me to suppose that our factory might fall under them, though I was afterwards legally advised to the contrary. As the manufacture is carried on in this and other factories here, the regular hours being short and the overtime never carried to such an extent as to be injurious, there is, I think, no occasion for any such regulations. It is better to leave any manufacture untouched by legislation till actual need for it exists, though if real abuses of overwork, &c. do exist, it is not only allowable but desirable to check them by law, and it should be done without hesitation or scruple. I see the difficulty of ascertaining just when abuses arise in any given employment. A perpetual inquiry would be needed; and this of course is not desirable. On the whole, I think that some regulations might properly be framed, which would be a security against any abuses of overwork, without seriously interfering with this manufacture as it now is. The great objection which I should feel would be to anything that involved beginning work as early as they do in factories, which I feel sure would be a great injury to the manufacture. If they come at 8, they breakfast comfortably first, and there is no loss of time for this after work has begun. I consider it much less injurious to work three hours later at night, as they do on the present plan, than to come to work regularly at 6 without their breakfast. Any hour much earlier than 8 would be quite unsuitable to the habits of the class of girls whom we employ, and to make them feel themselves put upon the same level as ordinary factory workers, as a change to such early hours would do, would lower their self-respect and moral tone. We endeavour to raise these as much as we can by insisting on all coming in bonnets and with shoes and stockings, and this, I believe, is a general rule in all the factories here. The good character and chastity of young females here is remarkable, if comparison be made with corresponding classes in England and Scotland. The busy time can be pretty well calculated on, and additional hands might be engaged; but this would be a loss to the regular workers by diminishing their pay.

So far as the object of any factory regulations may be to secure education, I am strongly in favour of them, and think it desirable that all young persons should be obliged to attend some place of instruction for an hour-and-a-half daily, which they might well do after their day's work, without any interference with it. We have, however, very few children, and should have none if they were restricted to half-time. This, however, is on the supposition that the supply of labour shall continue as abundant as it has been for the last 12 years.

We have all proper accommodations of lavatories, water-closets, hot-water pipes for warming, &c., and are as strict as to the cleanliness and healthfulness of the buildings, and as to the time for meals, as if the place was legally a factory. Indeed, we do not allow any person to remain in a work-room at all during meal-times. The health of all is very good, and a regular medical attendant is provided for the establishment at a salary of 100*l.* a year.

The distinction between factories or not factories depends, as I am legally advised, upon their working up the raw material or not. I am not aware that the use of steam power makes any difference, and think it absurd that it should. Only two of the factories here besides ours use it, and we could easily do without it, if we wished. It is an advantage, but not from the gain of power, but chiefly from its ensuring uniformity of pace and regularity of stitching. As it happens, our heavier machines are not yet driven by it, though they might be, if we had more steam power. Where a machine is worked by the foot, the girl gets tired or perhaps occasionally slackens her pace, and in turning a corner the machine has to be stopped, and cannot be so quickly brought up to its speed by the foot gear as steam power; or, as she works by the piece, she often may work too fast, and hurt or injure the machine; and, anyhow, no two persons work exactly the same. But where the machine is moved by power, it goes uniformly at whatever rate it is set at, say 600 stitches a minute, and escapes unnecessary wear itself, while it produces better and more uniform work. We also use power in cutting out some of the material.

The increased application of steam power will depend altogether on the price and supply of out-door labour. If that becomes scarce, a greater number of machines will be employed. With the present price of labour the application of the sewing machine cannot be profitably extended. Many kinds of hand labour are cheaper than the same work could be done by the sewing machine.

193. *Margaret Douglas*, age 13.—Go messages in the factory. Used to cut trimmings. Here three years. Hours, &c. and meals (*as above*). Sometimes stay here till 10 p.m., but have not done so lately. Never stayed later. Go home to tea first when working late.

Messrs. M'Intyre and Hogg, Shirt Manufacturers.

194. *Mr. Hogg.*—To the manufacture of shirts, collars, and cuffs we have lately added that of ladies' under-clothing, and other kinds of work, such as cheap clothing for men, may very possibly be added. In Glasgow we do make some work of this class. Such things as mantles or others in which the fashion quickly changes are not suitable for a place so far away as this. I believe that the manufacture, which has already been the making of this town, will expand still further, and that an increasing use of machinery will do away with much of the outwork and centralize it in factories. At present about three-fourths of the wages are paid by us to outworkers, who are scattered over the country to a distance of 30 miles from here. The extent to which factory work will increase will depend chiefly upon the degree to which machinery can be adapted to the work, but my impression is that in time we shall get

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it to do much more of the garment than it can do as yet, and we have now such machinery in preparation.

Our factory is newly built by us for the business. It has 52,000 square feet of flooring, and will accommodate well 1,500 workers, but, should the business extend, we contemplate adding 30,000 more square feet of flooring, which would enable us to employ on the premises altogether 2,500 persons. Were we as closely packed as in our old buildings we could employ 3,000 in the part now built. But the machines are so arranged as to secure each worker ample space, which is an advantage, both as it enables her to work quicker, and is better for the health. But this was very fair even at the old place. They have a fund for sickness, and out of this pay 80*l.* a year to their medical attendant. All the shafting is carefully fenced. We have been in the habit of white-washing about once a year.

We have the usual hours, except that I have given an hour and a half instead of an hour for dinner. I find that it suits them much better as well as myself, as I like to keep the same times with them. An hour is rather short for any who have to go to a distance, and they were very unpunctual in returning. Now I need make no allowance if they are not back in time, and if they are not, lock them out without scruple. We have to complain very much of their bad attendance on Monday too. It very often happens that, say a sixth, or a seventh, or an eighth of the number will not appear on Monday forenoon. If the hours were regulated by law it would be good for us in this respect, as it would secure punctuality. When we make overtime it is arranged so that the same set are not late two nights running. I should have no objection to being under the Factory Act if it did not tend to check the business here, where it is now well settled, and send it to other countries where labour is cheaper. We are well off as we are, and cannot tell what the effect of such regulations might be.

All here are in our own direct employment. We have now about 700, nine-tenths of them females. The males are clerks, warehousemen, cutters, mechanics, and machine boys. There are always from 20 to 25 of the younger girls making only 2*s.* or 2*s.* 6*d.* a week as beginners and message girls, but the workers generally average 6*s.* or 7*s.* We also pay the outworkers. The great defect in the people here is their want of education, but they are beginning to find that they cannot get on without it.

195. *Catherine Black*, age 13.—Two years here and at the old factory. Hours are from 8 till 6½, with an hour and a half for dinner. Could not stay in the room at dinner time. Whenever we be to work in a hurry, we go away to tea and come back and work till 10 p.m., never later, and on Mondays not later than 9. Have done so many weeks, and sometimes coming at 7 a.m. Get 2*s.* a week.

Was never at school and cannot read any, but can spell.

[Of a row of eight girls aged from 13 to 15, one could read well and write, the others could read. Of another set of five, one aged 14 could not read, and two of the others could not write.]

Messrs. R. Sinclair and Co.'s, Shirt Manufacturers.

196. *Mr. R. Sinclair.*—The numbers in our factory vary greatly. They are now low, about 500, but we have had 800 or 900. We employ probably four or five times as many outside as we do in. The trade has been very beneficial to these country workers; many who had no employment at all before now making 3*d.* or 4*d.* a day, and being thus very comfortable. They are of a class too that spend all the money on the spot where they live, which is a benefit by circulating so much money. That their condition is much improved is evident by the improvement in their dress and manner. By these advantages workers are being drawn to this neighbourhood from England and Scotland and all quarters. The sewing machine workers, who are all on piece-work, average from 5*s.* to 6*s.* a week, and the cutters, who must be of more intelligence, and are paid by the week, get from 6*s.* to 10*s.*, on the average about 7*s.* 6*d.*

The use of machinery is becoming general, and will still more so. The cost has greatly sunk. A machine can now be had for 6*l.* each, formerly 20*l.* was paid. We have here 400. We are now making some kinds of shirt almost entirely by it, and by its help a gentleman's collar like this after passing through about 10 processes can be sold for 2½*d.* We use steam power. This is a loss at first, owing to the greater outlay, and a girl will do as much work, and for the same pay without it as with it. The gain is in the better work which it will produce. The great evil of working the machine with the foot is the irregularity. One girl will work one pace, one another, and the same will drive now fast, now slow, perhaps using one foot instead of two. Again a quick stitch wants less tension, a slower more, so that if the pace is uneven the machine cannot make so good work. Power works quite regularly. Another advantage of having power is that the employer who has it can get the best workers before one who has not, they liking it better because it is not so hard work. The increasing use of machinery will bring work more into factories, but at the same time will allow of a higher rate being paid to those who continue to work out.

The factory has only been built about a year. All the shafting is carefully fenced. The rooms are lofty, about 11 feet, and at the top there are gratings in the roof for ventilation. Below I tried a plan which failed, so am obliged to be content with the windows. The rooms are warmed by hot water, and there are two water-closets in each floor. I have been thinking of providing some sort of dining-room on the place, instead of all the people having to leave for meals. I think that it would not be a bad plan to compel all people who have workers to provide proper work places, for though the employment is healthy enough, even when dwelling houses are used as factories, provided that the buildings are large enough, still when the houses are old and crowded the rooms feel like an oven, and a person coming in from the fresh air can hardly breathe; the rooms being, as it were, hermetically sealed, as the people will not open the windows.

When we want to work overtime I find that the people prefer to work till 10 p.m., leaving for tea, to working on till 8 only without tea. Our slack time is from December till April. The different flats are occupied with different kinds of work, and probably only one may be required to work late at a time. But it is expensive to work late, as the people do not work so well either at night or the next day, and there is the cost of the gas. I think that it would be a great benefit to prevent working late at all, but unless it were compulsory on all, one who did work late would take advantage of others who did not. When I want extra hands I find some about. Perhaps when I am very busy some other manufacturer is not, and the hands generally shift about a good deal, and do not seem to appreciate the advantage of sticking to one place. We never break the rule of leaving off at 2 on Saturday; the hands think that they have a sort of right to this.

There is a great want of education, but religious differences and sectarianism throw great obstacles in the way. A library which I provided for the benefit of the young men, fell through on this account. There are a great many situations in the establishment which I should fill up with females, for which they are more suitable than youths, but I cannot do so because so few females can write.

[197. Of six at the above factory taken in succession, all between the ages of 13 and 16, two could read, the others said that they could "read some," but could only do so with spelling slowly. A manager stated that in the whole factory not more than 30 females, he should say, could write. A girl stated that at the old factory by the water-side she had stayed till 10 p.m. for a week together, but not in the new factory.]

Messrs. J. H. Paterson & Co.'s, Shirt Manufacturers.

198. *Mr. James M'Intosh*, manager.—The work comes very irregularly, and there are often hurried orders. Since cotton has been so dear people will not work up a stock of it as they did before. Taking the year round we work about 50 per cent. of the nights as late as 10, the usual hour when there is any overtime, and perhaps 5 per cent. as late as 11, and, very exceptionally indeed, till 12. If all were put on the same footing a regular day of 12 hours, with meals, would be long enough to get through the work.

199. *Barbara Muir*, age 18.—Am only doing a little needlework job of my own here now (in the dinner hour). Hours are from 8 till 6. When we work longer it is till 10. Have done so for a week, or say five nights, together. Monday we are generally late, because the work has to go out to the country next day. Have several times worked till 11, half-a-dozen times till 12, and once till 1 a.m. One time I worked on with some others till 4 a.m., but only to make up time which we had lost from being asked out by friends. Here only four months. Came from Scotland.

Mr. Thos. Gibson's, Shirt Manufacturer.

200. The present occupier of the dwelling house here used as a manufactory is about to give it up for a more suitable work place. The walls are dirty, and from one of the ceilings much of the plaster has peeled off. One room, in which work four females, and sometimes also two machinists, is a small bed or dressing room only 5 feet 6 inches wide. Another work-room is over a stable in which is a store of guano, allowed to be put there on the understanding, not borne out by the results, that it should not smell. Just under the window and beside the ladder which leads to the door is a large ash and rubbish heap.

201. *Mr. Thomas Gibson.*—The average number of persons in my employment is about 26 females, half a few years under and half a few years over 18, with a couple of boys. The hours are much the same as at other factories here. My business being chiefly on commission for London houses, making up materials sent by them ready cut, we are not subject much to season orders requiring continued late work, as larger houses may be ; but my people generally work till 10 one night in the week, *i.e.*, Thursday, in order to get the work ready to send out to the country stations on Friday. I am about to move to a place built for a factory, in separate flats.

202. *Margaret M'Lachlan*, age 13.—Hours (*as above*). Can read (scarcely). Never went regularly to school.

Messrs. Welch, Margetson, & Co.'s, Shirt Manufacturers, Foyle Street.

203. The factory is cramped, consisting partly of a dwelling house, partly of shops built on. One room had an unpleasant smell from the oil used on the machines. The rooms seem scarcely suited for the larger numbers said to be usually employed. A girl of 9 had just come to work to wind bobbins for a sewing machine.

204. *Mr. Greer*, manager.—Our numbers are small now, owing to the price of cotton, viz., about 150 instead of 200. About 900 are usually employed out of doors. The hands sometimes work late for a week or two together, *i.e.*, till 9½ p.m., but never beyond this. Shipping orders are the chief and almost only occasion for this. If the hours of work were limited, and the work wanted could not be got through in them, some manufacturers could get over the difficulty by employing more persons, or, if necessary, having larger premises. We could not do this here, but could manage somehow, *e.g.*, by employing persons in their own houses. It is an object to keep as small a staff as possible, and for this purpose to keep only the best, who, however, must have good pay ; and to make up for this it is necessary to keep them late when wanted. The habits of the people would not allow of getting them to work earlier in the morning, but they stay late without difficulty.

205. I visited two other shirt manufactories, those of Messrs. A. Grant, Son, and Co., Foyle Street, and Messrs. R. S. Muir and Co., Clarendon Street, but no feature of importance presented itself at these factories not already recorded of others, except that at the latter I was furnished by means of the books with an accurate specimen of the number of hours' overtime made there in busy times. Taking the numbers which caught the eye as high in the period pointed out as the busiest, it appeared that the highest number of hours made by any person in one week, taking each of the six days in order, ran thus; 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 3,—total 23 hours; another made 3, 3, 3, 1, 3, 4,—total 17 hours; in the week before another made 16 hours, and so on; the numbers of different persons varying even on the same night.

206. The form of the following letter from Dr. W. Browne, with whom I had had an interview while in Londonderry, leaves no occasion for setting out the questions subsequently sent to which it is an answer, and which were merely used as a more formal means of obtaining the benefit of his experience on matters discussed at that interview.

207. Dear Sir, Derry, 27th May 1864.

In reply to your questions relative to persons employed in factories, dress-makers, and tailors' establishments, &c., probably I have not much to add to your experience in other towns.

In my capacities of officer of health, under the Towns Improvement Clauses Act, and of medical officer in charge of the city dispensary, under the Medical Charities for Ireland Act, many of these people necessarily come under my observation.

The only manufacture in Derry is that of shirts, in which from 3,000 to 4,000 of the population of the City and neighbourhood, chiefly young women, are engaged. A portion of these work at home, but the great majority are employed in the factories, which are for the most part commodious, well ventilated buildings.

The prevalent diseases are those always found where large numbers of human beings are congregated together during many continuous hours every day. Cases of deranged sexual health, with tendency to phthisis, and to the development of struma, are much more numerous than among the same number of girls living at home and employed

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in housekeeping or service. As to the moral condition of the females so employed, there must necessarily be deterioration amongst a portion of them, but this is not nearly so great as I have seen elsewhere caused by the close contact of great numbers ; and there is nothing approaching to the degradation to be found in Manchester, Glasgow, and other large manufacturing towns. The remark is applicable to physical as well as moral health.

You remind me, that I made a remark about snuff taking. This is not prevalent among the higher class of girls. It is safe, however, to say that from a third to a fourth of the whole are addicted to it. I have endeavoured to trace the habit to its cause, and I am inclined to attribute it in part to their vegetable diet, which creates a craving for some kind of stimulant, and to which the whisky drinking propensities of the Irish and Scottish agricultural labourers are partly referable. Against this it will be said that whiskey drinking is not confined to agricultural labourers, but it and snuff taking are infectious habits. The monotony of the employment may also render the snuff a kind of requirement.

The dress-makers' and tailors' workshops are much the same as in other towns, frequently situated in attic story, cold in winter, warm in summer, and with too many persons collected for so many hours in a small space. The diseases prevalent among the young people so employed are the same as in the factories, but probably less in degree.

A very prevalent complaint among all the females is dyspepsia, caused by tea drinking. It is soon relieved by removing the cause, and administering a stimulating tonic, but the moment the patient is out of the doctor's hands, she returns to her tea, and soon gets ill again. In fact the medicine seems to take the place of the tea for the time being, and the habit is probably referable to the cause to which I have referred snuff taking and whiskey drinking. In my dispensary practice I have 10 cases caused by drinking tea, for one caused by drinking whiskey, and the one habit when established is quite as inveterate as the other.

I have suggested to some of the large factory proprietors to build lodging houses for their female operatives. This would be a remunerative investment, and vastly conducive to the moral and physical health of the inmates. Such an establishment would of course include kitchen, lavatories, reading rooms, &c., and be under proper discipline.

Great numbers of respectable girls from the country who are now obliged to lodge in small crowded houses of a low description, would joyfully avail themselves of it. I am not without hopes of seeing an experiment made in this direction.

If you think I can give you any further information in connexion with this subject, I shall be happy to correspond with you.

Believe me, dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM BROWNE.

J. Edward White, Esq.
&c. &c.

208. *Dr. Bernard*, Great James Street, Londonderry.—I am engaged as the regular medical attendant of the persons employed in several shirt factories here, amounting probably to from 800 to 1,000, nearly all females, a greater number, I am sure, than are attended by any other medical man in the town. I attribute the diseases from which they suffer entirely to their poor living and insufficient clothing, and the bad air of their homes, not to the nature or place of their employment. They get up, dress, and take their cup of tea and a little bit of bread and butter, all in not more than a quarter of an hour, sometimes less. They take tea again for dinner, with a potato, and perhaps a herring, and tea again in the evening. This constant living on tea weakens the digestion, and produces what I call "languid "dyspepsia." They cannot afford better living, and the wages, at any rate of the younger, all go to the parents, and are low at the best. Many even who are grown up tell me that they do not get more than than 4*s.* a week. This poor living, which is much poorer than what is usual in England, lowers the vital power, and produces a great disposition to scrofula and consumptive diseases, and I am obliged to keep them up with quinine and cod-liver oil, of which great quantities are used. These do keep them alive, and do a great deal of good, particularly the cod-liver oil, which is a wonderful cure. I do not find that standing at work produces swelled legs. Indeed, considering their general condition, I am astonished at their freedom from this complaint. I consider the care of the sewing machine more healthy than needlework. It gives them more general exercise, and moves the muscles of respiration more, and thus more atmospheric air is introduced into the system.

I consider it very important that something should be done at once, if possible, to improve their sanitary condition at home, as the necessary and only means of keeping up their morals. This has been very high, but it is beginning to sink, and will further unless something is done. The heads of departments are all respectable men, and the workers have taken great pride in their character. If anything wrong occurs with one, such as the birth of a child or the use of bad language, the other girls will not work near her, but tell of it, and if a serious charge is made it is investigated at once.

Cork.

CORK.

MISS BRENNAN'S, MILLINERY WARE-ROOMS, ST. PATRICK STREET.

209. *Miss Scott*, show-room assistant, representing Miss Brennan.—The number of milliners varies from three or four to 10 or 12, and of dress-makers from about 18 to 30, or upwards. There are generally four apprentices and eight assistants and show-room young ladies living in the house ; the rest are day-workers. The latter work from 10 till 8, and sometimes a couple of hours longer, not more. The in-door hands finish by 10 or 10½ p.m. in the dull time, *i.e.*, usually one month in dress-making and two in millinery, and the rest of the year by 12 usually ; sometimes later. I believe that they have been in the work-room till 2, but not later, since I have been here, *i.e.*, four or five years. They never begin much before 10 a.m. They have five good meals a day, but no fixed length of time for them, and the day-workers have an hour for dinner. We in the show-room are up late too sometimes waiting for supper till the others have done work, and also at the beginning of the seasons are kept up often till 1 a.m. marking and putting away the new goods which have come in. The apprentices, if young, leave work earlier, perhaps at 7, at first; but, as they get older and more useful, work longer, usually till 10, or as late as the assistants. The lateness of the work is often, I think, owing to idling a good deal in the day. They like talking in the work-room so that sometimes you cannot get them out.

210. *Miss M'Grath*, head dress-maker.—I have been here seven years. In the two seasons, *i.e.*, about three months twice a year the in-door assistants usually work till 12 or 1 a.m., and on exceptional occasions it has been as late as 3. I myself seldom leave till 1, and, if very busy, should begin earlier in the morning, but the others would not. The rest of the year they leave at 11 or 12 p.m. The in-door apprentices work up till 12 or 11. They seldom come under 14 or 15 years of age, but I have had out-door apprentices as young as 11.

211. *Miss A. Taylor*, millinery apprentice.—Work from 10 a.m. till 12 p.m., sometimes 12½, in the season. Am now 17. Have supper after work if I

wish for it. Can get out of doors on the long summer evenings after the end of June, not before, because we are busy. Do not go away for any holiday in the year. Do not get tired, and do not mind the work. Am quite as strong as when I came a year or two ago.

[She might take a holiday if she wished, I was told. The millinery room is very small.]

212. *Miss Percy*, dress-maker, Nile Street.—The general use of the sewing machine has made such a change in the business that, instead of employing girls, my sisters and I, though able to do the very best and finest work, can scarcely get work of any kind for ourselves. Mantles, jackets, boys' knicker-bocker suits, and overcoats, pinafores, &c. some of patterns which I introduced here myself, are now brought from England and elsewhere ready made. Each kind of needlework that I have taken up, and I have now tried most, soon fails for the same cause.

213. I visited two other private dress-makers' houses, each employing several apprentices and journeywomen. The hours at either place, viz., 9 to 6 and 10 to 8, are exceeded at the utmost only a couple of hours, and that seldom. I also visited four of the leading retail establishments in the town, viz., those of (1.) Messrs. Arnott, Grant, and Co.; (2.) Carmichael and Co.; (3.) Fitzgibbon,—all employing milliners and mantle-makers; and (4.) Forrest and Sons, employing milliners and dress-makers. The results of my inquiry at these places however showed but little variety, and may be sufficiently represented by the following general account. The longest stated hours of actual work at any are 9 per day, never beginning earlier, though sometimes later than 9 a.m., and at one house, viz., (3.), the stated hours are not exceeded at all, and at the others are exceeded only occasionally and till 10 p.m. at the outside. At (2.), the mantle-makers have no dinner hour but stop a few minutes for lunch. With about half-a-dozen scattered exceptions none of the workers live on the premises. A little work of the shirt kind appears to be done, and at one of the places (3.), where far the greatest number of females are employed, viz., from 30 to 40, some are engaged in sewing and binding boots and others in sewing upholstery.

Miss Heaphy's, Cap-maker, Pembroke Lane.

214. Two girls are employed in sewing cloth brought from warehouses, to make caps, in a house up a dirty court about four feet wide, which had a fusty smell as if from privies or drains. The material is brought out from warehouses. In the room was a servant's bed unmade and untidy at midday; with unemptied slops standing in a utensil on the floor.

215. *Nora Long*, age 17.—Work from 7 till 7, and sometimes till 10 if in a hurry, not later. Go about an hour to breakfast, but not to dinner at all; only bring lunch. Earn 3*s.* a week.

[216. The above was stated by the mistress to be the manner in which cap work was usually done, with the same hours and wages.]

217. I also visited a house, (Miss O'Leary's, Barrack Street,) were a few plain workers are employed on ladies' work and underclothing. One of them, Margaret O'Keefe, stated that she began when she was 14, and worked here from 9 till 8 only, but usually took work home and worked till 1 a.m. or began at 6 a.m. instead.

Mr. James M'Grath's, Glove Manufacturer, Cockpit Lane.

218. A few women and girls sew gloves in a garret, at the top of a small house, each having placed between her feet a small stand, the top of which holds the glove in a vice, toothed like a comb to admit the stitches evenly. Some sewing is given out. In the yard at the back the skins are prepared from the rough state by dressing and dyeing; work done by men. I was informed that there are two or three other small glove manufactories in the town.

219. *Kate O'Brien.*—Am nearly out of my three years' apprenticeship. Work from 9 till 8, and get 2*s.* a week. Have no dinner, but we bring us bread here with us, and stop towards an hour. Can read (*does*).

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Mrs. Seymour's, Dress-maker, Cecil Street.

220. *Mrs. Seymour.*—Nine of the 11 persons in my employment are apprentices from about 14 years of age upwards, four of them, as well as another just out of her apprenticeship, living in the house. Only one of the 11 is over 20. The apprenticeship is for three years. I believe that it is not usual in the town for apprentices or assistants to live in the house. The hours for my out-door hands are from 9 a.m. till 8 p.m., with an hour for dinner; and for the in-door, from 7 a.m. till 8 p.m., with no fixed amount of time for meals. We do not ever work later than 10 p.m., but do that sometimes, and did last night. I would sooner have them begin earlier than sit up till 12, and we have begun at 6 or 5 a.m., but very seldom. In the 26 years that I have been in business here I have no recollection of our working till the middle of the night, though we may have done so just once or twice. It is possible that the girl (b. 221) may have worked till 11, as she has stated. She is strictly trustworthy, and I told her to speak the entire truth. We find no difficulty in getting through the work regularly, as we begin punctually, Monday and every morning, and so there is never any accumulation. I should say that it is very uncommon for persons in any house in the town to work through the night, or even past the middle of the night; so uncommon, indeed, that if it happened it would be sure to be talked of in every house in the town. The large houses, *i.e.* drapers, with millinery, &c. business, are always closed by 11 p.m. at latest, and the gas turned off. My work-room is very large and airy, and I sit there myself. I believe that my young people find this quite like a home in every way, as I try to make it.

221. *Ann Flannagan*, age 17.—Have been here $3\frac{1}{2}$ years, and am now a paid hand, living in the house. The hours are (*as above*). The out-door hands stay after 8 only if we are very busy indeed. We in-door hands take about half an hour for breakfast at 9, and about the same for dinner at 2. It is very seldom that we wait as late as 3 for dinner. We are busiest in winter. In summer we have tea at 7, and seldom go back to work after. I have worked till 11, but very seldom even till 10, and not often till 9. We have never begun before 7 since I have been here.

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Messrs. Cannock and Tait's, Drapers, Upholsterers, &c.

222. *Mr. Palmer*, manager.—The number of milliners employed here varies from about 12 in a dull time up to about double in the busiest; on the average about 15. They come at about the age of 14 or 15, and serve as apprentices for three years. If we are busy and they have been here long enough to become good workers, they then stay later, like the others. We do not take cloak-makers till they have learned the work, so that they are never younger than from 16 to 19 years of age. Their number varies from about 6 up to 20 or 24, according to the season. A few females are engaged in upholstery, viz., in sewing curtains and carpets. The shop hours are from 9 till 6, and till 7 on Saturday, and are as punctual as clock-work. The milliners' hours are the same, but in the seasons they work later, *e.g.*, till 7, 8, or 9, it may be sometimes later; in fact, just about the same as the cloak-makers. (b. 223.)

All have an hour for dinner. When I find that the hands are going to work late, I inquire for whom the work is, and see whose orders can safely be allowed to wait till morning. Under any circumstances I close the whole house at 11, telling the workers that, even if they were willing, I could not stay up later to close. Only the head milliner and six of the young ladies who attend to customers live in the house. There are two other large houses in the town with the same kind of business, and their system, hours, &c. are as nearly as possible the same as ours.

We have just been building a very large new work-room for the cloak-makers and upholstery girls together. It is open to the roof, well lighted, has two fire-places, and there are closets and washing places adjoining. The girls often get a walk out, and their health is very good. The health of one of the milliners who has only been here a few months, seems from her looks to have improved already. She had been in situations in London, but in city establishments, where she had not long hours, so that it must have been the confinement and want of fresh air alone from which she suffered.

223. *Miss O'Donoghue*, head cloak-maker.—In the spring and autumn seasons, which last about two months each, we usually work till about 9 instead of till 7, and for orders sometimes later, *e.g.*, till 10, and it may be 11; but this is very rare indeed, and 11 is the latest. We never begin earlier than 9, and always go home an hour for dinner; that must be had regularly. As a rule, no learners are taken in this department, but I have just taken a girl of 14. This is the largest of the three principal shop establishments here. There is no difficulty in getting extra hands when they are wanted.

224. *Bridget Murphy.*—At the dress-maker's here, where I served my time, there were 24 girls, all of them apprentices except five journey girls. Was about 12 when I went, and was not the youngest. Four were house apprentices, who sometimes worked till 8 or so with the paid girls, but the rest of us never worked longer than the regular hours, viz., 9 till 7. We had no fixed dinner-time allowed, but stopped about a quarter of an hour for it.

[225. The establishment last referred to is that of one of the principal private dress-makers in the town, not however that of which a separate account is given. The hours at a third were stated by a girl who had been apprentice there to have been about the same, but with a dinner hour allowed.]

Messrs. Peter Tait & Co.'s, Army Clothing Manufacturers.

226. The open and airy situation and also the structure of the factory, which consists of distinct and very long parallel ranges widely separated, one of them open from the ground to the roof, seem to make the buildings, which were formerly militia barracks, well suited as a work-place for the very large number of persons usually employed here. Steam power is used for cutting the cloth, several layers at once, and for driving the long ranges of sewing machines. Many of the females sit at these or prepare work for them, and in another building many others sit about on the ground working with the needle, just like ordinary tailors. Many are of a poor looking class. Though it is stated that since the present factory has been in use there has never been more than two hours' overtime in a day, yet in the event of a war demand, and possibly for other countries as well as this, the case might be different. I am informed by a person connected with the place at the time that during the Crimean war the workers were sometimes kept much later and even all night; on these occasions however being provided with food, and the younger not kept.

227. *Mr. Logie*, corresponding manager.—The work made here is army clothing only, tunics and trowsers. The business was only brought into the factory in 1859, though it was carried on for a few years before in several separate work-places and rooms in the town. The use of steam and the doing the work on a large scale have allowed of the clothing being produced more cheaply, and so the business has been drawn from many other places. The clothing for between 50 and 60 regiments of the line is made here, as well as much for other uses, making an amount altogether about equal to the supply of 100 battalions. The number of persons employed varies from 1,000 to 1,200, about nine-tenths of them females from 13 years of age upwards; they are of no use younger.

The day is in summer from 6 till 6, with two meal times of an hour each, and in winter from 8 till 7, with one only. If there are orders to be finished quickly, two hours' over-time, which counts a quarter of a day, is made, but there has not been more since this factory has been open. There is no difficulty whatever in getting them to come punctually; the rolls are called, and if the people are not in their place in proper time, they lose a quarter of a day. They come just as punctually at 6 as they would at 10. Last year some official inquiries were made to ascertain whether this place fell under the factory laws, and answers were given, but I have heard nothing of it since. If it did, the effect would be that if an order could not be completed here in the time desired, it would go away to other houses which were not so fully employed.

The use of steam for the sewing machine is not only a great advantage to the work, but to the workers also, especially if the machine is heavy. A girl working a "Thomas's No. 3" machine had to use both feet, and after about six hours became fatigued. They never complained of their legs, and would not actually leave off, but they could not do so much afterwards, and were away from work every now and then, owing to this fatigue, I believe. Now they can work the full time without any fatigue, the foot being merely put on or off the treadle to start or stop the machine.

The factory is whitewashed once a year, and the work-rooms are airy and light, and warmed by stoves, and the windows open. During the full meal-times the rooms are all locked, the operatives going home. The shafting of the machines is all well fenced. The machine range is, I think, about 325 feet long, and the upper story open to the roof, the finishing range a little shorter; also open to the roof.

The females are all of the poorest classes. Their wages vary. A few of the younger, who wind thread

for the machines, get 4*s.* or 4*s.* 6*d.* a week, elder ones 6*s.*, and from that up to 10*s.* Great numbers of them cannot write, but I think that all can read.

[Seven of the youngest girls taken in succession all said that they could read. One however could not read, but the rest did.]

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228. Glove making has been carried on in Limerick, but a factory of some size has been given up, and the only work of the kind that I found was confined to one small shop where the "Limerick Gloves" packed in a walnut shell are made, or rather are cut out, the material being given out to women and girls to sew at home.

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Mr. M'Kibben's, Milliner, &c., Adelaide Place.

229. *Mr. M'Kibben.*—We make millinery, mantles, and dresses. In the season we employ about 15 persons, and out of it keep on about five of the best workers. Only one lives in the house, and there are none but paid hands. The hours are from 9 till 7, and we never work beyond 9, though in the two seasons, *i.e.*, for about half a year, we perhaps do that three nights a week, and till 7 or 7½ the other three. When the hands stay late they are all paid extra, and I give them tea and bread and butter. I have great sympathy with this inquiry, and think it necessary and good, though in this town I think that the workers are comfortable and the hours good.

[Mrs. M'Kibben remarked that in London she had been kept up till 1 a.m. while an apprentice and had often fallen off her seat from fatigue.]

230. *Miss Williams.*—I am just come here from a situation at Armagh with a private milliner and dress-maker. She kept only apprentices besides; about seven or eight. Their hours were from 9 till 9 or 9½, with a dinner hour; but when I left they were going to begin at 8 a.m., as they do in summer. I lived in the house, and had to prepare and fit on their work. I used to begin work at 8 a.m., and was never in bed before 12 p.m., often not till 2 a.m. During the whole day, from morning till night, I had not an hour to myself; perhaps about a quarter of an hour of it for dinner.

231. I visited another private house of the fashionable class and found little difference from that just described, except that no dress-making was done. The next is one of the smaller kind.

Miss J. Stevenson's, Dress-maker, Joy Street.

232. *Miss E. Stevenson.*—My sister has usually a few apprentices, from 12 or 13 years old, and a couple of paid hands. Only the paid hands ever stay beyond the time, and then never beyond 9½ p.m., unless there is a great hurry, when they have stayed here all night, working on perhaps till 12, and rising early, say at 7, to begin again.

233. *Catherine Roby.*—Have only come here lately. Have stayed one night. Worked at a large millinery, &c. shop in the town as improver, and afterwards as paid hand, leaving last year. The paid hands worked from 9 till 8, sometimes till 9 and 10—till 10 perhaps for a week together, and some mornings came at 8, but very seldom. The latest that I stayed in seven months was 10½, and it was near 11 when I got home. If as late as that, you must have company home.

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234. *Mrs. Mary M'Lure*, bonnet maker, Joy Street.—Clean and re-make bonnets. Employ an apprentice sometimes, but no one else. At Newtownards, a country town in the neighbourhood, where I served my time at the same business several years ago, I lived in the house, and though an apprentice only, and not more than 14 when I went, I had no regular hours, but was often up at work at night till 12 and 1, but never very much later; it might be 1½ or even 2. The paid hands and other apprentices lived out, and worked from 9 till 7.

Messrs. J. Arnott and Co.'s, Drapers, Bridge Street.

235. *Mr. David Cowper*, managing partner.—I have had the practical management of the business here 18 years. We employ both milliners and dress-makers, but only the saleswomen live in the house. We mean to build better work-rooms. On Saturday nights the work used to be very late, often 11½ or even 12, now it is generally only till 10 for three months, and till 9 for the remainder of the year; the proper hour being 7 for one half of the year, and 6 for the other. They are not entitled to tea time, but on Saturday nights we always give them a supper of cheese and porter. They come at 9 a.m. We have no difficulty whatever in getting more hands when we want them. Most of the factories now pay on Thursday, which enables persons to make their purchases earlier, and also, as there are two days' work left, the money is much less likely to be spent in drink. My experience is entirely in favour of early closing and a half-day on Saturday. Even were the time not well used at first, this would not be at all a fair or sound objection to make to them; but, as a fact, the moral and intellectual condition of our young men has been very much improved by the movement, coupled with the means which we have provided for their amusement and instruction; and drunkenness, which was very bad, has been greatly done away with.

236. *Mrs. Davy*, head mantle-maker.—Saturday is the only night in the week that we are ever after 7. (*Repeats account of hours, as given above.*) It is sometimes 11, but never later. I am trying to avoid any late work as much as possible, by getting the orders forward early in the week.

Messrs. Schwann, Kell, and Co.'s, Linen Merchants and Shirt Manufacturers, Bedford Street.

237. The work-room, an attic at the top of a large linen warehouse, must be too close for health should the number employed in it become again what it has been, especially with the number of gas burners required for the sewing machines besides those for other workers. The workers were away at the time of my visit.

238. *Mr. A. Wigglesworth.*—I have charge of the shirt-making department here, which includes the making of gentlemen's under-clothing. It has been started a year or so. Only about 50 are employed at it now; there have been 100. Their day is from 8½ till 6, with a dinner hour. If we are busy the usual practice is for them to come back at 7, after having tea, and work till a quarter to 10; but I never

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allow them to work longer, and they do not come before 8. Last year this over-time happened more or less for about four months of the year, and once for a month together. If I saw occasion for over-work for longer than this I should put on extra hands. At odd times, too, working over enables us to catch a steamer, *e.g.*, to the West Indies, and save a month. Extra hands cannot always be got just on an occasion, as they must be skilled, so that the others must work. I think, however, that a limitation of the hours would not practically interfere with the business. I should then make all begin work at 6 regularly, so as to ensure having the work forward; and I believe that everyone else would do the same. A manufacturer could not afford to run the risk of the work getting behind and having to raise the rate of pay to draw additional hands to enable him to finish his orders. As work goes on you are liable to find that it will take longer than was calculated on, or some unexpected delay may arise. As it is now, I let the girls come late in the morning, though not quite so late as they wish, viz. 9, as I know that the time can be made up at night.

The York Street Spinning Company's Factory, Belfast.

239. In a portion of this large factory females are employed at sewing machines, &c., in one department making up linen into shirts, in another making it up into handkerchiefs. The former department was stated to be considered as subject to the factory regulations in common with the rest of the factory, the latter, where goods are also folded, not to be so.

240. *Mr. O. B. Graham*, partner, representing the Company.—We spin, weave, bleach, and finish linen, and employ from 2,300 to 2,500 persons. Our shirt-making department is merely subordinate to our general business, and is carried on only as a means of enabling us more easily to dispose of certain portions of our goods. Before the American war about 100 have been employed in it, but now there are not more than 30. As it is under the same roof with our factory, we are bound to observe the factory hours. Whether we are so or not, we should not have different hours if we could; it would not be convenient. The hands who work at this are of a superior class, corresponding to warehouse and shop girls, and, as such, keep quite distinct and have a separate entrance from those in the mill and those in the weaving factory, who are of intermediate grade. We do not, however, find any difficulty whatever in getting them to come at the factory hours; in fact, they are so glad to come that many more apply than we are able to take.

Messrs. J. and W. Anderson's, Shirt Manufacturers, Bedford Street.

241. The top of the warehouse is used for the work, which employs about 160 females from 11 years of age upwards. Precisely the same system is pursued in giving out the shirts to be made up in the country as by the Londonderry factories.

242. *Mr. James Bullock*, manager.—This branch of the business has only been established in this house a few years. The day is 10½ hours, less a dinner hour, during which time the rooms are cleared. On Saturday work stops at 3, and in summer at 2. None of the hands ever work more than about an hour beyond the time, and that very seldom, and on alternate nights. If the hands were to work till 10 they would not be fit for work the following day; and my principle is, that over-time is no profit. It answers better to pay rather more and get more girls. But we can manage often by taking them from one branch in which we are not busy, and putting them on one in which we are so. If we discharged a great number when we ceased to be busy, we might have a difficulty in getting enough together as soon as we happened to be busy again, and might then have to work late. But the business is kept steady, and in a slack time the hands are kept employed in making a stock, which is quite safe in shirts. This puts the house in a better position for doing business if a sudden occasion arises; and, taking both sides into account, is the most profitable way.

The workers are of a superior class, and, I should say, well educated. We were obliged to change their dinner hour slightly, so that they might not be thrown in with the workers coming out from the factory close by. The machinists get about 8*s.* a week, the needle-workers 7*s.*, and the younger girls from 3*s.* The outside workers only get about half this rate.

243. *Selina Dyer*, age 13.—Do needlework from 8½ till 7 in the summer half-year, and from 9 till 7½ in winter, with a dinner hour. Since I have been here, about a year, I have worked over only a few nights, and then not more than an hour. Was at school and did accounts.

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244. *Miss Williamson*, shirt-maker, M'Tier Street.—I take out work from a warehouse, and teach the use of the sewing machine in my house. In the last 10 months I have taught 70 persons, girls and women, of any age from 13 to 30, and have had as many as nine learning at one time. They come just as they can spare time—none for more than four hours a day, and some much less; one comes in her dinner hour, some after their day's work. None take longer than a month to learn, for which they pay me a fee of 12*s.* Some learn much quicker. One, aged about 20, learned well enough to make 22*s.* 6*d.* in her third pay, *i.e.*, third fortnight; but she was unusually quick. Some girls only make about 5*s.* at first. About 7*s.* and 8*s.* is the regular pay at such work. I was in a linen warehouse myself four years. Our hours were from 8½ till 7, with a dinner hour, and till 2 on Saturday. We never wrought overtime, and if we were very busy only had to work the harder while we were at it.

Messrs. R. Lindsay and Co.'s, Plain and Sewed Muslin Manufacturers, Victoria Street.

245. *Mr. M'Coull.*—In addition to the warehouse business persons are engaged here in designing the patterns for the embroidery of the muslin, and printing them on it, and making up, finishing, and dressing the articles, which are of almost all kinds, for which muslin is used, *e.g.*, as parts of ladies' dress, infants' frocks, &c. The actual embroidery, or sewed muslin work as it is called, is done in different parts of the country by females at their own homes. We have had persons employed at it 150 miles away, and even as far as Cork. The number of persons employed in the sewed muslin manufacture, especially in the district of about 20 miles in extent in this part of Ireland, was enormous seven or eight years ago, but since then the trade has been falling off every year, and there is now probably not a fifth of what there was.

The hours of work here are from 8½ till 7, with a dinner hour. If we are busy they work till 9 or 10 p.m. and, but very rarely, till 11. Sometimes they come at 6 a.m. and work till 10 p.m., but never make a longer day than this, as they cannot work late

and early both. When they stay late they do not have a tea. There are two children under 10 here now, but as a rule we do not take girls unless they have had their education or undertake to go to night schools.

Wearing Apparel.

Belfast.

Mr. J. E. White

b.

MESSRS. R. LINDSAY & CO.'S, EMBROIDERED LINEN MANUFACTURERS, KING STREET.

246. The only difference between the work done at this establishment, which employs a great number of females, and the work-rooms of which look like those of a regular manufactory, and that done at the Victoria Street warehouse just described is that the material is linen instead of muslin; the hours are the same. I was informed by the manager, Mr. M'Farlane, that the hands when required have to work till 10 p.m., but do not have any tea time, but bring or send for biscuits, &c.

247. The following statement, kindly prepared for me by Dr. H. M'Cormack of Belfast, is, it will be seen, of a general nature, and not confined exclusively to the special classes of persons and matters with which I was concerned in Belfast. But the several parts, as treated by him, do not admit of easy separation without prejudice to each other; and the whole, while concise, points attention to many facts which it is important to take into account in drawing conclusions as to the effects of any manufacturing employment in which the poorer classes generally are engaged, and is, as I judge, specially applicable to the condition and circumstances of the Irish poor,—and many are very poor,—engaged in the making of shirts, stays, clothing, &c., both in and out of factories.

248. *Dr. H. M'Cormack*, Belfast.—Generally the ill-ventilated rooms in which children and young people work, coupled with close bed-rooms at home, windows not made to come down, and which in any case are not opened by night, lead to a great frequency both of consumption and scrofula. Windows should invariably be opened by night.

In all places where children or young people are employed a full hour's absence should be allowed for breakfast and a full hour for dinner. Where, as particularly in the mills here, three-quarters of an hour only is allowed for breakfast and dinner severally, many young women are not able to go to and return from their abodes in time. They breakfast and dine, therefore, on inferior tea and inferior white bread brought with them. Constipation of the bowels, amenorrhœa, and general break-up of the health are no infrequent results. Good brown or even black bread of rye would be preferable to white; and wheaten-meal porridge would be preferable to tea. A penny manual of cookery, also, should be sold or even given away among the working classes, and the same would prove desirable in respect of health; that is to say, there should be circulated a little penny health manual, embracing the important points of food, meat, drink, clothing, exercise, ventilation, and warmth.

In many of the warehouses task-work or over-work is practised. The grown up hands are paid over, the apprentices, I believe, are not paid extra, or always so paid. When a man and, *à fortiori*, a boy or girl, has worked all day long, a couple of hours extra work, night work, is so much poaching on the capital of life, and in the long run is hurtful in the extreme. It may be said that it is optional. It is not, however, always quite optional; but suppose it were, is it right to tempt work-people to the immediate exhaustion and eventual ruin of their constitutions? The day's labour should provide the day's sustenance. Besides, it is thoughtless if not cruel, to subject young boys and girls, at a critical period of their lives, to extra toil during those hours which should properly be devoted to home duties, home influences, self-improvement, and rational healthy recreation.

Generally, nay, universally, sufficient attention is not paid to secure proper night ventilation. The windows are not pulled down by night, as they ought to be, and, too commonly, to save a paltry trifle in weights and cords, they are not even made to come down.

Baths are very much neglected. Sufficient facilities do not exist for insuring clean linen, and sufficient scope is not allowed for exercise and recreation. Once children are able to earn a little money, they are sent to work by their parents. The consequence is, they leave school prematurely, and no provision, or no adequate provision, is made for their culture during the intervals of leisure; there being no compulsion, many children are not sent to school at all; and some parents are so lost to self-respect and decency, as to send even their very young children out to beg.

Sanitary arrangements should be compulsory. Education ought to be compulsory.

Although deterioration of the house atmosphere be a most frequent,—I believe it to be *the* most frequent source of disease,—still the deterioration of the outer atmosphere is also very great. The streets in many, nay, most places, are not swept daily; ordures are thrown out of doors; the sewers are not trapped. By the adoption of the Rev. Mr. Moule's (of Dorchester) earth-closet in rooms communicating with the outer atmosphere, placed, of course, under sanitary control, the whole evil of foul sewage and the consequent material deterioration and moral injury would both at once be got rid of.

Free lending libraries and public museums, with gardens, parks, and other places of recreation, should subsist everywhere.

It may be observed, that when artificial light, as gas, is resorted to, people, generally ignorant that light diminishes by the distance multiplied into itself, place the flame so far off the eyes of the workers that the sight in the long run becomes strained and permanently injured.

H. MACCORMACK, M.D.

Belfast, 16th April 1864.

DROMORE.

Dromore.

MESSRS. J. HARRISON & CO.'S, SHIRT-FRONT, &c. MANUFACTURERS.

249. *Mr. J. Harrison.*—We make embroidered shirt fronts, ties, &c., but we are going to extend our manufacture to other work, *e.g.*, blouses. We employ in the factory about 120 persons, chiefly females from 12 years of age upwards. For a short time we were treated as under the factory laws, as we use steam for the sewing-machines, and we have kept to the factory hours ever since, which are an hour shorter than our former hours; except on occasions when we work a couple of hours or so for two or three nights to finish an order, *e.g.*, for a steamer going to the West Indies; but we never work beyond 9 p.m. The smoothers must all be grown women.

250. I visited another factory at Dromore,—that of Messrs. Harrison, Bros., in which the business is precisely the same and carried on on the same system as that just described. I also visited a small warehouse where the only employment was that of a few females engaged in smoothing, *i.e.* getting up linen just as in a common laundry. This work is usually very hot from the steam and iron from the stoves.

Dress-makers, &c.

Mr. H. W. Lord.

C.

REPORT upon the MANUFACTURE of WEARING APPAREL, by Mr. H. W. LORD

To Her Majesty's Commissioners.

PART I. ON DRESS-MAKERS, MANTLE-MAKERS, AND MILLINERS.

Gentlemen,

1. In this first part of my Report I have the honour to call your attention to the evidence, which I have collected, relating to children and young persons employed by dress-makers, mantle-makers, and milliners, both in wholesale and retail trades. Besides the metropolis, to which most of that evidence refers, I have visited Bath, Brighton, Bristol, Cheltenham, Exeter, Hastings, Leamington, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Ryde, and Torquay. The evidence on this branch of my subject, taken in those provincial towns and watering places, is confined to retail businesses. During my stay in Manchester last year I obtained the evidence as to the wholesale trade in that town, which I now append.

2. At a very early period of my inquiry it became evident that, throughout the whole range of women's work with the needle in the manufacture of wearing apparel, the degrees of difference in the nature and conditions of their employment were so small as to make any limit, short of that whole, at once unsatisfactory and impracticable. I accordingly, with your approval, extended my investigations to various cognate employments, and obtained information, which I propose to lay before you in the second part of this Report.

3. I have been led to treat of dress-makers, mantle-makers, and milliners under one head, because I have found generally two, and not unfrequently all three, of those occupations carried on under one principal and upon the same premises. It must, however, be remembered that the occupation of a milliner is wholly distinct from that of a dress-maker. Not only is the manufacture of millinery far less laborious and more attractive work, but it is comparatively rare for milliners to undergo the excessive protraction of their hours of work, which is still prevalent among dress-makers. As a rule, in London retail businesses, the milliners, who work late and long, are assisting dress-makers in private establishments, where persons of both classes reside upon the premises.

Mantle-makers.

4. In mantle-making the employers of dress-makers and of milliners respectively find themselves on common ground; that occupation is also the point at which the wholesale and retail trades are brought together. All dress-makers make mantles for their customers, or get them made; many milliners, silk mercers, and drapers, both in London and in the provinces, although they may not have "gone into" dress-making, both employ mantle-makers on their own premises, and give work out to others who do so. In several wholesale millinery and other warehouses in the City the manufacture of mantles forms an integral part of their business; this is in some cases conducted on premises under the direct control of the principal of the whole establishment, but far more frequently is carried on by persons between whom and such principal no connexion exists beyond that created by the execution of the work at a given price; this is the case also with the manufacture of millinery for such houses.

Employment other than needlework.

5. Although this part of my report, as well as that upon the cognate employments to which I have already alluded, will deal chiefly with the occupations of women at their needle, I have found it impossible to avoid all notice of those engaged in the shop or saleroom. In the wholesale millinery houses also there is much employment of a nature substitutional, so to speak, for needlework proper, as, for instance, the making of cap and bonnet fronts, or "blond borders," and of ruche trimmings,* in which heat produced by means of steam or gas is applied to hand "machines" of a simple kind to give, more cheaply and more rapidly than the needle, a form and a cohesiveness sufficient for the market for which they are intended.

Sewing machine.

6. But of all the devices by which needlework has of late years been supplanted, that of the sewing machine is probably destined to exercise the greatest influence over the widest surface; for not only do the nature of the labour to be performed and the degree of skill to be attained give to the "machinist" a character wholly distinct from that of the ordinary needlewoman, both physically and intellectually, but the additional mechanical power, which is thus made available to female workers, puts them on a par with the male sex in many occupations of needlework, in which the manual strength required hitherto has practically given a monopoly of that employment to the man. I shall have occasion hereafter to notice the use of the sewing machine by boot-makers, tailors, and others. I mention it now partly because the manufacture of the heavier kind of cloth mantles seems in effect to be more allied to the work of tailors than of dress-makers, and therefore to illustrate the practical difficulty of drawing a line, even for a temporary purpose, at any place short of the whole extent of needlework. My chief object, however, is to justify the pains at which I have been to ascertain from "machinists," of the class of which I am now treating, their individual experience of the effect of the use of the sewing machines upon the health of those who use them.

Nature of evidence.

7. To these prefatory remarks it seems well that I should add a few others, more particularly concerning the quality of the evidence which I append, and the circumstances under which in some cases it was obtained. I adopt this course because of the peculiar conditions under which the retail business of milliners and dress-makers is conducted. All the workers, all the customers, and most of the principals are of the female sex. In every establishment of any standing, both in London and in the country, some of the workers are boarded and lodged upon the premises of their employers;† in most fashionable dress-makers' houses at the West End, and in many of the first-rate provincial houses, the majority, and in not a few cases the whole, of those employed on the premises reside there.

8. The consequence of this state of things, as concerning my duty of obtaining evidence, and discriminating with regard to it, has been to furnish a singular contrast to the other trades and manufac-

* As to ruche trimmings, see No. 199. Mr. White, in his report upon lace finishing (1863), p. 184, has already noticed the cap and bonnet front manufacture.

† This is the case also in wholesale millinery houses in the City, but the remarks on this point are not intended to refer to them.—H. W. L.

tures, which have hitherto occupied my attention, and supplied material for the reports which I have forwarded to you. Dress-makers, &c.

9. In the first place, from various motives, names have been almost universally withheld, except in the case of employers, and even they have in several instances desired me to distinguish their evidence only by initials, or by a still more ambiguous designation. In many cases the mere dislike of publicity has led to this result, particularly with forewomen and first hands, or young persons just commencing business for themselves. A stronger motive, the fear of being noted as informers, has led many others to request that their names should not be mentioned. Under those circumstances I had reason to fear that the irresponsibility attaching to all anonymous statements might induce some to be reckless in their assertions, even if they did not indulge a feeling of personal ill-will. Whenever, therefore, I have been dealing with those who gave me evidence relating to persons who were not represented on the spot, I have in the first place taken the evidence without informing them that their names would not be mentioned, but afterwards have asked them, if they would object to my giving their names. Whenever, as in most cases, they have objected, I have always made strict inquiries of their employer, forewoman, or some one else, who might have had opportunities of judging of their truthfulness, whether statements of such a nature received from the particular person were to be relied on. Whenever any doubt has been expressed, I have been careful to exclude that evidence, or make further inquiries in other quarters before retaining it. Mr. H.W. Lord. C. Anonymous evidence.

10. I have in comparatively few instances preserved the evidence of the employed given to me on the premises, where they were working. In most cases this was merely confirmatory of the information previously given me by the employer or manager, and, whether true or untrue, is equally open to the suggestion that it was prompted by their influence. I am bound to say that many employers have dealt very straightforwardly with me, and have been desirous that all my questions should be fairly answered by any one in their employment, to whom I might choose to put them; but it was very obvious that the girls themselves spoke to me under considerable restraint, when the existing arrangements of their house were discussed in the presence of any one in authority, or even upon the premises where they were engaged. In this respect a much more independent feeling seems to exist among those employed in work-rooms of silk mercers and drapers, than in the so-called private dress-making establishments, both in London and in the provinces. Evidence given in work-rooms.

11. I have no doubt that much more could have been "got out" of the girls, of whom I asked questions in their work-rooms, had I adopted generally a system more analogous to cross-examination. But for two reasons I preferred to trust to other sources of information; one, because I conceive such practice to be foreign to the spirit of your instructions; the other, because, when in one or two cases of great suspicion I attempted that course, they so very readily betrayed themselves, and were evidently so distressed and apprehensive of trouble for having done so, that I felt it to be unfair to them to persist. I must also state my opinion that some employers, having what is termed "a first-rate connexion," did not hesitate to give me information, which nothing short of a total ignorance of the way in which their own business was conducted can save from the imputation of being wilfully deceptive.

12. Before proceeding to refer you under the several heads of this report to particular portions of the evidence, I should further remark that the statements of all the witnesses relate to a period limited by the last six years, except where a more distant time is expressly mentioned; and that I have not retained the evidence of more than two persons concerning the same house of business, except in cases where, by the principal's name being given, the contrary appears.

I. Age.—Sex.—Number.

13. Very few, if any, girls are employed in even second and third rate establishments under 13 years of age.* Most are apprenticed at 14 or 15. In fashionable houses at the West End it is rare to find any under 17 or 18. It is still more rare to meet with a milliner or dress-maker in such places much over 30. In wholesale millinery houses in the City I found a few of 12, and in Southwark and suburban districts, where millinery and mantles are made for City warehouses, there were some little helpers as young as 11 or even 10; several who were engaged in similar work at Manchester had begun at 10 and some at 9 years of age. Where sewing machines are used in any number beyond three or four, occasionally girls of 11 and 12 are found, who help the machinists by winding their thread on to the spools and fetching articles for them. Age.

14. With the exception of overlookers in some of the millinery departments of wholesale City houses, such, for instance, as the front-making, none but females are employed in the work-rooms. Sex.

15. According to the last census returns, the number of milliners and dress-makers in England and Wales amounts to 286,298, of whom 54,870 are in the metropolis. These are distributed in very varied proportions; some "private" houses at the West End have from 30 to 40 residents; one celebrated house over 70; but the usual number of residents varies from 8 to 16. In some establishments of silk mercers 20 or more reside besides the saleswomen. The largest number of residents in any private house out of London visited by me was 15; the number of residents in the provinces seldom exceeding 8. In wholesale City houses some few reside on the premises, but most of the residents are saleswomen. Number: 1. Of residents.

16. To the residents must be added in many cases, even of private houses, a certain proportion of day-workers; in most provincial towns visited by me nearly two-thirds were as a rule day-workers. In such towns, however, there are usually one or two, and in the West End of London there are still many, who will not employ day-workers at all. In most silk mercers' establishments, if work is done on the premises, day-workers are employed. One such house in Regent Street has no workwomen resident. In the wholesale City houses nearly all are day-workers; some employ as many as 300 on their premises at one time; in the suburban manufactories also, both of millinery and mantles, though the numbers are fewer, seldom exceeding 40 or 50, all are day-workers. In all places their number varies considerably with the time of year, according to the busy season of the particular locality or branch of trade with which they are connected. It is very difficult to arrive at a fair estimate of the extent and 2. Of day-workers.

* Under the head of milliners and dress-makers the census returns for 1861 give 5,759, or not quite 1 in 50, as the number under 15 years of age for the whole of England and Wales.

Dress-makers, &c.

Mr. H. W. Lord.

C.

effect of this periodic fluctuation, inasmuch as these day-workers pass frequently from one business to another of a cognate character with comparative ease. It has been stated to me that at the least one-third of their whole number must be without employment for nearly four months of the year.

II. Hiring.—Wages.

Hiring.

17. Milliners and dress-makers are usually apprenticed at about 14 years of age for two or three years under a regular indenture. Many fashionable houses have given up taking apprentices; where they still do so, they seldom have more than one or two; these usually live in the house, and pay a premium, often as high as 50*l.*, and rarely under 30*l.* Out-door apprentices are more common in the country or in an ordinary London house. Many reside for improvement for six months or a year in a West End house; for this improvement a large premium is frequently paid. Some go for improvement even after they have been in business for themselves. Apprentices are sometimes taken in wholesale houses; they are never resident; some are as young as 13 and 12. Others learn their business of one of the older hands without any formal apprenticing; others again are apprenticed for three months only.

18. Residents, other than apprentices or improvers, receive salaries, in most cases on yearly engagements, but not unfrequently for the season. This is the case both at the West End and in the wholesale City houses.

19. Day-workers in retail businesses, both in London and the provinces, are usually paid by the week; it seems, however, that the contract is occasionally treated by some employers as one for the day only, and the girls are turned off without notice at the end or even in the middle of a week (No. 38). In wholesale businesses their payment is by the piece; this is the case also with the mantle-makers who manufacture for City houses. In some cases these milliners have little helpers, whom they hire and pay themselves. Machinists are not apprenticed, but are taught either by those who sell the machines, paying from 6*s.* to 10*s.* 6*d.* for six lessons, or on the premises of the employer, to whom they give their time for three or six months in lieu of premium.

Wages: 1. Of residents.

20. The salaries paid to residents vary considerably; milliners are usually higher paid than dress-makers. At the West End the salaries of assistants are variously stated as from 8*l.* to 16*l.* a year in ordinary, and to 20*l.* in court, businesses; those of second hands from 15*l.* to 20*l.* in the former, and to 25*l.* in the latter; while first hands receive from 30*l.* to 70*l.*, and more in some cases. The payment of residents in the wholesale City houses is as high as those of court milliners. The rate of wages for residents in the country is much the same as that of the ordinary dress-makers at the West End.

2. Of day-workers.

21. Day-workers in the West End receive from 8*s.* to 12*s.* a week with their tea; a few of the best have as much as 18*s.* and 20*s.*; some of the inferior hands in other districts are not paid more than 6*s.*; Milliners who work in shops have their dinner sometimes as well as their tea found them. When they are paid by the piece, as is the case in the City, their earnings are much higher; in one house they average 1*l.* a week, some making 8*s.* a day between 9.30 a.m. and 6.30. p.m. In another case the wages' book showed an average of 15*s.* In provincial towns some earn only 5*s.* 6*d.* and 6*s.*, and though others earn 11*s.* and 12*s.*, the average does not exceed 7*s.* 6*d.* or 8*s.* a week.

3. Of mantle-makers.

22. Mantle-makers' earnings when day-workers vary usually from 9*s.* to 12*s.* a week; when paid by the piece, good hands make 14*s.* or 15*s.* a week, and some as much as 30*s.* Machinists as a rule earn much more than hand-workers; middling hands in the City houses earn from 14*s.* to 20*s.*, and some very good hands earn 35*s.* a week, working 12 hours a day. In suburban districts I found that 35*s.* had been earned in a week by machinists, but in that case they had worked three times in the week from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. These figures I obtained by examination of the wages' book in several places. On the other hand it appears from the statement of a forewoman (No. 164) that some middle-men, who work for wholesale houses, pay so little, as to make 5*s.* 6*d.* the weekly earnings of an average worker between 9 a.m. and 8.30 p.m., even machinists receiving no more than from 5*s.* to 9*s.* In the country some are said to be paid as little as 3*s.* and 4*s.* a week (No. 115).

III. State of Place of Work.

Ventilation and overcrowding.

23. The work-rooms used by milliners and dress-makers, whether in wholesale or retail trades, would be in most cases unobjectionable, were precautions taken to provide such ventilation as would ensure the escape of the foul air and the admission of fresh air without causing draughts. In many of the larger establishments of silk mercers and others of that class contrivances for this purpose have been more or less successful, especially the invention of Mr. Watson, which, although applied in most cases to large rooms, such as those of Messrs. Shoolbred, has been at Messrs. Howell and James' adopted with great benefit to ventilate a number of ordinary apartments, which open on to a common well staircase. This result is effected by having the chimney of the ventilator placed at the top of the staircase, which acts as a kind of shaft, communication between each room and the common staircase being maintained by means of a panel over the door moving on a horizontal pivot at the centre.

24. The fact however remains, that too many work-rooms, particularly in "private" houses, are, in the season, so overcrowded as to render useless any mere window-pane or chimney-valve apparatus: in not a few ventilation is wholly disregarded; while in others it is so ineffectually carried out as to excuse, if not to justify, the very common practice of workpeople to block the ventilators up for fear of the tooth-ache and face-ache, which are certainly very common among that class. To persons unaccustomed to sedentary pursuits in crowded and ill-ventilated rooms, the dislike to "fresh air" manifested by those who work under such conditions seems almost incredible; the explanation furnished by the superintendent of one of the Homes (No. 84), is no doubt the true one, namely, "that working "constantly in close rooms does render them very prone to catch cold, if there is the slightest "draught."

25. It appears that by a little extra trouble and outlay this difficulty may be at least partially overcome: in one private house at the West End, that of Miss Jones (No. 17, South Audley Street), where unusual attention has been paid to the ventilation of the work-rooms, I learnt that the use of one of Messrs. Batty and Steven's ventilating grates had been followed by considerable improvement in the atmosphere of the room in which it was placed. The room in question, as is not uncommonly the case both in London and in other towns (Nos. 82, 90, 92), is on the basement, low-

pitched, and very dark in winter, so that much more gas is required there than in the upper rooms. The grate is of an ordinary kind, but has at the back of the fire an iron chamber communicating through the wall with the external air on the one side, and with the work-room by means of a grating at the side of the fireplace on the other. By this contrivance the air is admitted from without, cool in summer, when there is no fire, warmed in winter, when the fire is lit, by its passage through the heated iron chamber. The young lady, who showed me the room, stated that the occupants had found great benefit from this mode of introducing pure air without incurring draughts from open windows. Dress-makers, &c. Mr H.W. Lord. C.

26. The value of ventilation is signally illustrated by the state of Messrs. Shoolbred's work-room; in respect of mere number, that room would be called overcrowded; but so excellent was the system for maintaining without draughts a constant supply of fresh air, that I perceived no offensive closeness, on either of the three visits that I paid; the number then in the room was 100, which gives 202 cubic feet per head.*

27. "These rooms," says a forewoman, speaking of mantle-makers' premises, "are very dirty and "crowded." One "was a low room, and so filthy that the walls absolutely shone with grease. I should "not think it could ever have been cleaned." (No. 164.) My own experience of some cases confirms this. So a first hand at Brighton who had worked in a City mantle house,—"The hours are well "enough, but the rooms were very overcrowded. I have seen the steam running in water down the "walls when the gas is lit in the evening." (No. 177.) Another is described as a kind of loft without any fire-place or stove, very cold on some days, and very close on others. (No. 165.) Evidence as to London work-rooms.

28. The state of things is seldom so bad as the above among dress-makers; but at some houses, even in fashionable parts, greater attention might with advantage be given to keeping the rooms clean and sweet. "The heat in summer," at one such house, "from the hot irons, which have to be kept over gas "fires, is very oppressive." (No. 43.) At another "the work-room was very close; the girls fainted very "often; they used to go and get some water, and work on again." (No. 47.) A third "was a small "room downstairs where we worked by gaslight, . . . it was quite unventilated, and the steam "used to roll down the walls like water." (No. 41.) In several which I visited at the West End, both floor and walls were far from clean.

29. The work-rooms used by milliners and dress-makers in provincial towns are in most cases tolerably good; exceptions, however, occur with sufficient frequency to call for observation. At Torquay, "the "room was very small. They used to come upstairs in the evening quite beaten with the work, and "go into hysterics from exhaustion and the heat of the gas; they used to get quite dizzy with stooping "over their work." (No. 121.) So with one of the best businesses at Southport, "everything was dirty; "the work-room was never cleaned, except by the apprentice clearing up the shreds. I never was "in so miserable a place." (No. 40.) Provincial work-rooms.

30. With regard to millinery shops I should observe that in many cases some of the work is done in the show-rooms, which are generally airy and cheerful; dresses "make too much of a litter," so the dress-maker is always out of sight. Milliners' shops.

31. Again, with regard to bonnet-front and ruche trimming manufactories, "It is most essential," observes Mr. Harrison, (No. 199,) "for the health of the workpeople in our business to have large rooms "and plenty of air. You see, a great many gas stoves are always in use for the goffering machines and for "heating the creasing irons; there would be no existing in a confined goffering-room." "The work-room" (says one who had worked in a factory near Smithfield) "was quite dreadful; it was very low and very "crowded, and when the gas was lit it was scarcely bearable. A few used to faint; I wonder more "did not." (No. 187.) So Mr. Tracy, of Manchester, had adopted various means for providing ventilation in his establishment, "but still the steam and gas make the place unwholesome." (No. 210.) Bonnet-front factories.

32. In very many cases, and more especially among mantle-makers and wholesale milliners, I find it usual to have the gas burners lit to warm the room in cold weather. The reason alleged for this is, that in crowded rooms the present fashion of women's dress renders a fire dangerous; in some rooms, however, there was no fire-place. The consequence is that the atmosphere of rooms, already rendered close by the number of occupants and the total absence of any ventilation, was found by myself as early in the day as 12 and 11 a.m. to be sensibly unwholesome. In some cases not only did gas burners supply the place of the ordinary fire, but the fire-place was wholly boarded up. Where several machines are used, the increased amount of oxygen consumed and animal heat evolved by the greater activity of the whole body of the workwomen makes attention to ventilation even more important, especially when gaslight is needed, as each machine usually has a separate jet. Warming by gas.

33. The state of the bed-rooms occupied by the residents has formed the subject for much comment. My own inspection of a large number in London and in some provincial towns has satisfied me that descriptions given by the girls themselves, whether of bed-rooms or work-rooms, must be taken with some qualification. I must, however, observe, that the accommodation for sleeping provided, not only by provincial milliners and dress-makers, but in the establishments of silk mercers and milliners, who have shops, in London, is decidedly superior to that of many, who style themselves court milliners and dress-makers, and live within the precincts of the fashionable world. The disproportion in size of the rooms to the number of their occupants, the absence of all but the absolutely necessary articles of furniture, and the air of utter discomfort prevailing in some houses of that class are astonishing. I am happy to be able to add that such a state of things is far from being universal even at the West End. The following cases are, however, within my own experience:— State of bed-rooms.

34. "The rooms were very bad," says a first hand; "I could touch the ceiling of our work-room with "my hand; the bed-rooms were shocking; in the height of the season three slept in a bed; our bed-"room was so damp that the water would run down the wall." (No. 39.) This witness had to leave in

* When at its fullest the proportion is only 169 cubic feet per head, but I was told that even then it did not become oppressive. It should, however, be observed that the persons working in this room are of a class whose mode of life and social position would make them far less likely, than the residents in "West End" houses, either to be sensible of, or to suffer from, a close and oppressive atmosphere.—H. W. L.

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consequence of her health, and two of "her girls" there had died of consumption. "Even in good "houses bed-rooms have not been white-washed for four or five years." (No. 40.) "The only bad "thing there was the sleeping; eight of us used to sleep in a room in which there was a sink where "all the slops were emptied; that was very unpleasant, and unwholesome too, I think." (No. 57.)

I have met with but one authentic case of the work-room being used as a sleeping-room. (No. 40.) The fact of one such case being in evidence, and the great stress laid by another witness (No. 32) upon it, as an existing evil, make it probable that other instances are to be found, but I am convinced that they are very rare.

35. I give below a table of the number of cubic feet per head contained in several work-rooms and bedrooms measured by me. In all of these there was either no system of ventilation whatever, or that which had been attempted, had been made inoperative by the occupants. I regret to say that my notes of two of the worst cases of sleeping apartments are missing; they gave the number of cubic feet per head as something under 200. I should add that no two of these dimensions refer to the same house.

TABLE of NUMBER of CUBIC FEET per HEAD in WORK-ROOM.

Nature of Business.	Locality.	No. of Persons in Room.	No. of Cubic Feet per Head.
Milliner and dress-maker (Court)	The West End	35	94
Silk mercer, &c.	,,	39	107
Milliner	,,	9	120
,, and dress-maker (Court)	,,	18	126
,, ,, ,,	,,	25	150
,, ,, ,,	,,	27	166
,, ,, (Provincial)	Brighton	25	120
,, ,, ,,	Cheltenham	16	156
Mantle-maker	The City	35	80
,,	Southwark	20	85
,,	Hoxton	20	123
,,	Islington	22	131
,,	Marylebone	25	144
,,	Brighton	11	112
BEDROOMS.			
Milliner and dress-maker (Court)	West End	2	178
Silk mercer, &c.	,,	7	238
Milliner and dress-maker (Court)	,,	4	240
,, ,, ,,	,,	4	243
,, ,, ,,	,,	4	252

36. With regard to the number of persons who can without injury to their health be safely put into one work-room of a given size, I received some very useful information from Mr. Stuart of the firm of Stuart, Taylor and Co., wholesale milliners, Old Change; that gentleman stated that they had area enough for nearly 400 persons in their three work-rooms, but had found that when so many as 130 were in one, several fainted;* they had therefore limited the number to 100, there being one or two more occasionally, and thereby raised the proportion of cubic feet per head from 203 to 264; since that regulation had been in force no fainting had occurred. At the time of the 130 being there, the system of ventilation was the same as that found successful with the smaller number; the room on the lowest floor of the three is ventilated by means of perforated plates at one end of a horizontal shaft in the ceiling, communicating with the outer air through a hole in the wall of very much smaller dimensions than the shaft; that on the topmost floor by means of canvas stretched all along the centre of the ceiling below a sloping roof, in which are placed venetian shutters; a long well from the side of this room communicates with the middle one.

IV. TREATMENT.—MEAL TIMES.—HOLIDAYS.

Treatment.

37. Complaints have been made from time to time upon the absence of any arrangement in many houses for a separate sitting-room for the residents, and also upon an alleged practice of providing no dinner on Sunday. The latter case is, I believe, rare in any respectable house (No. 87); for a sad instance I refer you to Miss Bramwell's evidence. (No. 82.)† The former grievance has been made too much of; it is fair to use it as an argument, when the privilege of a private house is brought forward on the other side, but granting that these are houses of business, a work-room, if decently kept, well ventilated, and of proper size, might with very little trouble be made comfortable. Some of the rooms, in which the dinners are served, are extremely wretched, little better than back kitchens; but here again any generalizations would mislead.

38. Observations will be found throughout the evidence as to minor social grievances into which it would be fruitless for me to enter further. I have, however, retained them, inasmuch as they illustrate the condition of residents generally. They may become an important element in contrasting such condition with that of the day-worker, to which some employers allege their residents will inevitably be driven, in the event of any legislative interference with milliners and dress-makers to regulate the hours of work or to place the premises under inspection.

39. It may be affirmed generally that the residents in large establishments of silk mercers and drapers at the West End have shorter hours, better accommodation, and more comforts than in private houses (No. 80); the girls themselves appear to appreciate this; for the silk mercers, &c. are said to have "almost any one they choose of the best workpeople." (No. 73.)

40. Upon the whole I think that the girls are inconsiderately, but not harshly treated; even when complaints are made with some justice, the origin of them is more in the absence of little comforts than

* Size of room in question stated to be 75 × 32 × 11 ft.—H. W. L.

† See also No. 75.

in any deliberate personal unkindness. I believe that one-half of the troubles of dress-makers arises from the business being commonly in the hands of unsystematic persons; from ill-managed work-rooms, and ill-ordered households. Much of the discomfort arises from irritability of temper, and want of judgment, on either side. There are hard masters and mistresses in this business as in others, and some have steadily set themselves to disbelieve every account of injury to health arising from the hours of work or other conditions of the business. Such persons may be strictly just in their own dealings, and may fairly hold an opinion limited by the extent of their experience. But, in the face of the evidence which has been given me, to entertain such disbelief would be an insolent mockery of suffering. Dress-makers, &c. Mr. H.W. Lord C.

41. Residents, both in the West End and in the country, have, in the season at all events, too short a time for their dinner. Several witnesses describe it as a mere scramble, about 10 minutes being devoted to it. (Nos. 38, 39, 94.) Even day-workers sometimes have no more time allowed, for though they usually have an hour, if they leave the premises for that meal, they often bring their food with them, when they are very busy. Piece-workers are said to hurry themselves; and no doubt their desire to earn as much as possible in the hours of work may well produce the same result as the desire of an employer to get all he can out of one who is paid by the day. The time at which this meal takes place at the West End is usually between 12.30 and 2 p.m.; tea from 4 to 5 p.m., and supper at 9. "Sometimes we got quite faint with waiting from breakfast, at 8½ a.m., till 2 p.m. before we dined." (No. 38.) If work goes on after 12 p.m., some extra refreshment is commonly given; it consists either of tea or coffee and bread and butter, sherry and sandwiches, or bread and cheese and beer, according to the style of the establishment. Cases, however, have been mentioned to me of girls working from supper time, 9 p.m., until 2 a.m. without any additional meal. (No. 47, and see No. 83.) Meal-times.

42. As a general rule I believe the quality of the food to be good, and the quantity sufficient. It is, no doubt, plain; more vegetables and a greater variety of dishes might be had without much trouble and with great benefit. In many cases also there is room for more attention to the cooking and the trifling arrangements of the table; but upon the whole the cause of the complaints, which are made from time to time, is to be found chiefly in the artificial craving for piquant relishes, which, under the condition of long hours of work in heated rooms without exercise, constantly usurps the place of wholesome appetite. There are many who would say with Mrs. Day's first hand, a young lady who appeared the reverse of fanciful or fastidious, "I have sometimes taken quite a dislike myself to some sort of food, "mutton for instance, and really could not eat it, though it was very good and very well cooked." (No. 13.) Food.

43. I believe that in all cases residents are allowed to have a fortnight or a month's holiday in the dull season. This in the West End of London takes place between the end of July and the middle or end of September. How essential such an opportunity is, to enable them to resist the strain upon their physical powers produced by the work of the season, is very fairly stated by the first hand whom I have already quoted. After mentioning an extraordinary pressure of work upon those employed in the house where she was, she continues, "one was certainly knocked up by it; she had not been away into "the country for two or three years before; we all want that after the season; every one needs a "thorough change." The girl referred to told me that she had had her regular holidays every year before her illness, but had not gone into the country, as her friends lived in London. (No. 12.) Holidays.

44. In some establishments in London work occasionally ceases at 6 p.m. on Saturday, but the Saturday half holiday, as understood by young men in houses of business, is a thing unheard of among fashionable dress-makers. In many provincial towns Saturday is "the latest night of the week." (Nos. 119, 139, 142, 145, 148, 150, 176, and see 240.)

V. Hours of Work.

45. It has been frequently asserted, and I believe with truth, that there has been a general improvement throughout the country with regard to the hours of work, as compared with those which were common in many parts 20 years ago. Among dress-makers and milliners in provincial towns and in the wholesale City houses this is certainly the case. (Nos. 102, 111, 117, 152, and see 249.) No doubt instances are still to be found in such places of very excessive hours of work, as, for example, those at a draper's at Swansea (No. 149), where work went on from 8 a.m. to 11 and 12 p.m. for most nights week after week. A similar case occurred at Torquay. (No. 121.) At Bristol, five years ago, a first hand had frequently worked, two or three times a week, from half past 6 a.m. to midnight. (No. 101.) Again, at Southport, four years ago, work lasted from 8 a.m. to midnight always, for a month (No. 40); and at Brighton from 9 a.m. till 11 and 12 p.m. for some weeks recently. (No. 143.) The case also of a girl at Birmingham who worked for four or five weeks before Christmas from 8 or 9 a.m. to 4 or 5 the next morning, and till 5 a.m. on Christmas morning (No. 102), is another proof that there is still much excessive work in particular establishments; as is the account given (No. 97) of the house at Windsor, where the usual hours throughout the year are said to be from 8.30 a.m. to 10 p.m., and work through three successive nights formed the climax of extraordinary pressure. In the provinces.

46. I must, however, observe, that with three exceptions these statements refer to places which I have not visited, while my inquiries in the excepted places, Bristol, Torquay, and Brighton, satisfied me that those hours were not characteristic of the trade there. Of those visited by me I consider Cheltenham and Exeter to have the latest hours. In the first-mentioned place they had worked at one establishment from 8.30 a.m. to 11 p.m. for five weeks every night but Saturday (No. 96); this was in 1862. The extreme term spoken of was in one case from 7 a.m., in another from 6 a.m., till midnight three, four, and five times in one week. (Nos. 93, 94.) So in Exeter one girl worked from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. every other night in a week for six weeks in the spring and in the fall, and from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. for every night in one week, sometimes till 1 and 2 a.m. (No. 128); another from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. usually in the season, but 11 p.m. and 12 at times. (No. 127.) In Bath (No. 115) twice or three times a week in April and May from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m., in Leamington at one house twice, at another three times a week in the season (Nos. 101, 106), for the same length as in Bath, with one instance of working from 8 a.m. to 1 the next morning twice in three weeks (No. 103), were the extreme cases.

47. On the whole, therefore, I may fairly state that in such towns as I have visited, the hours of work in the season, the pressure of which lasts for perhaps two months at two periods of the year, though

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they in several cases reach 14, very rarely exceed 15 hours in the day, and that it is unusual for them to be as long as 15 on more than three days in the week. I do not mean to say that even these hours are not too long, but that as compared with what the hours of many houses at the West End in the four months of the London season still are, or with those which were common in the same places 20 years ago, the hours now general in those places show a decided improvement in the system under which the business is conducted. Indeed in several places those who had leading businesses, though they were private dress-makers, had found that they could, even in the season, get through in 12 hours a day enough to satisfy both their customers and themselves. The evidence given on this point by Mrs. Gilling, of Cheltenham (No. 88), and Mrs. Wilkins, of Bristol (No. 117), shows very signally how much can be done in this matter by system and resolution.

In London. The season.

48. It is in the West End of London, and for the most part in the private establishments of fashionable dress-makers there, and not at the houses of silk mercers who have a dress-making department, however fashionable their connexion, that oppressive hours of work are still the rule for the three or four months between March and July, of which the London season consists.

49. The evidence which I have taken upon this point, and which is considerably more than that which I lay before you, bulky as that is, has fully satisfied me that the usual hours in such private houses during that period are at least 14 and more commonly 15 a day, from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m., while many work longer even than that. In the week before a drawing-room, of which there are three or four in a season, these are exceeded constantly to the extent of two and three hours for several nights, and on the day and night immediately preceding the drawing-room it is a common thing to work for 20 hours, and not unfrequently the whole night through.

1. Residents.

50. For example, a young woman who has been in business for herself for a year, states (No. 38), "I have occasionally worked from six in one morning until four the next; that was very rare, but "from 8 a.m. until 3 the next morning I have worked night after night for weeks together, except "on the Saturday, when we left off sometimes as early as 7 and always before 12." Mrs. Cotton (No. 39), "We were always up by 6 a.m., and never in bed before 12 p.m. from April to the end of "June; often and often we were later." This was in 1861. Another young girl, B.D., in speaking of two previous situations, uses an expression undesignedly, which gives a very strong confirmation of the extent to which late hours occur: "They were not late houses, *not what I call late;* we never "worked after 12 or 1 at night in the season, from about 8 a.m., generally speaking; *that is no later "than we work here.* I worked here 18 months ago from 7½ a.m. to 4 the next morning on the "drawing-room night; we had worked every night that week till 12 and 1 from half-past 7 in the "morning." (No. 45.) This witness was one of the few whose evidence I have before mentioned as being obtained by a species of cross-examination; it was given in the presence of her employer, who was apparently much vexed, but did not contradict a single statement.

2. Day-workers.

51. Day-workers are generally considered not to work so long as residents. In London, however, many work occasionally very late. (No. 82.) This evidence was given me by a young day-worker, on whose truthfulness her employer told me I might rely: "At Madame's I have myself worked "from 6.30 a.m. till midnight on Saturdays as well as other nights." (No. 43.) Another, a middle-aged woman, says, "Still I go at 4 a.m. sometimes, and sometimes I stay till 12. . . . . One week "last season was a very bad one; they had a large wedding order and a great number of trains, for "the last train was not sent out till 11 on the morning of the drawing-room day. I know that the "girls in the house worked till 4 a.m. for three nights, and till 3 a.m. for one night, in that week; they "never began before 8 a.m., we used to be there at 6 or 7." (No. 42.) So again; "I have stayed, "even when I was day-worker, from 6 a.m. till 2 the next morning for two or three nights for several "weeks together." (No. 38.)

Hours out of the season.

52. It has been said that fashionable dress-makers have to make all their profits in the four or five months of the season; there are not a few establishments however, where the hours are at least 14 for nearly the whole year round, and some frequently work in the autumn and winter 15 and 16 hours a day. Miss J. was "improver from September to June in a house notorious for the long hours of work. . . . "During that time we usually worked until 12 at night. In the season we worked after 12 every "night almost, for about two hours; then we used to begin at 6.30 a.m., before breakfast." (No. 47.) Mrs. Cotton (No. 39), whom I have already quoted, says, "we had to be in the work-room at 7.30 a.m., "and never cleared till 11 p.m.; this was not in the very busy season; I was not there in the spring "and summer." At another house the hours "were from 8.30 a.m. to 11 p.m. even in November. . . . "Even at this season (December 1863) some houses are working late; an improver who lives where "I live at present, because they have no room for her to sleep, has to be at a Bond street house to "breakfast by 8, and does not leave till 11 p.m. . . . I know of one (house) where they have been "working this November from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m." (No. 40.) Still, so far as I can ascertain, it seems usual to work only from 8 or 9 a.m. till 7 or 8 p.m., and even less, for four months in the year, and from October to December the hours do not ordinarily exceed 13 in the day.

Dislike of London hours, &c.

53. If any confirmation were needed of the real feelings of the girls themselves about the hours of the London season, the expressions of some who, after the experience of one or two seasons at the West End, have gone into City houses, or returned to country businesses, are quite sufficient. "Nothing "shall induce me to go to a London house again; I feel quite worn now with one ordinary day's "work; I think another season there would have killed me." This is the evidence of a first hand at Leamington who had been in London for the season of 1862, and was 26 years old when she went; "the room and the food were both very good in both places, nothing was bad but the hours." (No. 101.) So at Plymouth, "All that have had any experience of it complain bitterly of it when they come back again, and not only of the hours but of the want of comforts." (No. 136.) "I assure you," says a forewoman in a City house, "I would not go back to live in a private (Court) house, not if my "bread depended on it." (No. 39.) The experience of such does not however deter others. "All seem "anxious to get up to London." (No. 126.) "Several," remarks a leading dress-maker at Ryde, "have gone from me to fashionable London houses; they have generally come home again quite "sick, as one of them said just lately, of London hours and habits." (No. 141.)

Evidence of employers, &c.

54. Hitherto I have cited the evidence of the workpeople themselves, but several employers and fore-

women have frankly given me statements which confirm much, if not most, of the foregoing assertions. At Mrs. Day's establishment in Bruton street, where the openness, with which all my questions were answered by every person to whom I put them, was most satisfactory, the first hand stated that in the season they breakfast at 7 a.m., and the time for leaving off work varies from 10 p.m. to 12; "the "most usual time is 11 p.m.; the drawing-room nights are always exceptional; for last May drawing-"room we worked for two or three nights till 2 and 3 a.m. In one very exceptional case we were "working for four days one after the other more than 18 hours a day on an average. We began at "7 a.m. and went on till 1, 2, 3, and 4 a.m. successively." (No. 13.) This was in June of last year, and their work had never before been so late. So Madame Jacobi (No. 24), after noticing the bad effect of long work on the health of herself and the members of her family, "It is too much; we work for three "months as late as 12 every night, at all events for five of the six in a week," (the time for commencing being 8 a.m. in the season). Again, Madame Sophie Baily (No. 31), "Our ordinary hours in the season "are from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sometimes we are obliged to work later than that, till 2 or 3 in the "morning occasionally. . . . . Even on Saturday we often have to work much after 9, instead of clearing, as I wish, at that hour." Madame Studer, after stating that the ordinary hours in her establishment are from 8 a.m. till 11 p.m., goes on, "I dare say we always work 16 or 17 hours on the "day before the drawing-room, and perhaps we may work a little after 11 on some other nights." (No. 25.)

General dress-makers.

55. The hours in the London season are long, even with other than court dress-makers. One employer states her usual hours to be in the season from 6.30 a.m. to 9 p.m., sometimes beginning an hour earlier. (No. 49.) Miss R. states the work in two general houses in which she had resided to have begun in the season at 7.30 a.m.; "they did not ever begin to clear up till 11 p.m.," but were rarely later than that hour. (No. 52.) So C. B. (No. 53), "Our usual hours of work were from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., but as a rule "we worked later than that in the season, but never after midnight; we often worked until 11 at night."

56. Still there are many general dress-makers whose hours in the season rarely exceed 13 (No. 50), and some who contrive to keep up a very good connexion with work for 12 hours a day; "even in the "season from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. is with very rare exceptions our longest time." (No. 48.)

57. There is in all probability very little difference at the present day between London and the south, south-west, and west provinces with respect to the hours observed in milliners and dress-makers' establishments of the same class, except those which the London season is alleged to necessitate among employers, who conduct a court* business within half a mile to the west of Regent street.

Silk mercers and drapers: 1. London.

58. The hours in the large establishments of silk mercers in London, who have added to their ordinary business the manufacture of dresses and millinery, even in the height of the season, rarely exceed 12 in the day, the pressure of the drawing-room adding at Messrs. Howell & James' only one hour (No. 65), and the occasions on which at Messrs. Marshall & Snelgrove's work goes on till 10 p.m. from 8 a.m. being not half a dozen in the season. (No. 66.) Even at Messrs. Lewis & Allenby's, whose business has been said by some to partake more of a court business than that of any similar establishment, work in the height of the season lasts from 8.30 a.m. to 10 or 11 p.m., but never later. "I think I may say (is the remark of their "manager) that we never clear up before 10 p.m. in those months (the end of March to the middle of "July), and very frequently not much before 11. We never by any chance work after 11, for the gas "is invariably turned off at that hour." (No. 54.)

2. Provincial.

59. In similar establishments in provincial towns the hours are but little longer than is usual in London. At Exeter (No. 132), Plymouth (No. 135), Brighton (No. 142), and Hastings (No. 147), all speak of 13 hours a day as a rare excess. At Mr. Smith's, of Cheltenham (No. 98), where the ordinary time is from 9 to 9, they had worked but twice in the last six months till 12. Mr. King, of Bath (No. 113), states the extreme of work at his establishment to be from 8.30 a.m. to 9.30 p.m. for a fortnight in each of the months of April, May, and October. At Mr. Bett's, of Torquay (No. 133), work had gone on as late as 12 only once in three years, the season hours there being from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. By way of an exception, Mr. Wackrill, of Leamington (No. 106), stated that the mantle-makers on his premises probably went on twice a week from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. between March and July, and again between October and December, and perhaps three times a year till 1 a.m. So at Messrs. Freebody's, at Cheltenham, in 1862 they had worked for five weeks from 8.30 a.m. to 11 p.m., but this was not likely to occur again. (No. 96.)

Millinery: 1. Retail.

60. It is unusual for a retail millinery business to be carried on in any private establishment, except in connexion with dress-making (No. 80); in the shops, which are confined to the manufacture and sale of millinery exclusively, late hours are rare; in the West End, as well as elsewhere in London, they do not ordinarily in the season exceed 12 hours, and in most cases fall short of that length. I met, however, with one or two instances in London of girls, in what might be termed private millinery houses, working after midnight several times in one week. One such case, in which a young French girl was kept up making bonnets till 2 a.m., was mentioned to me by a fellow countrywoman with very lively indignation, as a "gross exception" to the usual habits of the business. It is said that in some neighbourhoods the resident apprentices have to assist in the shop until 11 at night after the work-rooms are closed (No. 79), but such cases appear to be as exceptional as the converse case which occurs in some houses at the West End, where, after business in the show-room is concluded, the girls are expected to help in the work-room. (No. 73.)

61. The country millinery shops appear to have later hours than those in London. Mrs. Barry, of Bath (No. 114), speaks of work from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. being frequent in May and June; and Mr. Syme, of Bristol (No. 123), stated the hours at his establishment to be from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. for four months. So at Southampton, from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. three or four times in two months. (No. 150.) At Portsmouth, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. for the season, and occasionally 10 and 11 p.m. (No. 140.) At Brighton, 8.30 a.m. to 11 p.m. for 10 nights in the season. (No. 145.)

2. Wholesale

62. In City wholesale houses the hours are moderate. At Messrs. Keelings' (No. 178), for example, work from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. for four nights a week during three weeks in each spring and autumn is stated

* Out of about 1,530 milliners and dress-makers, whose addresses are given in the London Post Office Directory, 45 are marked as "Court." Some of these are probably Court milliners, &c., in little else than name. Others, however,—and among them some of the best entitled to that distinction,—are not so particularized. It may be fairly assumed that at least 45, employing 1,200 workers, suffer, from one cause or another, extreme pressure in the London season.—H. W. L.

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to be the extreme, and the hours at Messrs. Stuart and Taylor's (No. 180) are even less. I have met with cases of work for two or three nights at the beginning of the month from 8.30 a.m. to 10.30 p.m., but even in their busy times they do not often exceed 12 or 13 hours (see Nos. 188, 299). In the cap-front department at Messrs. Vyse's (No. 189), indeed, work goes on from April to June until 10 p.m. and sometimes 11 from 9 a.m.; this, however, is a branch of the business which is in most cases carried on away from the warehouse under the control of some small manufacturer in the suburbs. Among such persons working from 8 or 8.30 a.m. to 10 and 11 p.m. for two months or so is not uncommon, and I have met with instances of work protracted until 2 a.m. (No. 190.) Some of these smaller manufactories exist in the neighbourhood of Cripplegate, Aldermanbury, &c.; in one of them work is said (No. 193) to go on till 11 and 12 p.m. from 8 a.m. "often enough," while in another the fair average is stated as being from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. three times a week. (No. 192.) During the four months, December, January, June, and July, there is little employment for milliners and mantle-makers in the wholesale trade.

63. The hours observed in wholesale millinery establishments of that class in Manchester are as long and in some cases longer than in London. One witness had worked three or four times all night, and for 30 hours without rest (No. 207); another, who was 16 years old, frequently all night, three times in one week. (No. 208.) So Mr. Tracy, an employer there, speaks of work being for three or four months continually prolonged from 8 a.m. till 9 and 10 p.m. (No. 210.)

Mantle-makers.

64. The hours of mantle-makers also are not unfrequently long, especially those who manufacture for City houses, where a large business is done in shipping orders. One witness often worked from 8, and even 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., sometimes till 12; once in every fortnight or three weeks all night. (No. 165.) Miss Woodbridge (No. 168) speaks of work from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. three times a week for five weeks twice a year. A machinist at Mr. Hill's (No. 171) had often worked from 7 a.m. to 8.30 p.m., and sometimes from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. A girl at another mantle-maker's, when the hours were said to be from 9 to 9, had worked once or twice all night. (No. 172a.) Those also who take out their work from West End houses, frequently work from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m; one had worked three times in a week from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m.; she stated the usual hours to be from 8 a.m. to 8. 30 p.m., and that they seldom worked for more than two hours after that. (No. 159.)

Sunday-work.

65. I believe that working on Sunday* is much less frequent than it used to be (No. 87), and for this result at least the general opinion seems to give credit to the Association for the aid and benefit of Dress-makers and Milliners (No. 72). The influence of that Society, and of the various Homes and registries now existing, has certainly been to keep some check upon employers, and has to some extent reduced the hours of work, as compared with those of 1842.

VI. Nature of Occupation.

66. Very little need be said with regard to the ordinary use of the needle by dress-makers. Although milliners do use the needle, there is none of the labour, "the drudgery," as one witness (No. 113) calls it, of dress-making. "It is very wearisome work," says Miss Reeves, of Leamington, herself an employer; "none can tell how fatiguing dress-making is until they have sat hour after hour the whole day long "for many days at it." (No. 102.) "I have worked myself at dress-making," says Mrs. H. Gilling, of Cheltenham, also an employer, "as few mistresses have, and know how wearying a thing it is to work "late night after night; it is the feeling obliged to work that is so wearisome: upon any great "emergency, I am sure, all are ready to work any time for an employer who is kind and considerate "to them." (No. 88.) There is great truth in this; and, so far, those who work for court dress-makers have some compensation at the moment for their extreme hours before a drawing-room; "everything is "so pretty," says one, "it is such a pleasure to put on one beautiful thing after another till the dress "gets complete, that you forget to be tired; I should be quite done up in half the time, if I were "working on crape." (No. 28.)

67. In some portions of dress-making long standing is, if not necessary, very common. This is particularly the case with the skirt-mounters and trimmers of ball and other light fancy dresses. The consequence is, that swelled feet and legs are from time to time complained of by some, while others, naturally stronger, escape without suffering. (Nos. 11, 27, 83, 174.) "As for standing, some have stood "day after day for weeks at trimming the trains or ball dresses, till they got very ill; their legs swelled "and their feet blistered; I have myself stood for three whole days; I was not so bad as they were, but "my feet were badly blistered and my legs swollen too." (No. 43.)

68. In the manufacture of cap and bonnet fronts and ruche trimmings in wholesale houses gas or steam is used to heat metal plates and tubes, and small hand-machines of various kinds, over which the girls have constantly to bend their heads. Employers have themselves in several cases pointed out to me the great importance of avoiding any overcrowding, and of having a perfect system of ventilation, where such processes are carried on, and I have often had proof of the truth of their observations. (Nos. 189, 196, 199, 210, and see 211.)

69. Sewing machines are worked in various ways; generally speaking, those used by dress-makers are of the lighter class, worked with one or two feet at pleasure and by a person in a sitting posture. This, if it does not involve stooping as a necessity, does, as a matter of my own observation, constantly induce it. "The position is so constrained," says a forewoman of mantle-makers, "for they sit with their back "bent and head leaning close over their work, and their arms and fingers and legs all work at once." (No. 163.)

VII. Effect of Employment on Physical Condition.

70. It is difficult to point out any positive symptom as especially characteristic of the physical condition of milliners and dress-makers. Medical men consider chlorosis and amenorrhœa to be very common among the younger ones. With regard to the prevalence of the functional derangement known as amenor-

* I have had isolated cases mentioned, chiefly in foreign houses. (No. 81.) I have also been informed of work for wholesale houses going on in the suburbs on Sunday, but have no authentic evidence on the point.—H. W. L.

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rhœa, I find in Dr. Graily Hewitt's work on diseases of women a passage, which concisely sums up the conditions which lead to the development of that disorder; these are so completely identical with those observed among the class of which I am treating as to induce me to cite his remarks. "Either the "patient has been living badly, taking too little food, or food not sufficiently nutritious, or she has been "leading a too sedentary or artificial life deprived of pure air, in short subjecting the body at a very "critical period of life to many influences known to be incompatible with sound health," p. 447.

71. Dyspepsia is very general among them, as might be expected; but beyond the sedentary nature of the occupation there is nothing in the nature of their ordinary business to affect the health of the work-people. The other conditions of employment,—the long hours, close rooms, hurried meals, and want of exercise,—combine to produce the very lamentable results, to the evidence of which I will now proceed to call your attention.

72. "Many in Cheltenham suffer from the hours. I left because I became so ill through it (6 a.m. "to 12 p.m. four or five times in a week, not every week, but more than one in the season)." (No. 94.) "I can manage dress-making from 8 to 8, but sometimes I have been obliged to work from 7 a.m. "to 12 p.m. for three or four nights in one week; that knocks me up; . . . it is the night-work "that is so bad; I can always do as much in one hour of the day as in two of the night. I have been "in the hospital before this time; I am always better for a time when I go back to work, until one of "these weeks comes." (No. 93.) This witness, however, had been obliged to give up domestic service, because she was not strong enough for it; and no doubt there is much truth in the remark of another (No. 51) that "delicate girls are apprenticed to dress-making under the notion that it is "light, easy, and agreeable work, and therefore fitter for them than any other." "But," she adds, "no idea could be more mistaken." Another says, "Some girls used to suffer from head-aches and "fainting; I think, though, that they were naturally feeble. It is not the time so much as the sleeping "places and work-rooms that do harm; and the season makes them worse, than they would be, by "overcrowding them." (No. 36.)

73. But it is not the weakly ones alone that fall victims to the conditions, whether of late hours or of unhealthy apartments, under which this business exists. The poor girl at Ryde "who was quite observed "there for her good looks and health," dying of consumption after a year in London (No. 141); the two, who had been very well in Plymouth, utterly broken down by one season at the West End (No. 136); the painful iteration throughout this evidence, "my health has suffered; my constitution has been very "much impaired; very many suffer; I was myself very strong;" leave no room for doubt. "They are "continually ailing; their appetite fails with long sitting in close rooms; coughs and face-aches are very "general, and headaches too; they often faint at their work; it is so usual that no particular notice is "taken." (No. 40). "I do assure you it was quite sad," says a day-worker, speaking of the residents where she worked last season, "to look at their pale faces, and see them walk quite crippled with swelled "feet by standing so long at the trains. *The servants were far healthier than the young ladies in that house.* (No. 42.) "No doubt," remarks a very superior first hand in one of the most fashionable houses in the West End, "needlework does affect you in the course of years. It is not so much that dress-makers get "really ill, but they become gradually, almost imperceptibly, weaker. *A little thing soon knocks "them down.*" (No. 13.) In that last sentence the whole effect of their work upon their health is briefly epitomized.

74. For medical testimony to the same effect, I beg to refer you to the important evidence of Mr. Radcliffe (No. 413), who has placed at my disposal the result of a private inquiry, taken up by him at the request of the medical officer of the Privy Council.

75. Very similar are the remarks of the head of a milliner's work-room in Paddington. "Certainly "there is no particular thing to notice in respect of their health, but milliners are not strong, not even "those day-workers who have some air and exercise; *a little thing pulls them down.*" (No. 77.) So the forewoman at Mr. Kent's, a mantle-maker, after stating that she had not found machinists give up or sicken sooner than the rest, "but they are not strong as a class, whether they work at machines or "at the needle only." (No. 154.)

Mourning.

76. Mourning orders seem to be in every way especially trying; they are usually in excess of the ordinary week's work, and the time allowed for their completion is too frequently very short, so that an especial source of fatigue is added to work essentially dreary and depressing in itself. Miss Bramwell mentions a distressing case in a large establishment where a great deal of mourning is made, the alleged result of working from 8 or 9 a.m. till 11 p.m. in the winter, when gas is necessary for many hours together. "One who works there has told me that her brain seems to get on fire before the time "for clearing comes. She used to be a bright good-tempered girl, but now she has grown so irritable "that I fear for her brain." (No. 82.)

Eyes affected.

77. I have made particular inquiries of the workpeople and others with regard to the effect of their work upon the eyes, but so far as my own observation goes,* it is among the lower class of dress-makers and seamstresses that any disorder is to be found prevailing to such an extent as to be at all characteristic of the business. Among the residents any affection of the eyes is certainly uncommon; such cases, however, do occur, and it is after some extravagantly long nights of work upon a mourning order, that they have usually developed. The case in the hospital at Cheltenham already alluded to illustrates this. (No. 95.) That of the machinist at Madame Le Jeune's (No. 29) is not conclusive, inasmuch as her sister, who had not worked, was similarly affected; and I believe that many other cases would show hereditary tendencies, if they were well examined. Among the day-workers, who from their lower social position and mode of life more nearly approach the seamstress class, there seems more tendency to affection of the eyes. (No. 184.) Still the matron of a Home in which 20 of such girls live, had had no cases come under her notice in 18 months. (No. 84.) It is probable

* Dr. Ord, who has reported on milliners, &c., to the Medical Officer of the Privy Council, expresses a similar opinion. Mr. Radcliffe (No. 413) in a letter to me on this subject says, "The almost entire absence of complaint on this head (defect of vision "among West End workers) was one of my reasons for expressing an opinion that the condition of dress-makers has improved much "within the last 20 years, since Mr. Grainger's inquiry."—H. W. L.

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that their habits, the food they eat, and the life they lead, have a greater effect than the nature of their work in this respect.

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78. At the same time it must be noticed that some mantle-makers recognize the effect of *continual* working on black as being bad for the eyes; others (No. 156) mention that white or scarlet is more trying, and observe with truth that theirs is not "niggling work" like that of shoe-binding, or fine shirt-making. It is probable that much of the dizziness spoken of is the consequence of biliousness, as H. L. suggests, speaking of her own feeling when engaged on "small-striped work." (No. 177.)

79. Upon this point, however, I prefer to direct your attention at once to the evidence of the medical gentlemen whom I consulted both in London and in the provinces. (Nos. 409, 412, 418, 419.)

80. Several distinguished oculists have recommended the use of blue tinted glass chimneys or globes, in order to correct the bad effects of gaslight on the eye. With the view of putting this suggestion to a practical test, Mr. S. Lewis,* who has throughout my inquiries been most ready to afford me all the assistance in his power, allowed me the use of one of his work-rooms. Accordingly, in a room which was lit by two single-jet gas-burners, suspended from a single "telescope" arm, blue tinted globes were substituted for those in ordinary use. One of these globes was clear throughout; the upper half of the other was "ground." Over each of them was placed a common green paper shade (white inside) which had been used with the former globes. The occupants of the room were 6 in number, and were engaged solely on evening dresses; they sat at a table (8 ft. long by 2 ft. wide) placed under the gas-burners. They considered their work to be quite as trying to the eyes as any other kind of dress-making, except *constant* working on black, and had found the glare of the gas to be very great. After the tinted globes had been in use for four successive evenings in June, I visited the room. All spoke with great satisfaction of the relief given to their eyes by the colour, while none had found the light lessened to such an extent as to interfere with their work in any way.

81. In a room where it had not been tried, doubts were expressed whether the light would be brilliant enough for black work; but one, who had been for one evening occupied in the first-mentioned room in making a body of black glacé silk, stated that the light was quite sufficient for her.†

82. The globe with the upper part of ground glass was preferred to the other, since they were able to draw the arm down nearly to a level with their heads, and thereby have their eyes still further protected, while the whole of the light from below fell directly on their work.

Exercise.

83. The absence of all exercise except on the Sunday is an evil of the season's pressure on residents, which seems very serious. It is said by some to be the fault of the girls themselves (No. 36), and indeed several have not hesitated to proclaim their preference for another half-hour of "bed" in the morning over a walk (Nos. 28, 100); in that respect perhaps they are not singular; nor can it be wondered at, when the necessary fatigue of their day's work under the present state of things is considered. In some cases, however, they are not allowed to go out even before breakfast, and the temptation of the streets is, perhaps sincerely, put forward, both in the provinces and in London, as a reason for not letting them go out in the evening. There are those, however, who, probably with greater wisdom, think that "not trusting them is the surest way of making it impossible to trust them." (Nos. 16, 75, 138, 178.) Be that as it may, it is quite a common thing for these young girls,—in the country, apprentices as young as 14 and 15; in the West End houses, girls of 17 and upwards,—to move beyond the threshold of the house but once in seven days, and if there happens to be a succession of rainy Sundays, not for weeks together. (Nos. 47, 73, 91, 97.)

Show-room.

84. I have already alluded to the effect of long standing at court trains and tulle skirts. The manager at Messrs. Shoolbred's (No. 70.) observes, that even the show-room girls, when they used to work from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., often looked very haggard when that time came; and Mr. C. Pratt, of Leamington (No. 107), finds that from 8 to 8 in the summer is quite long enough to tire them. Some have told me that they may not sit because it does not "look like business." (See No. 82.)

Sewing machines.

85. The effect of the use of the sewing machine upon the health of dress-makers and mantle-makers requires separate notice. The evidence on this point varies considerably. No doubt there is a very general impression among them that injury to health very frequently results from working at the sewing machine, even though the hours of work are less than those usually observed by other work-people in the same establishment. One, who works in a West End house, often has pains under her shoulder-blade and in her side, especially when she lies down. She suffers very much from her head; but never did so before she worked a machine. (No. 35.) "I have never suffered," says another (No. 20), "except from head-ache and eye-ache, and getting very tired. I was always delicate." Again, "It does not make me particularly ill. It hurts my chest. . . . The worst is with my eyes. I find I "can never read at all at night; my book seems to swim about." (No. 29.) "Machinists seem to "suffer more than the others from pains in the chest; they are always doctoring for that." (No. 84.) Mrs. Ladd (No. 167), an employer of mantle-makers, considers that none under 15 should work a machine, and that eight hours in the day are quite long enough for them to work. She had found it necessary to give them "porter or some such thing to keep them up," if they worked for her from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Mr. Heaselwood, another employer, thinks that seven hours are long enough. (No. 172.) A machinist at Mr. Kent's (No. 155) speaks of her hands and arms being "in a tremble" after work from 8.30 a.m. to 10 p.m., or two hours beyond the usual time. "I get very tired, and ache as if "I had been for a long walk;" she is sure that if it was protracted for several nights as late as 10 p.m., it would be very bad indeed. A mistress mantle-maker at Brighton (No. 175) said she had felt quite ill and could have cried with pain in her back after working hard from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; she admitted, however, that she was not strong naturally. So a London forewoman speaks of the health being seriously affected by it, "not only with girls of a delicate constitution, but with all of the kind which we have in "good houses, who are not strong rough girls, like factory girls, or St. Giles's girls for instance." For other remarks of this witness upon this subject I refer you to her evidence, No. 163, only observing

* Of the firm of Messrs. Lewis & Allenby.

† On a subsequent occasion the head of the room stated to me that she found she had to turn the gas on full, when working on black under the blue-tinted globes, but she had frequently had to do so when the former globes were being used.—H.W.L.

that, as she considers that the effect of the machine has been to spoil the trade, she is likely to take a prejudiced view of the question. Dress-makers, &c.

86. On the other hand, Mrs. Gilling, of Cheltenham (No. 88), gives most distinct evidence of a positive improvement in the health of girls in her employ, who had become machinists after they had been mere needlewomen. A mantle-maker in Islington (No. 171) stated to me that she was more free from head-ache, since she had worked at a machine, than when she worked on the same premises, but in another room, with her needle; and throughout my inquiry I met with similar cases. (Nos. 113a, 153a, 156, and see No. 70.) Mr. H. W. Lord. C.

87. Were my evidence on this point confined to that obtained by me from the class of machinists employed by dress and mantle makers only, I should have great hesitation in coming to a conclusion. I have, however, in my further inquiries into the use of machines in other trades, found the balance of experience so very decidedly in favour of the opinions expressed by Mrs. Gilling, as to lead me to conclude that the instances, in which injury has resulted from using the sewing machines, may be resolved into one of two classes, either the simple case of overwork and unwholesome atmosphere, or the more complicated and exceptional one, in which the anxiety of guiding an elaborate piece of mechanism, which works with great rapidity, has unduly stimulated a highly nervous temperament.

88. I have already alluded to the use of gas and steam in making cap and bonnet fronts for the wholesale trade. "Very many suffer in health from the heat and long hours combined," says a witness who speaks from an experience of five years, and was conscious of improvement in her own health since she had left a room which she considered one of the best of its kind in London: "I do think the cap and "bonnet front makers, as a rule, are not a healthy class; I should call them unhealthy." (No. 194.) In "a workroom in Red Cross Street, which was in reality no more than an ordinary dwelling room, lots "of the girls used to faint. Out Hoxton way and in Clerkenwell," said my informant, the employer himself (No. 189), "there are many such." So another (No. 198), "I was never free from head-ache. ". . . They all suffer, not only the delicate ones, except that it makes all delicate." Of another similar factory in Hoxton a witness says "every one is pale there." (No. 197.) Bonnet fronts.

VIII. Moral Condition.

89. Accurate information on the question of morals is almost unattainable; I have certainly none from which I can draw any useful conclusion. Thus much only is clear, that the day-workers, as things are, must be more exposed than residents to the temptation of the streets. Handling costly articles of attire may foster the love of dress, long confinement and wearisome labour may create the longing for amusement, but these are indirect causes, which it is scarcely profitable now to trace in their operation.

90. It must, however, be observed that the cost of necessary dress is a serious item, even to those who receive high salaries. All who see customers, the first hands, and those who are in mantle-rooms and other show-rooms, must be well dressed. Black silk is, in some cases, insisted on. One witness, who "was very economical, and could make her own," found 20*l.* the least she could "do it for in the year;" and, she continues, "many of these show-room girls, who often cannot make their own, pay nearer 40*l.* "than 20*l.*, when they wear black silk." (No. 86a.) But, with every allowance, milliners and dress-makers are certainly not provident as a class. The annual reports of the Milliners and Dressmakers' Provident and Benevolent Institution furnish a proof of this. It is, I believe, the only one in London of its kind, and has been in existence since 1849. The names upon the direction are such as should ensure confidence in its practical management. The annual expenses are under 100*l.*, and a sum of over 8,000*l.* is invested in Government stock. The annual subscription is 1*l.*, 1*l.* 5*s.*, and 1*l.* 15*s.*, for those who become members under the age of 20, 25, or 30 respectively; yet in the year 1863 it had but 128 members, only 76 of which were annual subscribers, and the total number of new members who had joined in the three previous years was 10. Cost of necessary dress.

The System of Late Hours considered.

91. The disadvantage of late hours is very generally recognized. "My own experience," says M. Thomel, "is, that if young ladies work too late, they are quite fagged and useless the next morning. It "is to the interest of all to have the hours of labour as short as is consistent with the proper carrying on "of business." This witness considers that work from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., with two hours for meals, would be a reasonable limit, "for 12 hours of work are quite enough." (No. 23.) Late hours unprofitable.

92. A similar opinion is expressed by Mr. Harrison with reference to the wholesale trade; and this is the more worthy of remark, seeing that, although the majority of the City workers, being paid by the piece may work harder than those at the West End, while they are about it, they are, on the other hand, a much stronger rougher class of girls, accustomed to hard work, and with the advantage of the air and exercise obtained in going to and from their place of work. "Last spring, when we were very much pressed "for a short time, they stayed till 11 p.m. for four or five nights in succession; but the girls could not "stand it; many did not come in till about 12 the next morning; and we found that they earned more by "the work they did in the regular hours, than when they were kept later; in other words, that they did "a greater amount of remunerative work for us and for themselves between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m., than if "they worked three hours later." (No. 199.) Several of the wholesale manufacturers in Manchester are of the same opinion, and express themselves decidedly in favour of legislative restrictions. (Nos. 201, 202, 205, 210.)

93. It seems to be generally conceded that the exigencies of even the London season do not justify a protraction of the hours of work beyond 15 in the day, including meal times; but with the examples of establishments of such high repute as those of Mrs. Murray, Madame States, and Madame Levilly, (Nos. 15, 16, 17,) where work beyond 13 hours, or 13½, is said to be very rare, it may be fairly assumed that longer hours than those can be avoided by others, who, if they have a smaller staff of assistants, have also a smaller business to employ them in. (See No. 117.) M. Levilly, who has given this matter much consideration, and was a witness before the Committee of the House of Lords in 1855, is convinced that the most fashionable houses could do their work in the season between 9 a.m. and Late hours unnecessary.

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Mr. H. W. Lord.

C.

Employers wish hours to be less.

10 p.m., and at other times between 9 and 9. Of the same opinion is another witness, whose business is of the highest class, M. Einstein (Dévy).

"I cannot see," says M. Einstein, "why young ladies should have to work the hours that men will "not, and indeed cannot, endure. . . . The only thing needed is that it should be quite general; but "that cannot be ensured by any mere moral pressure or social influence. Government must do it, "if it is to be effectual." I am confident that many employers agree with the last-named witness, and would "be glad of it, personally speaking, and be very ready to submit to it." (No. 21.) The remarks of Madame Jacobi also are very pertinent illustrations of the need of legislation and the advantage of it. "As it is, if I refuse a lady, she goes to my neighbour, who takes her order; so I cannot refuse without "displeasing her, and perhaps may lose her custom, because she thinks me disobliging. But if every "one were the same,—if all were equally prevented by the law from working more than what I "have said,—we should be all alike; and the ladies, when they know that it is necessary, would give "us a little more time; their orders would be executed quite as quickly as now. If there were a law, "then the young ladies might complain to some one, if they were overworked, and a Commissioner "would come to see about it. Now there is nothing to be done at all." (No. 24.)*

Mourning orders.

94. Of the frequency of such a pressure as that arising from mourning orders, whether in London or the country, I have no reliable means for forming an estimate. The effect of any great national loss, like that of the death of the Prince Consort, to which several witnesses refer, obviously affords no criterion of the average excess produced from such causes. On that occasion, even at Messrs. Jay's, a house where the business is limited to mourning orders, and the ordinary excess of work never carries them on longer than from 8.30 a.m. to 10 p.m., work was continued once during the whole night, and for several other nights till 12 and 1 a.m. (No. 59), while at another, a very fashionable house, work then lasted from 8 a.m. till 3 or 4 the next morning two or three times a week, and once the whole night through. (No. 55.) So at Brighton, from 8.30 to 2 a.m. on one night, and till past 12 on the night before. (No. 145.)

95. One witness states the pressure of mourning orders in a large provincial town to involve working on an average once in six months all night through. (No. 152.) Miss Weeks mentions mourning orders at Portsmouth involving work all night now and then. (No. 140.) A. M., at Exeter, speaks of working till 1 and 2 a.m. from 8 a.m. not more than twice in the season, "that would be most likely for a funeral "order." (No. 128.) So F. E., at Cheltenham, had found her eyes bad after working two whole nights on a mourning order. (No. 95.) On the other hand, Mr. Radford, who has probably the largest best-class business in Plymouth, spoke of having at the time of my visit five mourning orders in hand, and a large ball coming off; "they have for the last two or three days worked from 9 a.m. to "10 p.m., but that is quite an exceptional state of things." (No. 135.) Mr. Bedford, of Leamington, speaks of a mourning order or a ball keeping them now and then till 10 p.m. from 8 a.m. (No. 105.)

96. Such a wide difference in the alleged effect of the particular pressure of mourning orders would seem to show that there is no valid distinction to be drawn between that and any other pressure of a business, which consists in the making up of goods to order for retail customers, and that the sole question is a composite one of the length of notice given by ladies, and the number of hands kept by employers. I believe that the same remark is equally applicable to the excessive work which precedes the drawing-rooms in the height of the London season.

Drawing-room nights.

97. The great exception, even with those whose hours are otherwise comparatively moderate, is the period of the drawing-room weeks. There is something quite humiliating in the helplessness, with which many excellent persons acquiesce in the late hours at that period, as an inevitable necessity of a fashionable West End business. The simple fact is, that some from mere greed of gain, but more from a desire not to disoblige, and perhaps from the ambition of doing more than their rivals, undertake too much. This is no sudden unforeseen emergency, as is the case with mourning orders; the days appointed for drawing-rooms are known long beforehand; it would, no doubt, be far better for all concerned, if they were held much oftener than they are; but the fact of their being so few is only one of several causes, which combine to produce the extravagantly late hours, which are frequent at those times.

98. That it is such pressure as can be met by due precaution is clear from what was actually the case last season (1863) at one of the most fashionable houses, Madame States', who herself informed me that they did not work, even on a drawing-room night, after 11 p.m., their usual time for clearing. "The "only thing needed," says Mr. States, "is to have one or two more persons than are absolutely wanted." (No. 15.) Nor is it only in the large establishments, where 50 or 60 are employed, that more reasonable hours are possible even on the drawing-room nights. At Madame Le Jeune's (No. 28), which is certainly not an early house, about 20 persons are employed; there everything is said to have been finished on the night of the May drawing-room last season by half-past ten; and Mrs. Beard, who states her hours to be from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. in the season, adds, "we don't work after 10 p.m. twice in the "season, and never have; nobody need." (No. 30.) So one, who had lived for eight months through the season in a house in Berkeley Street, where 30 were employed, had never worked after 10 p.m. or before 9 a.m. (No. 43.) But ladies "cannot" make up their minds, and court dressmakers "cannot" refuse orders, and from such premises it follows that the drawing-room difficulty is insurmountable.†

Home-work.

99. It is worthy of notice that, with the exception of those portions of the manufacture of wholesale millinery to which I have alluded as involving the appliance of steam or gas to heat small hand machines, the whole work of milliners, dress-makers, and mantle-makers is such as may be, and all but the bodies of dresses very frequently is, given out to persons who work at their own homes. (Nos. 15, 30, 48, 54, &c.) Home-work, extended beyond the limits of the family, has its natural result in the middlemen, whether they manufacture for wholesale or retail trades. Those who manufacture millinery for wholesale houses usually make up their own materials, and are in this respect distinguishable from the mantle and shirt makers, who take out the material from the principal house, and return it made up.

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* See No. 63.

† See No. 87. While correcting the above remarks and evidence for the press, I have repeatedly had cases mentioned to me of work having ceased this season "an hour and more earlier than it ever has before."—H. W. L., May, 1864.

Dress-makers, &c.

100. Day-workers occasionally earn extra wages by taking work home to do at night, but such is not the case with fashionable dress-makers; with mantle-makers it is frequent.

Mr. H.W.Lord.

C.

Good effect of giving work out.

101. In several cases the practice of giving out the plainer portions of the work has had the excellent effect of enabling those who adopted it to keep their own hours of work within moderate limits, when in their opinion no other plan could have produced that result. There is, however, on the part of very many dress-makers, and especially at the West End and in old-established provincial businesses, a very strong dislike not only to giving work out, but even to employing day-workers on their premises. To this source much of the very excessive hours may be traced. The evidence of Nos. 73, 80, 152, is important on this point. It is very possible that those, who work at their own home, work late (Nos. 15, 164, 166); those who take it home after their day's work will, of course, do so. (No. 164.)

Sewing machine saves labour.

102. The introduction of the sewing machine has saved the dress-maker much of what has been called the "slavery" of the business (No. 153), as, for instance, running seams and putting on trimming. "The machine," in the words of one witness (No. 15), "does our apprentice work." Much ornamental work also, such as the braiding for skirts, jackets, mantles, and the like, is "machined." (Nos. 65, 90, 98, 125, 180.)

103. Most employers, who have a fair business, employ one or more machinists; this is so, even with the most fashionable. But the only effect in some houses has been, either to enable the employer to get through the same work as before with fewer hands, or to take in more work than before, instead of materially reducing the hours. The evidence of Mrs. Gilling (No. 88) is very conclusive as to the extent of advantage derived in all ways from a reasonable use of the sewing machine.

104. At the same time it must be observed that the sewing machine has, in a sense, created an increased demand for the results which it is capable of producing, and so far, must not be regarded as simply saving the time and labour of so many hand-workers as would formerly have been needed to produce the same results. That estimate may give an accurate measurement of the work done by a machine; but against that must be set the undoubted fact that much work is now "put in" to ordinary dresses and mantles, which would never have been done by hand.

Causes of long hours: 1. Want of system.

105. I believe the chief cause of long hours of work is to be found in the want of proper management. (Nos. 33, 54, 144, 179.) Frequently the forewoman is at fault, frequently the employer, especially when the latter has not a practical knowledge of the business; in such case either all is left to the first hand, who may be interested in getting through as much as possible, or be herself dilatory and unsystematic (Nos. 13, 30); or an experienced and considerate first hand may be forced against her better judgment to take orders, which she knows cannot be executed without working very late and long. One, who was first hand in a house, where from April to June in 1861 they were always up at 6 a.m., and never in bed before 12 at night, and "often and often later," says, "the mistress was a "milliner, and knew nothing of dress-making. I frequently told her that I must refuse orders; but "she would not hear of it, and would come up into the dress show-room to see that I did take them." (No. 39.) On the other hand it is said that some of the girls will offer to work late without any expression of desire from the employer, but merely "to curry favour," and then the rest cannot be backward. (No. 37.)

106. The first hand has no easy task in managing her second hands and assistants, who "dawdle away "their time in the morning, and are continually making mistakes, unless your eye is always on "them. . . . When the principal is first hand as well, they will often be late, because she has "to take orders and sometimes to keep her books, and therefore cannot prepare the work till late." (No. 36.)

2. Want of efficient work-people.

107. One means of reducing hours of work is, no doubt, very obvious and simple at first sight, that of employing more hands; it must, however, be recollected that this involves also acquiring additional premises; at all events, upon the view which I have taken, that these work-rooms are, in the season at least, already overcrowded. In the next place it is quite clear that it is no easy matter to get good work-women. Employers constantly assert this; keepers of registries confirm it; the better class of the employed themselves admit it. My inquiries have satisfied me that the remarks of Mr. S. Lewis (No. 58) on this point are very important and of very general application. "Some come," says Mr. Putt (No. 153), speaking of mantle-makers, "with a double-knock and a veil and parasol, who can't hem a "pocket handkerchief."

Late hours a cause as well as an effect.

108. There is probably great truth in the observation that the most common cause of late hours is "misfits." Late hours produce late hours, and this not only by mere force of habit, or even through physical prostration, though the latter is constantly recognized by employers as having that effect. The simple knowledge, that if they get fast through the work in hand they will have more to do to fill up their time, causes the girls to be somewhat less expeditious than they might be, even in the best managed and most comfortable establishments. (See Nos. 36, 40.) I take an instance of this from Messrs. Lewis and Allenby's, because I have found that all, who have been employed there, invariably use terms, which might be almost called affectionate, in speaking of their connexion with that house; yet even there one says (No. 56), very honestly, that they could often, if they liked, do by 9 p.m., what takes them till 11. The experience of Miss Griffiths (No. 48) is that very little more real work will be done in 18 hours, than could be done in 12, if the time were properly used. So at Messrs. Shoolbred's (No. 70), as much work was done in 12 hours a day last year, as had been done in 13 the year before; and Mr. and Mrs. Coombs, of Bristol (No. 118), find that the work, which is given out to be done at home, is got through much faster than the same quantity is in their own work-rooms.

Customers to be blamed.

109. It is impossible altogether to acquit the ladies, who are the customers of milliners and dress-makers, from the charge of contributing in some degree to the long hours of work. One mode in which they do so is obvious enough,—the short notice given for the completion of their orders; another is the long credit, which some ladies will have, and others will submit to. Instances of the former fault have been continually given to me, but always, on the part of employers, coupled with a very strong wish that they should not in any way form part of my evidence. In the latter case even stronger motives exist both for the secresy requested, and the expressions made use of. One witness, however, has no such motive. Miss Bramwell holds a very peculiar position, which makes her independent alike of employers and customers, and at the same time affords peculiar facilities for communications of a confidential nature both from the girls and their mistresses. To the evidence of this lady I must refer you for confirmation

Long credit

Dress-makers, &c.

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of my previous remarks. (No. 82.) She thus concludes her observations on this subject:—"I know "that one lady of title has owed her general dress-maker—not her court and fashionable dress-maker— "70*l.* for three years, and actually has not given her a single order for the whole of last year. They "often have not money enough to pay their quarter's rent, or even the day-workers at the week's end, "though hundreds of pounds are owed them."

110. It is said by some that fashionable dress-makers themselves are interested in maintaining the system of long credits, for the reason that their high charges will not then be looked into. I have, of course, had no opportunity of ascertaining the extent to which, if at all, this assertion is true; several employers, who have a first-class connexion, both at the West End and in the country, have told me that nothing would please them better than to deliver their accounts, and have them settled, every three or six months, instead of an occasional payment on account after the lapse of two or three years or more. Employers, especially when they are getting into a good connexion, are often very fearful of giving offence by sending in their accounts. "It is not," said one who had passed through that state, "the "mere risk of offending the individual customer, but our higher families are so allied together, that "if I were to ask Lady ——, for instance, to settle her bill, which has been owing for the last four "years, her married daughters and nieces and daughters-in-law would all be offended, if she took "offence, or at least would very soon be induced to think that Lady ——'s new dress-maker makes "better than I do."

111. This may be unjust or exceptional, but from whatever cause it proceeds, the fact is undisputed that very long credit is given, and one consequence is that such a system gives colour to the excuse that high rent, large expenses, and long credit render the long hours of the London season absolutely necessary in order to get through work enough to realize a sufficient profit for employers to pay their way.

Short notice.

112. The other excuse, the short notice given, is a fact of which, although I have some evidence, and that somewhat conflicting, I have received overwhelming proof, which is not available to me except as a statement on my own responsibility; I have however no hesitation in taking that responsibility upon myself.

113. Mrs. Cotton (No. 39), when first hand at a court dress-maker's, was several times asked by ladies late on Saturday night to let them have a dress home the first thing on Monday morning, and has taken orders at tea-time, 4 p.m., for a ball dress to be sent home that same night, "any time before 12 would do." "I "remember," says another first hand (No. 40), "a dress ordered at 12, fitted on at 6 p.m., finished the same "night, and sent home the first thing next day. The lady who ordered it said, 'I suppose you work "'till 11, and begin at 6 in the morning.' She did not care how long we worked." "Women are the "slave-drivers," said, of course, a male employer to me. "A lady ordered a dress last season, and was "told that they must sit up all night to make it. All she said was, 'I hope it will fit.' The girls were "so vexed." In another instance a jacket was ordered in the afternoon, to be worn at a meeting of "some *Early Closing Association*" at 2 p.m. the next day, so elaborate in its trimming as to involve the exclusive attention of several hands till past midnight. This reads almost like an invention, but it was mentioned to me with some bitterness by the person who had the order. Many of such cases, no doubt, are attributable to want of thought rather than want of feeling; many to pure ignorance; but the titled lady, who sent three times before morning service on Sunday for a dinner dress, must have had a limited wardrobe, and not much regard for the observance of the day of rest.

In wholesale business.

114. The lateness of hours in connexion with wholesale City businesses proceeds partly from the custom mentioned by Mr. Goodyear (No. 181) of dating all orders from the first day of the month in which they are given, so that the orders are given as early as possible to secure a longer credit, and thus a pressure for the first few days becomes general. Shipping orders are another source of short notice, and by consequence of long hours. (Nos. 165, 168.) These press most heavily on those who work for the middleman, and for the very simple reason that many employers in large City houses do not allow late work on their own premises; so long as the work that is pressing can be done elsewhere in time, the hours of those, who are employed upon that work, are a matter of indifference to the managers, if not to the principals, of the houses from which the work is given out. Where this is the practice, much time is often lost in carrying work to and fro, and even in waiting for it to be given out. (Nos. 166, 172, 182, 184, 198.)

Objections to legislative interference.

115. Some employers have a very strong dislike to any plan, which would put it in the power of the workpeople to leave off work at a certain time. A more general objection is that entertained to any system of inspection of "private" houses. The time and skill of from a dozen to 60 or 70 young women are so valuable as to make it worth the while of their employers to provide what, in some cases, at all events, it would be irony to call a home for them. But the external apppearance of the house is that of an ordinary private residence; there is no shop front; the rooms used for work are frequently the ordinary sitting-rooms and bed-rooms of such houses. And so one misapplied phrase is put forward to extend to a place of work, and hard work too, the immunity accorded to the dwelling-house of a private family.

Probable effect of legislative interference.

116. It is said that the result of legislative interference would be to drive the residents from these houses. This, though the less of two evils (No. 64), would be a result greatly to be regretted, for many are happy, comfortable, and kindly treated where they are. It is said, indeed, that more Homes would be established in various parts of London,—and there would be need of them, for those which exist can accommodate no more than 300 altogether. The fact, however, that all these are more or less eleemosynary institutions, would, as it seems to me, make it quite unjustifiable to legislate upon such a basis of calculation. It would be in effect to inaugurate the principle that an Act of Parliament may create a mischief, if private charity may be trusted to remedy it, and would, probably, have the effect of supplementing the salaries paid by employers, and thereby permanently reducing the price of labour. But many, who are well informed, and have given the matter much thought, do not anticipate any great or general reduction in the number of residents from the introduction of restrictive measures. M. Levilly (No. 17) thinks that "most would retain their present staff." Miss Newton (No. 87), the intelligent manager of the Dress Makers' Association, entertains a similar opinion. Miss Le Plastrier (No. 80), the author of letters to the *Times* in 1853, and subsequent writings on the subject, herself for several years an employer, and others who speak

from an experience of some years as first hands in fashionable houses, are very confident that girls of the class, of which residents now consist, will not be obtained by employers, except on the condition of having residence provided for them; and that it is so essential to employers to have girls of that class about them, that they will be content to keep them on those terms. Indeed, the most vehement opponent of any interference almost destroys the force of his previous argument by referring afterwards to the inconvenience felt in Paris from the existence of a general system of day-workers. (No. 15.) Dress-makers, &c. Mr. H.W.Lord. C.

117. The dislike to any system of inspection is very natural, and is found in its most genuine form where, indeed, there is least need for such a system,—where the kindness of treatment, and the attention to little trifling comforts, make the privacy of the establishment more than nominally home-like. The readiness, with which I have been shown over such private houses, especially in London, the offer to show me the bedrooms being in several cases made without any suggestion on my part of a desire to see them, leads me to think that such dislike would soon disappear. I believe that, if inspection were judiciously and delicately carried out, employers who now have the greatest claim to exemption, would be then most ready to submit to an ideal annoyance for the sake of those, who suffer from a very real grievance in establishments far different from their own.

PART II.—ON SEAMSTRESSES, BOOT-MAKERS, GLOVERS, &c.

118. In this second part of my report, I propose to call your attention to the occupations of young women and female children in the various employments, which I have already alluded to as cognate to those of the mantle-makers, dress-makers, and milliners. In some of them boys as well as girls are employed, but I have thought it inexpedient to complicate my subject with any reference to the evidence relating to males, and purpose for the present to confine my remarks wholly to the other sex. (See Evidence, p. 145.)

119. These may be conveniently arranged in the two following divisions* :—

I.—Tailors, shirt-makers, collar-makers, ladies' outfitters (under clothing, baby linen, &c.), stay-makers, skirt (crinoline) makers, neck-tie, hair-net, belt, and brace makers, &c.

II.—Hatters (including cloth and boys' fancy cap makers), bonnet (straw and willow) and bonnet-shape makers, boot and shoe makers, and glovers.

120. From the Census returns for 1861 it appears that nearly 300,000 females in England and Wales find employment in these trades; more than 44,000 of them being under 20, and more than 10,000 † under 15 years of age.

121. Among all in the first division the sewing machine is very generally used for every kind of work, except the very high priced, the only articles, in the manufacture of which it is inapplicable, being "skeleton" skirts, and hair-nets; belts and braces also are still hand-made. By those in the second division it is only partially adopted in certain portions of the work, and by bonnet-makers it is not used at all. The "closing" and ornamental work of "uppers" in the boot trade, the binding of felt hats, the stitching of cloth chacos, and the ornamental work on them, and on "fabric" or stuff gloves, are commonly "machined." Stuff gloves are sewn, and I have seen even leather gloves of a stout material both sewn and ornamented, by the sewing machine. Use of sewing machine.

122. All these occupations are carried on more or less in the homes of the workpeople, and in some cases to a far greater extent than in any place which can be called a factory. The usual course still is to collect a number of sewing machines in one building belonging to the principal employer, or to one who takes the work out from him, and to distribute the work, after it has been machined, to be finished by the hand in the dwelling places of the needlewomen. It is however to be observed that the machine is so generally appreciated, and has now been brought to a price within the reach of so many, that not a few workpeople have machines of their own, and are thereby not only placed in their former position of being able to put together the whole garment, completing it throughout, but frequently do the "machining" at a small charge for their neighbours, who also take work home but are not able to afford to buy or hire a machine themselves. Home work.

123. This state of things varies with the extent to which, and the period during which, sewing machines have been adopted in particular trades. In the boot trade according to some witnesses, the labour-tide seems to have reached its highest in the factory system, and to be now receding towards the homes of the journeymen, or at all events the small rooms of "chamber" or "garret-masters," where the numbers are limited to four or five machinists and as many hand-workers. (Nos. 301, 310, 346, 367.) Others, however, are of a contrary opinion. (Nos. 311, 321, 356.) In the glove trade, on the other hand, such sewing machines as are used are to be found exclusively on the premises of large employers; while tailors and shirt-makers appear under conditions so varied as almost to defy any generalization respecting them. So far as I have been able to form any opinion, the rental of premises required for work-rooms seems to be the element which ultimately determines this point, and consequently it is in the metropolis that the old system of giving work out to small employers and families has been longest retained, or earliest returned to. Tendency to factory system.

* The evidence relating to the 1st division has been chiefly collected in London, Bristol, Chatham, Manchester, Portsmouth, and Plymouth : the metropolis has furnished me with evidence under all heads in the 2nd division, but those of "glovers," which I obtained in Worcester, Yeovil, and the neighbourhood. From Leicester, Northampton, Norwich, and Stafford, I have much information as to the boot trade : in Salford, Stockport, and Oldham, most of my evidence as to the hat trade was procured.—H.W.L.

† This is no doubt below the mark. In many cases the children who work at home would not be returned as exercising any special trade. I give below the numbers of female operatives in the four of the above-mentioned trades in which they are principally employed. The table is compiled from the Census returns for 1861 :—

Occupation.	All ages.	Under 20.	Under 15.
Shoemakers - - - - -	119,007	10,892	2,646
Shirt-makers and seamstresses -	76,015	10,791	2,014
Tailors - - - - - -	27,386	5,759	863
Glovers - - - - - -	23,605	6,832	2,661

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124. In many provincial towns, and country places, where no such thing as an organized assemblage of needlewomen to work in one building for fixed hours had until late years ever been heard of, a revolution in the manners and habits of the people is being silently effected. The amount of capital sunk in sewing machines is of itself some stimulus to production. The extraordinary and still increasing demand in foreign, and more especially colonial, markets for garments of English manufacture causes that amount to be constantly progressive. It may indeed be doubted whether, after many women have learned the use of the machine, the comparatively high rate of wages will have continued, and habitual improvidence have ceased, long enough to enable each family to have their invested capital in the shape of a sewing machine. It is however already no unusual case for sewing machines to be hired, either from the maker's agent or from the employer, at a weekly rent by the workwoman, who works at home. I have not heard of rent being paid by those who work upon the premises of their employers, but it is probable that the now numerous employers, who have spacious premises and valuable machines, would prefer to retain them, and have the latter, whether rented or not, at all events used under their superintendence. As it is, in large factories, one or more skilled mechanics are constantly employed in looking after the machines, and only the most skilful women are trusted even to oil them.

Steam power.

125. The application of steam as the motive power of sewing machines has not yet met with much favour;* several employers have adopted and abandoned it, the difficulty of checking the speed, and the injury caused to the lighter machines by the constant shaking, being the chief causes of objection. At the Army Clothing Depôt however this difficulty would seem to have been overcome. If the plan there adopted, and improvements on it, be generally applicable, there can be no doubt of the development of the factory principle of work in all directions. Even without this I cannot but think that the whole course of trade, except that concerned in the production of the very cheapest articles, tends towards the collection of large numbers in one place of work.

I. Age.—Sex.

Age.

126. Some few have begun to use the sewing machine in a factory at as early an age as 11, and even 10, but it is not common for any to be machinists before they are 14 years old. Girls of 10 and 11 frequently assist machinists by preparing their work and winding the thread for them; in one case a girl had begun at 8 years old. The introduction of the sewing machine seems to have considerably affected the employment of children in the boot trade, by enabling two or three machinists, of 14 or 16 years old, with the aid of one little girl of 9 or 10, to do as much "stabbing" as 30 children would have done under the old system. (Nos. 321, 342.)

127. At home children of 8 and 7 help their mothers to hem shirts, to stitch cloth caps, and neck-ties, to sew tapes on crinoline skirts: one began to make boot linings at 6 years old, another made fringe trimming at 4; children of 5 and 6 work on belts and braces, at 7 on chenille nets, and boys buckram caps. This, though home work, is not mere family work; the child of a neighbour is constantly had in to help; some will hire two or three such, and usually keep them for the 12 hours at work. Among glovers in the Yeovil district and in Worcestershire, children of 8 and 9 are frequently employed, some at even 7 years of age, either at home or with three or four others working for a mistress.

128. At one work-place in London two children of 7 years old had been employed to make fancy straw edgings for bonnets. Here 20 or 30 persons were sometimes employed, but as a rule, where more than four or five are employed, it is rare for any child under 9 to be found, and few are under 10.

Sex.

129. In most of the large factories visited by me all the workpeople have been females, but at some wholesale tailors I have found several men working with them. In the small rooms of the journeymen tailors, and the "garret-masters" in the boot trade, this is common, and where, as frequently happens, they are not all members of one family, the same, or probably greater, dangers arise than those which are said to exist, where greater numbers congregate. On the premises of master tailors in the retail trade none but males are employed. It is chiefly in the wholesale and slop trade that females are employed to make trousers and coats, their "legitimate" employment in the ordinary tailor's business being solely waistcoat making.

130. In most of the other trades with which I am now concerned females are exclusively employed, except for cutting out, and even when that is not so, as in the hat,† the bonnet, and the glove trades, the occupations of the two sexes are so distinct as practically to keep them apart.

II. Number.

Number.

131. In large clothing factories, under the entire or partial control of the wholesale dealer, 70 and 80 are continually employed; at the Axe Brand, Chatham, there are as many as 100 machinists alone. Smaller employers out of London, who take work out from wholesale London houses, have often 40 or 50 when they are busy. Even in Whitechapel from 12 to 20 persons are not unfrequently employed on the premises of one person.

132. So I have found in London factories from 50 to 150 and 200 females making collars, shirts, ladies' underclothing, baby linen, neck-ties, chenille nets, and such things. At a stay factory in Portsea 60, at another in London 110 were employed, at a third in Bristol as many as 300, nearly half of whom were machinists. One crinoline factory in London employed 150, and a baby-linen house at times over 100. In many boot factories 80 or 100 are employed: one at Norwich has 300; another at Leicester 400. At a hat factory in Salford more than 70 women were employed, while at Messrs. Christy's, at Stockport, more than 100 were girls under 18. In the London hat trade few females work on the premises, but willow bonnet and bonnet-shape makers in London employ 30 and 40 persons and in one case 100 on their own premises.

133. In nearly all these instances, which I have enumerated, there are also many small journeymasters and mistresses employing from 6 to 18 persons on their own premises. These sometimes manufacture

* Mr. Crick's boot factory at Leicester, and Messrs. Ryland's warehouse in Manchester, are the only private establishments in which I have found steam power applied for this purpose: there are one or two more in the latter city.

† "Planking," which is hereafter noticed, is for the most part home-work.

for sale, but more commonly make up the material, which they take out from some wholesale house. The employer of 100 hands in "bonnets" on his own premises employs three times as many at their own dwellings. At Messrs. Holloway's clothing factory, Stroud, 150 were on the premises, and the work given out employed several hundred more. Many still give out the whole or the bulk of their work, having the material cut out on the premises, and sent away to the suburbs and country places to be made up.

134. But this is the case to a still greater extent where, as for instance, in the clothing, the shirt, and the stay trades, what is done in the factory is only the "machining," the "finishing" being done "out." In shirt making especially, the ordinary course is for the front, collar band, and wristband to be machined in the factory, after which those parts are distributed with the rest of the material for the body to be put together, and to have the button holes made and the buttons sewn on. Each shirt thus passes through several hands, and the workwoman who is called the shirt "maker" usually does no more than put together the various portions of which the garment is composed. In the boot trade the "uppers," made by females in factories, are in all but a very few cases given out to men to have the soles put on. Ladies' under-clothing (other than skirts and stays), baby linen, and neck-ties are still for the most part made at the homes of the workpeople; as also are boys' fancy caps, cloth caps, belts, braces, leather and carpet slippers, and similar articles.

Proportion of machinists to hand-workers.

135. The proportion of hand-workers employed for each machinist varies not only in different trades, but in the same trade, in the same locality, and at work of the same quality, to a degree which would be astonishing, were it not that all manufactures in which the sewing machine has been adopted are even yet in a state of transition. At the Army Clothing Depôt 8 hand-workers are employed to every machinist, when they are "on great coats," and 12 when "on trousers." At other clothing establishments the proportion varies from 3 to 5 or 6.

136. Stay makers reckon two of three needlewomen to each machinist; of five persons who make ladies' under-clothing two will be machinists. In boot factories the proportion is 3 to 2, 2 to 1, or 4 to 1; while in the shirt department of the Army Clothing Depôt, after trying various numbers, from 22 downwards, they finally determined that the proportion of two hand-workers to each machinist was on the whole the best.

137. Some difference of opinion exists as to the extent to which, if at all, the use of machines has reduced the number of persons employed in the various trades above mentioned. The observations of Mr. Gibbons (No. 245) and of Mr. W. Thomas (No. 252), with reference to this point, are worthy of attention. It should, however, be remarked, that the practical experience of persons in the position of Mrs. Joseph, of Portsea, or Mrs. Caple, of Plymouth, (Nos. 241, 242,) is not always in accordance with the views of employers on this point. But there is, at all events, no doubt as to this, that, in the words of the latter, "It enables those who have them to earn a living, which none could at their "needles without slaving before."

III. Hiring.—Wages.

Hiring.

138. The little girls who assist the machinists are often their relatives, when this is not so they are commonly hired and paid by them. There seems to be no regular system of apprenticing in any of these trades, so far as females are concerned, except perhaps the boot trade. Most of the older ones are piece-workers, whether machinists or not. The workpeople in no case reside on the premises where they work, except so far as they may be members of a family taking work home.

139. The name of apprentice is however still maintained in many, and an agreement in the nature of an apprenticeship for periods varying from three and six months to two and three years is in some cases entered into. Shirt makers at Portsmouth, for example, take one or two and sometimes more, paying them a small sum weekly, "if they have any work to give them, they do it, if not they stop at home; "they never live with them." (No. 241.) So in the outfitting work at Plymouth, both shirts and clothes, many take two or three girls of about 14 as apprentices for three years, paying them 1*s.* a week for the first year, 2*s.* for the second, and 3*s.* for the third. One witness was apprenticed for 12 months to a waistcoat maker, for whom she used to work all night through once a week, she had 6*d.* given her on those occasions, but no other payment. (No. 286.) At some boot factories machinists are often apprenticed at 14 or 15 for two or three years, and receive 5*s.*, 7*s.*, and 9*s.* a week, as they advance during that time; it is said that in some cases they are bound to the foreman of the room, but in general the machinist either learns of the machine maker for a small premium, or gives her work for a few months in a factory in lieu of premium, and in some instances pays a gratuity to the person there who instructs her. At Messrs. Christy's hat factory in Stockport the girls are not apprenticed, but pay a small premium to the women who teach them, while at the same time they earn something for their work.

140. Children who help bonnet-shape and willow bonnet makers are hired and paid by those whom they assist, some are called apprentices, and give their time for three months in return for being taught, but pay no premium. Where small employers take apprentices, a premium is paid if they go for six months, but nothing if for a year.

141. In the rare cases in which cloth and boys' fancy caps are made in workrooms, two or three girls of 9 or 10 are hired by each workman to help him.

Wages.

142. With regard to wages, it is very difficult to arrive at any general conclusion. In popular statements the quality of the work, the locality of the place of work, and the capacity of the worker, in each case equally essential elements, are, one or more of them, constantly disregarded. It is often assumed that the cheaper the work, the less remunerative it is to the worker. This is so far from being the case, that when, as is the general practice, work is paid for by the piece, many of the workpeople have of their own accord expressed to me their preference for working on the lower of two low priced articles, on the ground that the higher priced article required so much more time for its completion, to cause less to be earned in the same hours at such work, than at a kind which could be "run up fast."

143. In all these trades the general practice is to pay by the piece, whether the work be done at home or in a factory. The children, however, whether they help machinists and others in a regular workroom, or a neighbour in her dwelling-room, are necessarily paid a weekly wage. Basters of 11 and 12 in a clothing factory at Rochester have 2*s.* and 2*s.* 6*d.*; at Stroud, 1*s.* 6*d.* and 1*s.* Helpers of that age in stay, skirt, and boot factories, get from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.* and 5*s.* a week; at a bonnet-shape factory in London

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some had 6*s.* and 7*s.*, and one who was only 10 earned more than 5*s.* a week. "Lashers and piecers off" in the hat trade at Stockport have 1*s.* 9*d.* and 2*s.* 6*d.* a week as half-timers.

144. Shirt makers in the country round Portsmouth have sometimes one or two little girls, apprentices in name, to whom they pay 6*d.* a week for the first two months or so, and 2*s.* a week for some time afterwards. Children of 9 and 10 years old, who help glovers in the country, have often only 9*d.* a week; as they grow older they have more, some 1*s.* 6*d.* and 2*s.*, but several had received only 1*s.* 3*d.* a week at 14. In the belt and brace trade in London I found children of 7 and 8 earning 6*d.* a week, and at 13, 1*s.* 9*d.* This is usually home work, and is poorly paid throughout; a girl of 20 in one case was paid only 2*s.* 6*d.* a week by the woman in whose room she worked; but another, who was only 10, earned 1*s.* 8*d.* a week at piece-work.

145. Chenille netters at about 10 have 1*s.* 6*d.* and 2*s.* a week; they are soon able to "get on piece-work," and at 11 or 12 some earn 5*s.* a week. Neck-tie ends are hemmed by girls of 11 and 12 in factories; these are paid 3*s.* and 3*s.* 6*d.* a week.

146. In some provincial towns and in small places in London, machinists are paid by time; at Gosport (clothing factory), 7*s.* 6*d.* and 8*s.* 6*d.*; at Manchester (stay and skirt factory), 5*s.* 6*d.* and 6*s.*; at Plymouth and Norwich (boot and shoe factory), 10*s.*, and girls of 14 and 15, 4*s.* and 5*s.* a week. But they are more commonly paid, as hand-workers are, by the piece. In all these trades machinists frequently earn from 12*s.* to 15*s.*, and vary within limits as wide as from 5*s.* to 30*s.* The wages of adult hand-workers may be stated generally as varying from 6*s.* to 18*s.* a week. Where they earn less, it is almost invariably home work. The evidence of a witness (No. 220), who was working at her own home in Whitechapel, may be taken by one, who might distrust the statements of employers, as a fair independent proof of what may be earned, even at slop trade. Her mother took out work from a small master who "re-made" cast-off garments, and she states that by the help of a machine, which she worked herself, and three hand-workers, 12 pairs of trousers, at 10*d.* a pair, could be done in a day of 14 hours. This, if equally divided, would give 2*s.* 6*d.* a day, or 15*s.* a week to each; but inasmuch as the machinist has always a higher pay than hand-workers, 13*s.* to each day worker, and 21*s.* to the machinist would more correctly represent the proportionate earnings. It is true that these people did not put their work wholly aside at meal-times, and worked at least two hours more than those who work in wholesale houses usually do; but it is easier, with such an instance in view, and especially considering the class of work, to understand how a girl of 16 can earn 23*s.*, and a girl of only 13, 10*s.* a week by working a sewing-machine between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., allowing an hour and a half for meals. As a rule, wage books in factories, when work is limited to 10½ hours in the day, show hand-workers earning their 6*s.*, 8*s.*, and 12*s.*, and machinists their 9*s.*, 12*s.*, 15*s.*, and 18*s.* a week.

147. I believe that most wholesale houses pay a fair price to all whom they employ directly. It is when work passes through several hands, each of which is to take its share of profit, while only the last does the work, that the pay which reaches the workwoman is miserably disproportioned to the price paid by the purchaser for the manufactured article. I have had personally so many opportunities of inspecting wage books in cases where, even had it been worth while to "cook" accounts for me, my unexpected visit made such a proceeding impracticable, that I am inclined to adopt the statement of a lady, whose experience and kindness equally entitle her to credit, and say that most cases of distress, if properly sifted, are found to arise from want of energy or from inefficiency. (No. 86a.)

148. No doubt many persons earn a miserable pittance, especially in the shirt and collar trade, and such as belt and brace makers; shirt makers have told me of earning their 8½*d.* and 9*d.* a day in no complaining spirit: "I get 3*s.* and 4*s.* a week oftener than 2*s.* 6*d.*," said one (No. 165) disposed to make the best of it. Gloving women also rarely make more than 4*s.* or 5*s.* a week. This however is all home work. "All poorly paid work," observed the manager of a large collar factory, "is home work and "not factory work." (No. 247.) This I believe is so. From the evidence of the work-people at their own homes it appears that in the worst paid branches of needlework, except perhaps brace making, a workwoman, of average ability and industry, earns from 4*s.* to 6*s.* a week, if she is well supplied with work, reckoning her day at 12 hours with time for meals. Thus much I think is clear, that in trades of this class home work is as a rule the least profitable; partly because more time is wasted, partly because the cheapest kind of work is most readily trusted out of the employer's custody. The result is that less is earned in long hours at home than in short hours in a workroom.

149. The scarcity of good hands, the general ignorance, and inefficiency of those who propose to earn their living by plain needlework, are very serious matters, from a social point of view; and the complaints are not limited to employers. (See No. 251.)

150. With these general statements I must content myself and refer you for further information on particular trades to the statements to be found throughout the evidence. I may, however, observe that the adult females employed in some of these trades as hand-workers, who do not use the needle, the "fitters" in the boot trade, "plankers" in the hat trade, ironers in the clothing, shirt, and collar trades, for instance, usually earn a higher wage than the average needlewomen; with chenille netters and belt makers this is not the case. In all these occupations it is the want of continuous employment, the alternations between very busy times and very dull times, rather than the low rate of wage, which causes competent work peopleto suffer.

IV. Hours of Work.

Factory Work.

Clothiers.

151. In large manufactories of cloth garments the ordinary hours of work are seldom more than 12 in the day; in London warehouses they are frequently less. In Manchester, however, a girl of 13 had worked often from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. (No. 223.) As the scale of employment is descended, the supply of work becomes more irregular, and consequently, while it lasts, the hours are longer. Thus at one place in Chatham, where very little work was going on when I visited it, they had worked for three nights in the previous week from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. (No. 228.) At an army contractor's two years ago work had been continued from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. several nights a week for months; and at another similar place from 8.30 a.m. to 10 p.m. every night in a week but one, on which they went on all the night. (Nos. 212a. b.)

Stays, Skirts, &c.

152. The hours in shirt and collar factories are much the same as those which prevail among wholesale clothiers. London stay makers work from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. at three periods of the year for a fortnight or a month at most. Those are said to be the extreme hours of that trade; but one witness had worked

for a whole week from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. at a stay factory in Manchester. (No. 258a.) Skirt (crinoline) makers in some cases (No. 259) have worked till 12 at night in London factories, and in Manchester work from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. was frequent only a few years ago (No. 264); one there had sewed tucks at 16 years old from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. for three weeks together. (No. 258.) But in both places it is rare to work more than 13 hours in the day, including meal times, and the usual hours are less than 12.

153. In several boot factories in Stafford it is no uncommon thing "to make 7 days in 6; that is, 14 hours "a day for 5 days," for 3 or 4 weeks at a time (Nos. 359–361); at one in Norwich, "all were knocked "up" by working every night for a fortnight from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. (No. 349); and at another they worked from 8 a.m. to 9 and 10 p.m. for 6 months together (No. 350). In London boot factories the hours seldom exceed 11 in the day; in one, however, 3 or 4 years ago, work had gone on from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. during the summer half of the year (No. 308). Boots.

154. With willow-bonnet makers in factories 13 hours is the extreme; females who work at hat manufactories in the north not unfrequently, in the spring, work for 14 hours a day, from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.; this is also the case in summer with the machinists, who work in glove factories in the district of Yeovil; these, however, in some places take three hours in the day for their meals. Bonnets, Hats, Gloves.

155. At small workrooms, and at home, the hours are often longer. One witness, a trouser-maker, whose usual hours, when there is work to be done, are from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., works on Thursdays till 12 and 1 a.m., and "pretty often all night." (No. 220.) Another states that 16 and 18 hours is frequent with those who work at home. (No. 215.) Shirt makers often work from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. in summer (No. 238); 5 or 6 skirt makers in a garret in Manchester, girls of 17, worked from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. generally, till 10 p.m. sometimes (No. 263). So in the boot trade the hand-workers for a woman, who takes out "uppers," work from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., the machinists going on only from 9 to 9, except her own daughter, who had last year worked from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. every day but Saturday from February to October. (No. 308, and see Nos. 301, 368.) Two sisters at Norwich, girls of 18, who work their own machines, and employ 6 or 7 fitters to help them, often work during the 3 summer months from 4 a.m. to 7 p.m. (No. 353.) A shoe-binder, aged 14, "often works, when we are busy at home, from "6 a.m. to 9 p.m." (No. 281.) Another girl, aged 13, who helps her father (No. 309), works from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. often. So again it is not uncommon for those who make ladies' underclothing to work half the night through. (No. 251.) Garret and Home work.

156. This is the case more particularly, when workpeople are allowed to take work home with them, after their day's work in the factory is over. A chenille-net maker whose hours are from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., after stating that she gives her hands work to take home which shall last till 8.30 p.m., continues, "Some of mine have earned 15*s.* (a week), they would have to work at home late for that, perhaps till "2 or 3 a.m., for they will work much more slowly, as they get more tired; I know our work takes "double the time after we light up." (No. 274.) A neck-tie maker, whose hours at her place of work were from 9 to 9, often takes work home four nights out of the six, "and till 4 a.m. often enough "have I gone on at home." (No. 286.) So in the slop-trade, "we don't go on more than the 12 hours "here, but they are often working for 15 hours and more, for they take work home." (No. 216.)

157. Some work, belt and brace making especially, is so badly paid for that the workpeople are obliged to take it home, because they cannot earn enough in the ordinary hours of many London warehouses, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. (No. 246). It is among these and other poorly paid workpeople that children's hours of work at home, and in small work places, are long; the evidence taken by me at the night school in Golden Lane shows a number of little girls from 7 to 13 years of age all working at least 12, some 13, hours a day, and several 14 hours on the alternate days, Saturday as well as others, so as to enable them to come to the school on the other days, when they worked *only* 12 hours. (Nos. 275–282.)

158. It seems quite a common thing at Yeovil for the children, who work at home or three or four together for a mistress, to work at 8 and 9 years old from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Some have worked longer, especially at home; one of 14 often worked from 6 a.m. to 12 at night (No. 374), and another, who was only 9, and had been two or three years at it, had worked all one night, and from 6 or 7 a.m. to 11 and 12 p.m. on other nights in the same week. (No. 375.) When they work for a mistress, they are usually "tasked," or have so much work given them to get through in their day. It is said that they may go, when this is done. If so, the amount given would seem to be calculated to last 14 hours in the hands of a child of ordinary application and ability. This is acknowledged to be unnecessary. One witness, who herself has had four or five girls at a time, thinks that all the work that is wanted would be got through between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m., but the same evil exists here as that which I had occasion to notice in a former report with regard to fustian cutters; two or three days are wasted at the beginning of the week,* and consequently many at the end work "half the night, and all night "too sometimes." (No. 372.) At Worcester and Evesham some children had begun to sew welts at 8 or 9, one at 7, years of age, but they rarely work longer than 11 or 12 hours a day. (Nos. 397–401.) Glovers.

V. Meal-times.—Treatment.

159. Tea is usually taken on the premises where they work; whether they go home for dinner depends on the distance. An hour is usually allowed for that meal in factories, but at home and in small workplaces all meals are commonly taken while they are working, if there is any need for haste. A trouser maker in Whitechapel says, "We are not two hours in a week away from work for our meals." (No. 220.) In some establishments no meal is allowed after the 5 o'clock tea, although the work may be continued till 11 p.m. (No. 212 b.) When the ordinary hour for leaving off is 7 p.m., a short time, a quarter of an hour or more, is generally allowed for tea; but at some places where the usual hours are from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. no time is given for tea, unless they work later than 7. In one case, a boot factory at Norwich, the workwomen had nothing to eat after their dinner at 1 p.m., when working till 9 and 10 p.m., unless they brought something to eat at their work. (No. 350.) The hasty manner in which the glove makers at Yeovil frequently swallow their meals, and the habit, even among females, of taking beer or other stimulants, in the place of substantial food, to save time are specially noticed by Dr. Tomkyns (No. 426) as productive of bad results. At Stoke, where the factory hours in summer are 14 in the day, an hour is taken for each of the three meals. Meal-times

* See also Nos. 274, 296, as to bonnet shapes and chenille nets.—H. W. L.

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C. Treatment.

160. I have not met with any complaints of serious ill-treatment. One witness speaks of its being more than the children's lives were worth to look up, if a stranger entered the room of a glove mistress at Yeovil, and another mistress at Worcester has a character for "thumping, if they don't attend" (Nos. 374, 397); but I believe cases of cruelty to be very rare.

VI. State of Place of Work.

State of place of work.

161. In the case of manufactures, which are carried on by identical processes in the homes of the workpeople, in the ordinary dwelling-house room of the middleman, and in the large factory of the warehouseman, it is impossible to make any general statement as to the condition of workrooms. Even in spacious rooms, where 60 or 100 might otherwise work without injury, effective ventilation is still very uncommon. In one newly built clothing factory in the country the architect had taken more than the usual precautions to ensure by means of small perforations behind the skirting board a supply of fresh air to a spacious room on the ground floor, and open gratings had been placed in the ceiling so as to allow the foul air to pass through an upper room of the same size, which was excellently ventilated by shafts in the roof. Yet the lower room, at the time of my visit, was offensively close from the simple cause that the workpeople in the upper room had been allowed to throw down the garments as they finished them so as entirely to cover up the gratings from below.

162. Many large rooms have no contrivance for ventilation beyond windows, some of which will open,* and here and there a grating in the wall usually stuffed up with rags. In such, the number of cubic feet per head, when the full complement of hands is present, varies from 210 to 240. On the other hand there are large factories, especially some of recent construction, in which proper ventilation has been secured, a good supply of water laid on, and decent water-closets provided; the walls and ceilings are whitewashed once or twice a year, and the floors scrubbed once a week.

163. In smaller places defective ventilation is universal. Many of them are sleeping rooms as well as workrooms, and this not only in the east end of London. "Frequently as many as five or six persons "will be employed by one man in one room, which serves for the sleeping room of the family as well "as the general workroom . . . both sexes working together. In fact two out of three workplaces at "the West end, even where they are on the premises of the master, are simply wretched." And again "there is nothing of that kind" (water-closets, washing apparatus, &c.,) "in the private houses, "where they usually work, seldom even pure water." (No. 221.)

164. The state of workrooms among the small middlemen, and in the dwellings of the workpeople, in the Shoreditch and Whitechapel districts is too well known to require remark at any length from me. Apart from sanitary questions, nothing can well be imagined more destructive of all sense of decency and self respect than the greasy walls, the reeking atmosphere, and filthy dress which appear to characterize the small slop trade of that locality. The worst workroom in the worst establishment having any pretensions to be called a factory is, so far as my experience goes, superior to the home of these people.

165. So also rooms in the low parts of Plymouth, where four or five, and even nine or ten shirtmakers work together, are described as being very dirty and small; "You can scarcely breathe in them." (No. 244.) I have myself seen in London 30 or 40 collar makers working in very small, crowded, and dirty apartments. Crinoline skirt makers are better off, as the large frames or blocks, on which the "skeleton" skirts are made, and the others "steeled," take up much space. In one case an employer, who showed me with some pride the very airy and clean workrooms in which his skirts were made, did not appear to realize the painful contrast afforded by the collar makers employed in his own premises in another street.

166. Boot and shoe manufacturers, staymakers, hatters, and straw and willow bonnet makers often work in very close and unwholesome places, even where 40 or 50 persons are employed in the aggregate on the premises.

167. In all these cases the use of the sewing machine tends to increase the bad effect of overcrowded rooms, by causing an excessive consumption of gas when the days are short; in some places gas is economized, and so far, health protected, by turning two machines back to back and having one gas jet between them, but the ordinary rule is for each machine to have a separate gas jet. The jet, so far as I have seen, commonly has no chimney, and very rarely a screen or shade. The effect of entering a low-pitched workroom, where 30 or 40 machinists are working under such conditions, at as early an hour as half-past 5 p.m. in the month of November is almost overpowering. From my own experience of the particular workroom I can well believe that the account given by the witness No. 38 is by no means an over statement.

168. I have selected from my notes of different trades some dimensions † of workrooms of a class intermediate between the factory and the dwelling-room. They are typical of the very numerous cases in which the common sitting-rooms or bed-rooms of a small private residence have been appropriated solely to purposes of work; a state of things, even now, not wholly confined to small employers.

Occupation.	Locality.	Number of Persons.	Cubic Feet per Head.
Tailor	Whitechapel	13	70
Chenille-net maker	Cripplegate	10	72
Boot-finisher	Leicester	13	73
Boot-closer	City Road	10	83
Bonnet-maker	Goswell Road	9	85
Boot-closer	Norwich	24	90
Shirt-maker	Hoxton	10	90
Tailor	Chatham	30	108
Hatter	Southwark	13	176

* In one case an employer, proud of the size of his room, observed that sufficient ventilation was obtained from the windows, which were very large. We tried to open four in succession, but the bolts were rusted and immovable.—H. W. L.

† These rooms are rarely more than 8½ feet high; several visited by me were only a few inches more than 7.

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VII. Nature of Occupation.

169. The work of the machinist, so far as the purpose of this inquiry is concerned, varies very little in the different occupations in which the machine is used. In the hat trade the sewing machine is used only for felt hats; the sewing of the silk into the shape for blocking, the lining, binding, and fastening the inside band, in the case of the ordinary silk hat, is all handwork of women seldom much under 18 years of age. Tailors, staymakers, and boot makers as a rule use heavier machines than shirt and collar makers. Sewing Machines.

170. Wherever machines are used, the younger ones usually baste the work, and otherwise prepare it for the machine by lightly tacking it together. They also wind the thread on reels, sew tapes on skirts, put in the pockets and linings of trousers, and help with their needle in many other ways. In some clothing factories they have to press the seams, but I have not found any using a heavy iron for that purpose, or subjected to the great heat of the regular ironing room.

171. The labour of pressing is considerable, irons being often 8 lbs. in weight. The heat from the stoves in the ironing room is also very great, and when, as is commonly the case among "small employers," there is but one room for all purposes of work, this contributes much to the general unhealthiness of the place. It is needless to remark how much worse that becomes, when the workroom is likewise the only sleeping apartment of those who occupy it. Ironing.

172. The turning thick trousers inside-out for the purpose of ironing, is noticed as being very fatiguing to the ironers, and the lime dust, which is driven out of the common "native" moleskin, while it undergoes this process, is said to make them very thirsty (No. 225); I have myself seen this dust lying quite thickly in an ironing room, which was well ventilated, and the women's dresses were as white as millers'. In many places, however, each person irons her own work; at the establishment, to which I last alluded, the ironers were a distinct body.

173. Among glovers a peculiar mode of finishing is adopted called ironing; the iron is in the shape of a hand, and is commonly heated in a fire, after which it is fixed at the edge of a table, at an angle of about 60° with the surface, over which it inclines; the finisher, frequently a young woman of 16 or 17, stands at the table and draws the glove over the iron, powdering it with French chalk, which she rubs in with a soft pad. Mr. Seaward's plan (No. 378) of heating hollow hands with steam seems to lessen the fatigue of the finisher, and avoid the heat caused by the fire in the room and the nature of the operation.

174. The ironing room in collar factories is generally separate from the other workrooms, when both are on the same premises, but in many cases, if not in most, the collars, which are kept in stock unwashed, are "got up" off the premises, as they are required.

175. In this manufacture the material is first damped, the collar and band are then cut by means of a knife and a block, a dozen at a time: after being dried they come into the hands of the needlewomen; one turns the edges in, a second tacks them lightly, a third fastens the band on, a fourth puts the button-holes in, and a fifth does the machine work for the finishing and ornamental work. In shirt making also the material is cut out on the premises of the wholesale manufacturer, even though it is distributed many miles away to be put together. Collars, &c.

176. Children cut the willow cloth into strips for willow bonnet makers and double each strip; those who help bonnet-shape makers sew the wire round the crowns, and the crown to the front; they also trim with scissors the buckram crowns, after they have been hot-pressed into their proper shape. Children also sew the inside leather band round the edge of felt hats; very young ones sew the lining and cardboard of boys' fancy caps. Bonnets, Hats, &c.

177. In the Stockport district, where felt hats are made, girls, sometimes as young as 13 or 14, are employed at home in what is termed "planking." This, so far as females are concerned, is home work, and is done in sheds attached to the dwelling house. Several plankers of both sexes stand at a table shaped like an inverted hexagonal* limpet shell; from the edge of this six plane surfaces slope down towards the centre, where there is a cauldron of water with some chemical ingredients (sulphuric acid) kept at a very high temperature by a fire or gas below. Each planker has a separate plane, and from time to time dips the felt into this liquid, and rolls it on her plane to full it, manipulating it so as to harden it, and reduce it to the requisite dimensions.

178. Netting chenille for hair nets is also a common occupation for very young children. These and the other occupations, to which I have alluded in noticing their age, do not need further description. The work of those who sew gloves at home in country places requires more particular observation, and it will be necessary here, in order to be intelligible, to give a brief sketch of the whole process of glove making.

179. The leather after undergoing various processes, which are performed on it by men, reaches the cutting shop, where it is cut with shears into pieces of oblong shape, or into strips; from the latter are formed the fourgets and thumbs; the former are stamped or punched out by means of a die called a "web" and a hand press, like a printing press: the palm, back, and fingers, which are thus in one flat piece, are then rolled up with the other parts and given out to be sewn, the backs having been first given out to be pointed or tamboured, as the case may be. Gloves.

180. The tambour frame is similar to that formerly used by ladies for embroidery, the glove being stretched horizontally between four bars of wood fixed on uprights, and a very fine crochet needle used to form a chain stitch.

181. By pointing is meant the plain sewing on the back, this is usually done by the aid of what is called an "engine," the old pad having disappeared. The engine consists of a small brass vice with grooves or teeth on each side, fixed at the top of a slight wooden stem, which springs from a flat stand; the teeth open and close by means of a spring worked by the foot. The whole instrument is very small and light; when in use the girl, sitting on a low stool, holds the stem between her knees, her feet being

* Or octagonal.

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on the stand; the back of the glove is firmly held between the teeth so as to be level with the top of them, the needle is then passed through each pair of grooves in succession, and the silk sewn over.

182. For tambouring leather gloves the sewing machine * has been adopted, but is not in general use. The young women, whom I saw using it, were over 20 years of age; they were all employed in factories. The plate of the machine is placed on a higher level than is usually the case; this is so arranged in order that the elastic material may be held at a proper tension on each side of the plate by the operator.

Stays, Boots, Skirts.

183. Children also find employment in stay factories, in scraping the whalebone and wrapping it in thin paper, in "cottoning" or drawing threads through the gores for the purpose of giving additional strength to the article, and in stamping the metal eyelets with a hand press. Older ones insert the bones and busk.

184. In the boot trade children "tie knots" in the ends of the thread, which the machinist leaves unfastened; they also ink the edges; put in eyelets and laces, sometimes dust stock in the warehouses, &c. Girls of 14 sometimes work as fitters; for this purpose they use a knife and paste, and a last.

185. Skeleton skirts are made by girls of 15 and upwards; the waistband is put on round the top of large wooden "blocks" or frames, over which hang several vertical tapes fastened to the band; a coil of covered wire lies on the floor, from which the worker breaks off the length required to form the hoops, attaching it to each tape at the point of contact by means of small brass clips, which she closes over the stuff with pincers. Skirts of the other kind also are mounted on blocks, in order to have the flat steel hoops inserted, after the tapes have been put on by the machinist.

VIII. Effect of Employment upon Physical Condition.

186. The contrast in personal appearance presented by those who work in large well ventilated rooms, when compared with the ordinary type of journeymen and assistants, who work at home, or in small places of middlemen, is very remarkable. The superintendent of the factory at Pimlico (Army Clothing Depôt) states that a decided improvement in health is perceptible in a month or two after their coming there to work. (No. 212.)

Sewing machines.

187. The general impression is in favour of the effect produced by the use of the sewing machine on the health of the people, when the other conditions of labour are favourable to health, and the hours of work are moderate. One employer, who on this point states his wife's opinion as well as his own, does not think married women fit for that work. (No. 225.) One witness (a hand-worker) states the effect at the "monthly times" to be bad. She had spoken of her sister's health as "nothing near so good "as it was." (No. 238.) On the other hand women are said to have worked machines to within a day or two of their confinement without any ill effect. (No. 301.) Another employer states that those who stand are more healthy than those who sit (No. 226), but among the girls themselves I have found opinions differ on this point. (Nos. 203, 257, 261.) It is, however, worthy of remark that the only case of one, who had worked as long as 10 years at the machine, is not favourable (No. 214); most whom I have asked as to this have worked from two to four years only, none more than seven, with this exception; she was only 25 years old.

188. One in a shirt factory, who had worked for seven years, states that many cannot stand it longer than that (No. 234). She found it very tiring even for the hours 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and after working long on dark work her eyes got dull. This witness looked very delicate. One of her companions referring to her, said, "Some are naturally delicate, their eyes suffer, and they get very tired;" and another, while she stated that she had worked for three years, and was as strong as ever, said she herself got very tired, when she worked till 10 p.m. (No. 236.) The case of spitting blood—a machinist in a small crinoline factory—(No. 261) appears exceptional.

189. The shaking of the machines is stated by a staymaker to be very wearying, but to have no particular effect, and the cutting out, on which this witness was engaged, tired her much more than working the treddle did (No. 258 a). Several employers observed that the machinists had better health now than the hand-workers used to have; and one, a manufacturer of stays (No. 252), states that after special inquiry he finds that in his factory fewer machinists than hand-workers are absent from illness. The opinion of a manager of a large boot factory at Norwich is directly opposed to this, and is certainly borne out by the figures, which he adduces. (No. 343.) Several foremen observe that machinists in this trade are more healthy than the shoe binders of former days were, and attribute it reasonably enough to their having more air and exercise, and being able by means of higher wages to have better food and dress. At the same time they find themselves very tired after working from 9 to 9 (No. 301 a.); and "don't know how to stand sometimes," when they have been going on from 8 a.m. to 9 and 10 p.m. (No. 350.) Mr. Walden (No. 323), of Northampton, thinks 8 hours a day quite long enough, and 10 hours too long (and see No. 341.) The manager at Messrs. Homan's factory at Norwich found so many made ill by working only one hour over-time, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., that he had put a stop to it altogether. (No. 343.) Cases of persons of consumptive tendency suffering from stooping and of affection of the eyes have also occurred. (Nos. 303, 304, 348, 355, &c.) The latter is especially noticed in the case of those who work on the patent or enamelled leather, used in the export trade for ladies' boots, the front or "vamp" of which is ornamented with elaborate patterns sewn in white silk. (Nos. 344, 353.)

190. The opinion of the medical profession, however, so far as I can ascertain, is by no means adverse to the sewing machine. Dr. Ord, whose experience is recorded in this year's report by the Medical Officer of the Privy Council, has made this a special subject of inquiry, and is satisfied that its influence

* It is also used for a species of pointing, in which the silk is sewn "through and through," and not "over."

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is beneficial rather than otherwise. Dr. Tripe, the Medical Officer of Health for Hackney, who at my request was good enough to make similar inquiries, is informed that they all feel better and look better, after they have got accustomed to the work. (No. 414.) On this subject I consulted several medical gentlemen in provincial towns where machinists are employed in large numbers in the manufacture of boots, but found that their remarks were generally directed against the overcrowded and ill-ventilated state of the premises rather than the nature of the employment. (Nos. 422–425.)*

191. It has been observed in one case that the needlewomen suffer more from colds than machinists who work in the same room. (No. 233.) On the other hand needlewomen who work at home in the country are less susceptible of cold than those who, though dayworkers, are for the day employed in houses of business in provincial towns. (No. 251.)

192. The badness of the size used in stiffening the material, of which the coarse kind of stays is made, is noticed as being actually unwholesome, and causing sickness and fainting among the workpeople (No. 252); a similar cause in the case of inferior fustians has also been pointed out to me by one or two employers as productive of similar results. (No. 225.)

193. Women, who "plank" felt hats, do not complain of the steam from the "kettle" as being unwholesome. Willow and straw bonnet makers find their shoulders become very cramped and their fingers very sore. (No. 300.)

194. The little children who work at home at glove sewing suffer very much, if not at the time, at all events when the seeds of ill health sown in the long hours of sedentary employment have grown with their growth into womanhood. Apart from any special effect of stooping at the "engine," or at a later age over the tambour frame (Nos. 397, 398, 400), or of injury to the eye from "having to look so "long at the bright brass" teeth of the engine (Nos. 373, 374), the mere work of children for so many hours has its wonted effect in the low tone of health, the feeble "delicate" constitution of after-life. Taking up as I did this inquiry into the glove trade, while the details of the milliners' and dressmakers' evidence were fresh in my mind, I could not but be struck with the similarity of physical results, and even of the modes of expression, the vague phrases popularly used to denote that weakly state which does not get a name. To Dr. Greenhowe's Appendix in the Third Report of the Medical Officer of the Privy Council (1860, p. 187), I beg to refer to you on this point; with his remarks Dr. Tomkyns (No. 426), after 17 years' experience as a medical practitioner at Yeovil, generally coincides.

IX. Moral Condition.

195. Tailors' morals are said to have improved so far as drunkenness is concerned, but even on the showing of the witness who makes the statement things might be better than they are. "I have had "some of my best workwomen, fine handsome girls and decently educated, bring bottles full of drink "in their pockets, and chuck them over the roof when they had emptied them." (No. 221.)

196. I have before alluded to the indiscriminate mixture of the sexes in tailors' rooms. It is almost peculiar to that trade, so far as workrooms on any scale much beyond an ordinary dwelling room are concerned, and even in such the exceptions are frequent enough to show that it might with a little care be wholly avoided.

197. The machinists are always said to be the most "intelligent" and "smartest" (Nos. 225, 256); and my own observation has fully confirmed this. Whether their moral character is also superior is a matter on which it would be idle and fallacious to make any assertion. There is too little room for doubt that the girls who are employed in all these occupations are, as a class, noted for loose language and light behaviour. Mr. Black, of Rochester (No. 225), found that they used very bad language at first; he had succeeded in checking that to some extent, but other employers, it would seem, are less impressed with the responsibility of their position.

198. Several witnesses comment in strong language on the "incalculable mischief" produced among working girls of this class by "those terrible places," as one calls them, the music halls and dancing saloons. (Nos. 86a, 298.)

199. With these girls, as with those of a higher social standing, to whom I have referred in the First Part of this Report, love of dress is the besetting sin; "every sixpence goes upon their backs;" but staymakers, of whom this was said, are not peculiar in this respect. The amount of money spent on dress among the glovers at Yeovil, a class which is by no means highly paid, was said to be incredible, and the trade has there achieved so unenviable a notoriety, that one young woman assured me she could get no exercise, because she had to work all day, and it was not respectable to be out in the evening. (No. 373, and see 387, 388.) In the neighbourhood of Evesham also, where that trade is largely carried on in the homes of the workpeople, the state of morals appears to be equally low. (No. 401.)

200. It is worthy of notice, that the experience of the mistress of the Golden Lane Night School (No. 283) is that those who work away from home are more neat and clean and superior in general tone of character to those who work at home. No doubt the children who attend that school are, as a class, employed upon only the lowest and worst paid work; but it is more than probable that home influence among workpeople of a higher grade in many cases conduces but little to the development of either moral or religious qualities.

201. Many are still utterly without education. At Mr. Black's, of Rochester, a favourable specimen, very few could write; two girls of 12 and one of 14 were unable to read. At a clothing establishment

Education.

* In consequence of finding an impression prevalent in parts of the east end of London that the surgeons of St. Thomas's Hospital had pronounced against the use of the machine, I availed myself of the assistance of Dr. Ord to ascertain the truth of the rumour, and learned through him from Mr. Sidney Jones, the assistant surgeon there, who alone sees the out-patients, that it has no foundation. That gentleman states that in two recent cases, when the bursa patellæ had been inflamed, he had recommended the disuse of the machine, but his observations are not yet matured for the purpose of any generalization as to bursal disease.

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at Manchester I found two girls of 14, and one of 17, who could not read. At a boot factory in Norwich, out of 20 girls whose ages varied from 16 to 20, seven could not read; another, who was 13, had never been even to Sunday school. The state of ignorance among the crinoline skirt makers is made the subject of strong comment by one employer. (No. 260.) One girl at his works, who was over 13, could not read the word "shilling" in large type. So among willow and straw bonnet makers, some of 14 and 15 were unable to read, and young women earning 1*l.* a week could not write their names. An employer of girls in chenille-net making had no idea that people were so ignorant, until she began that business; "not one-half of them can read." (No. 271.) So cloth and boys' fancy cap makers, girls of 18 and 20, cannot read.

202. Very interesting evidence on this point is given by the intelligent mistress of the Golden Lane Night School with reference to the commoner class of workers. She states that out of 200 girls there between 9 and 15 years of age, the majority of whom are employed in shops and manufactories during the day, two-thirds could not say their alphabet when first admitted; and yet all but about a dozen of these had, before they had gone to work, attended a day school of some kind. (No. 283.)

203. It is among the glovers in country districts that the evils produced in a population, which may be said to work constantly from eight years of age, become conspicuous. The evidence of the mistresses of the two National schools for girls at Yeovil shows this state of things: 150 under 7, and 92 over 7 years old, attending them, and of these only 12 over 10 years of age; 12 girls between 12 and 14, who had for a few months attended one of these schools for half the day, "could only read imperfectly, " and not one could write." (Nos. 384, 385.) So in the Sunday school very many are found to be " wholly ignorant of the simplest facts of Scripture history," and it is necessary to teach reading and spelling on the Sunday, in order to put them in a position to obtain the little instruction, that an attendance confined to Sunday school admits of. At Stoke, a village a few miles from Yeovil, containing 1,400 inhabitants, there is not even a National school in existence. (No. 389.)

204. Upon this point I wish to call your attention to the remarks of Mr. E. Bostock (No. 356) and Mr. Walker (No. 311), on the applicability of the half-time system to children engaged in the boot trade. Messrs. Christy have already adopted a half-time system of their own in their hat manufactory at Stockport, which works excellently (No. 292), and I know of nothing in the nature of the occupations of the young ones in any other branch of my present subject to make the plan of relays less applicable to them.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen,
Your most obedient servant,
HENRY W. LORD,
Assistant Commissioner.

EVIDENCE upon the MANUFACTURE of WEARING APPAREL, by Mr. H. W. LORD.

Dress-makers.

London.

Mr. H. W. Lord.

c.

PART I. ON DRESS-MAKERS, MANTLE-MAKERS, AND MILLINERS.

Madame Elise, Regent Street. (November 1863—April 1864.)

With regard to this establishment I wish to make one or two remarks, which will be more appropriate in this place than in my report.

The protracted absence of the principal through illness on the continent caused this to be the last place of its class which I visited at the West End. In the meantime I received from various persons very different accounts of the past and present state of the premises, of the system pursued there, and of the habits and character of "the house." I have abstained from referring in my report to any statement concerning such matters, whether made by a member of the establishment or not. My reason is simply this, that I preferred to rely upon other parts of my evidence, and not to draw any illustrations from a source which, it might be thought, was exceptional, and which, after the events of last season, seems to be looked upon by many as untrustworthy.

My visits were made on five distinct occasions, twice unexpectedly. I have twice been over the house, and have examined, both in the presence of Mr. Isaacson or his housekeeper, and alone in a private room, many of those who are employed there, some selected by him, others by myself. I have also questioned many girls in other places of business, both in London and the country, who had been before in the employment of Madame Elise. Most of them have spoken of her establishment as decidedly superior to others, of which they had had experience. All considered the milliner's work-room, and some of the bed-rooms, to be much overcrowded in the season, and with that opinion my own coincides. But as to the hours of work and various domestic grievances there has been great exaggeration, and some statements, received by me at second hand, have turned out after careful inquiries to be altogether false. On the whole I believe that the evidence of the following witnesses is substantially correct.

1. *Mr. Isaacson.*—We have from 70 to 80 residents and about 25 day-workers in the season. There is very little difference in our numbers throughout the year.

We do everything we can to make those who live with us comfortable, and to keep them respectable. We have only been in the business since 1859, and we have spent 1,600*l.* on their bed-rooms, work-rooms, and dining-rooms alone. My landlord will not allow me to make the alterations I wish, and the trustees of Archbishop Tenison's chapel will not suffer any erection over our show-room in the space between our Regent Street and King Street houses. If I could have my own way and a 21 years' lease of all the premises, I would have all the bed-rooms opening into corridors, and only one person in a bed. As it is, the houses are no doubt badly built, and ill adapted for business purposes; but what can we do more? To ourselves it would be a positive relief to have the regular factory system, and only day-workers. We should get rid of a great deal of responsibility and expense as well.

We pay 100*l.* a year to a physician, that they may be attended free of cost. He calls every day, and the housekeeper informs him if any one is ill. If they are obliged to take to their bed, our rule is to send them home, or, if they have no home, to get them taken in at some hospital or infirmary, till they recover. For trifling ailments they can be taken care of here; we have a housekeeper and five servants. They have any little thing that our doctor says they should have, when they are unwell; but we have to be on our guard against deception. Not long ago, for instance, one was taken very ill, she said, and must go home to be under the care of her own doctor; she would not let our regular medical attendant see her. Next day she was seen with a man at Hampton Court. Only last week a letter, the look of which I did not like, was sent here for a young lady, who was ill in bed with what she called the shingles. I was busy when it came, but at about 5 P.M. I sent up to her room about it. In the meantime it had been delivered to her, and she had recovered from her illness, and had gone out, and did not return till 11 that night.

Water is laid on upon every landing. The work-rooms and bed-rooms are done up twice every year, spring and autumn, the ceilings all whitewashed, and the walls distempered. Where the walls are papered, we put a new paper up every two or three years. My wife and myself reside here during the week; we only go away on Saturday to Acton. We have a farm there, from which the milk and fruit for this house is supplied; they often have a little fruit for dessert. We try to make their Sunday dinner as comfortable and as homelike as we can.

Our apprentices pay a premium of 50*l.*; that alone should keep them select. They never work after 9 P.M. in the season or out of it. Our hours at this time of the year (Nov.) are from 8½ A.M. to 7 P.M. for all our hands. After the season is over, all have three weeks' or a month's holiday. No deduction from their salary is made on that account. We keep on many more than we want at this time that we may have them in the summer; there are now 22 in the millinery rooms, for instance, and we could do well with six.

We allow them to go out for three evenings in each week, after work is over, until 11, if they put their names down.

Work is never commenced before 8 A.M., and rarely until 8½. We once asked them if they would not prefer the hours 6 A.M. to 9 P.M. in the season, instead of 8 A.M. to 11 P.M., but all said no. Towards the end of March we increase our hours till 9 P.M. As the season advances we become later, but at no time do we go on after 11 P.M., except on the nights before the drawing-room. We do not on other occasions work after 11 P.M., even for the most pressing orders, but in the case of the drawing-rooms we cannot help ourselves. Ladies often don't decide upon their trimmings until the last moment, and so we have 24 trains to complete in as many hours. If we had 20, or even 10 drawing-rooms, instead of three or four, we need never work late. We do not like these long hours ourselves, for Madame Elise and myself sit up as long as any, and have not the whole of the next day to rest upon, as the young ladies have. The whole of that day is lost for any purposes of work; in fact, there is no one in the work-rooms. On the very rare occasions, upon which work is said to go on the whole night through, some will get to bed by 3 or 4 A.M., and all but a very few can by 6 or 7 A.M. at the latest. A few may have to go to the ladies' houses to dress them. When they work so late as 2 or 3 A.M., they have sandwiches and tea or coffee at 11 P.M., and cold ham and tongue, with sherry, at 1 A.M. They will have had the usual light supper at 9 P.M. A bell rings for these meals, and they all leave the work-rooms and come down stairs for them. We should be delighted to discontinue working after 11 P.M. on any occasion, but the young ladies do not themselves dislike it. On the night last season, when we worked all night, all of them asked leave to sit up, without our saying anything about it.

What work we have after 11 P.M. on these drawing-room nights arises in a great degree from misfits; sometimes a new body may have to be made at the

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last moment. Another thing is, that materials like tulle and tarlatan cannot be touched till the latest hour possible, for fear of being spoilt, if kept for some time before they are used. Frequently the girls themselves dislike very much having to leave off at a fixed time; they get into the "theme," as they say, or plan of their work, and will lose it all, if they wait till morning to finish.

We reckon that an assistant and a second hand can make a body of a dress together in a day in the season. That is what we expect.

I think the girls themselves will suffer most, if anything like a factory system of legislation is introduced. The bed-rooms would be turned into work-rooms, and those, who are now well housed and cared for, would have to find a wretched lodging where they could, for there are not homes enough for one tenth of them, even if they all liked to go to them. You would in effect be making more prostitutes in the streets. As it is, the temptations they are exposed to are bad enough. Letters come with coronets and elaborate monograms for the young ladies. Such things have but one meaning, and commonly but one end. We do not require the young ladies in our show-room to wear silk. If any are known to dress beyond their means, they had better go. Silk stockings and military boots are out of place with us. But as for hours of work, I could tell you of a lady, whose own maids sat up all night preparing her train for the drawing-room.

We have the greatest difficulty in enforcing the necessary rules for conducting an establishment like ours respectably. Not long ago one of our young ladies, who was in the receipt of a salary of 80*l.* a year, stayed out all night. Another, a second-hand milliner, took an apprentice—a young girl of 16—out with her one Sunday, and did not return till nearly midnight, though our hours for apprentices to be in is 10½, and for others 11 P.M. What was I to do? I discharged her the next morning, paying her up to the moment of her leaving. My strictness in these matters has, I know, made me enemies; but for the sake of those who live under my roof, and who are, as a general rule, highly respectable, and some well connected, I am bound to act so.

Some take extraordinary fancies. One girl of 22 actually went out at 11 P.M. and stayed out all night, merely because she was offended at her bed having been moved by the housekeeper to a part of the room, where she had not the same neighbour in the next bed. Only yesterday a milliner, whom we pay 25*l.* a year, did literally nothing, and on being asked the reason said that she did not choose. I ascertained that she had had some quarrel with the first hand, and took that means of showing her independence.

Sometimes we have met with dishonesty; in one case we found that a person, to whom we were paying an enormous salary, and who was in a position of great trust, was wholly clothing herself in our goods. We allow them to take what cotton and thread they require for their own work. We used to allow them to buy their materials of us at cost price, but we found that open to such abuses that we gave it up.

With regard to that sad occurrence last year—Miss Walkley's death—I only wish you would make any inquiries about it, or indeed about any other matter, of the whole establishment. All the young ladies who slept in her room, except Miss Beere, are still with us; ask them. Ask her mother, her sister, the person with whom she lodged before she came to us, if she was not very delicate before she came to us, and if she did not always say she was, and really was, happy while she was with us. This, at all events, I may say, that scarcely any of the young ladies, who were then with us, are not with us still, and the applications for employment continue as much as ever.* I do not think Miss Bramwell would have sent us 17 girls from her house in Great Marlborough Street, since this happened, if she thought we deserved one half the blame we have had. Her chief assistant was with us for some time, and from her, or indeed from the girls themselves, she would hear soon enough, if anything went on wrong with us.

There has been no change whatever in the arrangement of any of our rooms since Miss Walkley's death. The ventilators, and partitions, and number of beds in the rooms are all as they were then. Our rooms have always been open to visitors. Lady de Grey and several other ladies of title have been all over our establishment since that affair.

2. *Miss Santrey*, head-dress maker.—I have been here for three years. Miss Walkley was my bedfellow till she died. There was another double bed in our room then, and is still; one of the young ladies, who usually occupied it, was away then. No alteration of any kind whatever has been made in that bed-room since her death. There always was a ventilator in the window, as there is now; it was there three years ago, and at the time of her death; the window always opened by being pushed out from the bottom. She was delicate from the first. Soon after she came, she told me that she had only just recovered from rheumatic fever, and that she had been nearly starved, before she came to Madame Elise. She was ill several times here. She had been home for some weeks within a short time of her death. She used to be confined to her room for a week or a fortnight at a time from ill health. I did not work in the same room with her; but I am sure that she never worked, for Madame Elise at least, long hours enough to kill her. I should know when she came to bed, of course. I do not think she ever worked after 11 P.M. None of us ever do, except on the one or two nights before the drawing-rooms. She complained of headache on the Thursday before the Monday morning, on which she died. She had not been working late in the work-room just before that. On the Wednesday her work was over soon after 8 P.M., for I recollect her coming up into the bed-room, when I was there, at about that time. She came to fetch something for her own private work. She did work late on that Wednesday night, but it was in our bed-room at her own dress. She worked till 12 or 1 A.M. at it. I was with her till 1 P.M. on the Sunday. She never worked at anything on Sunday morning. She had been fretting a good deal about a disappointment she had had some little while before; she was engaged to be married, and it was broken off. I think it turned out that he was married already. She told me all about it. She never complained to me, or in my hearing, of being overworked, or of the rooms being unwholesome and making her head ache. She was quite cross with me for wanting her to send for the doctor, and called me "Job's comforter" for saying so.

I have never myself worked after 11 P.M., since I have been here, except on the drawing-room nights; on those we go on till 3 and 4 in the morning, and occasionally longer, but many of us ask to do it, because we then have all the next day to ourselves. If you have been told that the work here in the drawing-room week goes on from 7 A.M. till 12 or 1 A.M. for every night, that is untrue. Three nights is the utmost, and more frequently two; but none of those who live in the house ever begin work before 8 in the morning, the day-workers never before 9. We never work on Sundays. Apprentices are never allowed to work on any night after 9. We used often to be working in our bed-room till midnight and later over our own dresses and things. Mr. Isaacson has had to send up and take our candles away several times after 12. He has never spoken to me about Miss Walkley's death since last summer. Every word which you have got down now, of what I have told you, is perfectly true.

3. *Miss D. T.*—Before I came to Madame Elise I had been in four other West End houses. In one of those, where I was two years ago, we used to go

* In April 1864 Mr. Isaacson said that they had averaged 30 a day since the beginning of the year.—H. W. L.

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on till half-past 11 on Saturday night in the season. The usual hours there in the season were from 8 A.M. to 12 at night. We used to sit up all the night before the drawing-rooms twice in the season, and work on the drawing-room day until 5 P.M. without going to bed. On the night before the last night we should clear at about 3 A.M. All the establishment but the apprentices did so; the apprentices were not later than 11 or 12. About 40 persons were employed there, 30 of whom were residents.

It made it much harder there not having the next day to ourselves after the drawing-room night. Here we always have it. I generally go out for a walk after breakfast instead of going to bed as some do, for the air seems to do me more good than bed. I always awake with a bad headache, and am quite ill, if I go to bed before the evening, after those few days of hard work.

At Madame Elise's in the season we are generally in the work-room soon after 8 in the morning, and we work until 11 P.M. On the drawing-room nights we generally have to go on till 3 or 4 A.M., and for two or three nights before that till 12. For the first drawing-room this last season we had to go on all the night; that means till 6 or 7 in the morning; we were more busy than we ever had been; everyone wanted to go.

There is a great deal of standing for those who are engaged on ball dresses, court trains, &c., especially the trimmers. I think they sit more here than in some places, but some must stand a great deal, and they suffer. You may see stools under the board, but there is so much moving about that they cannot be much used.

4. *Miss B. R.*—I have been four years with Madame Elise. Our hours are much shorter than they were when I first came. She had not long begun for herself then, and I think she could not all at once get out of the hours which used to be observed here. They had been shortened before Miss Walkley's death.

5. *Miss H.*—I am a second hand dress-maker. I came as improver from the country. My premium was 10*l.*, and I was to be improved for 18 months. My salary now is 40*l.* a year. I am very comfortable here; of course we can't expect to have everything like home. I was the youngest at home, and the rest were grown up, so I dare say I was rather petted; but I don't think I should like always to be at home. Altogether I was never happier in my life than I am here.

I sleep in one of those rooms on the same floor as the bed-room which Miss Walkley had. I should not like to leave it, because all four of us are tidy, and that makes a great difference in the comfort of a bed-room. We might have more air than we do there; but one of us, the senior, will not have the window open.

We used to work from 8 A.M. to 10 P.M., when I was apprenticed in the country. We work later than that here in the season, but scarcely ever after 11 P.M. A good deal of time is often lost unnecessarily in the morning, because we can't set to work at once; either the things have not come from the City, or the first hand has not got them ready prepared for us to begin upon. An hour or two often goes so before anything is begun.

I am always very glad when Saturday comes; we leave off at 8 P.M. then. I am very tired at the week's end in the season, but my health is very good. The young ladies in our room don't faint; they do in the milliner's room sometimes; they have not much air in that room.

The only illness I ever had here was the measles. I could not afford to pay a nurse, so Mr. Isaacson asked me, if I should mind going into the hospital. He became a subscriber in order to get me in. I should certainly go there again, if I could, in case of illness, for, of course, in a house of business we can't have all the nursing we want. If we are merely poorly, we can wait on one another. The housekeeper and everybody were very kind to me here. I was away for three weeks, and the drawing-room was in one of them, so I was lucky. For a week after I came back I was allowed to do just what I liked, so that I might get well before I began work. This was before Miss Walkley's death.

6. *Miss R. S.*—I have been employed in four private houses at the West End. All were fashionable houses. I must say that Madame Elise's is the least deserving of censure of any of them. I was at Madame L.'s for several years three years ago. Work used to begin there at 8½ A.M., and continued in the season till midnight, generally speaking, except on Saturday, when we cleared at 9. We always worked all the night before the drawing-rooms, and till 2, 3, or 4 A.M. on the previous night. Out of the season we left off generally at 9 P.M. The bed-rooms were not clean, and the work-room was very hot; but we were not very uncomfortable there. The food was good, and we had enough. An attempt was made once to deprive us of our tea; several left in consequence. It was not carried out.

I was at Miss G.'s for three winter months; even at that season we always worked from 8 A.M. to 11 P.M., and till 12 at night on Saturdays generally; we sometimes began at 7½ in the morning. There we had good bed-rooms and work-rooms, but not enough to eat

I was also for four winter months at Miss R.'s. Our hours were worse there than anywhere. I left on that account alone, for everything else was pretty good. We always began at 8 A.M., and certainly did not, as a general thing, give over before 12 or 1 at night. I am sure that in all those four months we did not leave off more than 14 or 15 times as early as 10 P.M. The sole reason was the small number of hands; there were only four milliners and five or six dress-makers, with work for twice the number.

7. *Miss D. N.*—I was apprenticed to Madame Elise, and am now out of my time. I am in the millinery room. I never worked after 9 P.M. at any time during my apprenticeship, not even at the time of the Exhibition. Apprentices never do here, nor do improvers, unless they are to be here only for six months. Since my apprenticeship I have worked once all night, till 7 A.M. that is to say. I then had the next day to myself. For one or two nights before that I had worked till 12. The milliners often make the ruches for trimmings to help the dress-makers.

Our room is very hot, but in the summer we can have the windows all open; there is no damp and fog then. Besides, after 9 o'clock the apprentices and improvers all leave the room, there are six or seven of them, so there are so many less in the room.

I don't think any of us faint. In the week after Miss Walkley's death several fainted. That was hysterical; we were all very much excited, and those who were nervous could not help fainting. I never did; and since that week I have not noticed any do so. It was not at all usual before, any more than after her death, for them to faint. I dare say one or two may have fainted now and then. Certainly there was not one case every day, nor even every week in the season.

[The two following witnesses were not at Madame Elise's, when I took their evidence. I read over their statements, at Mr. Isaacson's request, to one of the young ladies in his employment selected by myself. He had no opportunity of communicating with her, for he stayed with me, while she was sent for, and left me alone with her directly she arrived. I insert her remarks in brackets. Mr. Isaacson was wholly unaware of my intention to visit him on this occasion, as nearly four months had elapsed, since I took the preceding evidence and had my last interview with him.]

9. *J. K.*—I was at Madame Elise's, before I came to Messrs. ——, in the show-room there also. I was

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there for the three months of the season. They certainly work long hours, and the rooms are close, both the bed-rooms and the work and show rooms; still there has been a great deal of exaggeration about it, and there are many worse than hers. [She must have left for ill-health, or incompetence, or misbehaviour. I never knew of any in our show-room being engaged for the season only.]

We used to be in the show-room there from 8½ A.M. to 10 P.M. [Absurd; perhaps 8 P.M., rarely 9.] It used to tire me; my health gave way. I think it was the closeness of the room more than anything else that caused it. [That could not be the show-room.] I find the difference here very great, both in the length of hours and in the accommodation. I am quite well here. The young ladies in the show-room there used sometimes to sit up late after their own work was over to help the dress-makers. It was quite voluntary if they did so. I mean they were not compelled. Perhaps it was expected that they should do so. I dare say that if any had refused, it would have been unpleasant for them. [If one of our friends has to be late, we help her.] We all of us sat up all the night before the last drawing-room but one, I think it was. [It is possible; some do, because then they have all the next day to themselves.] Some went to bed at 6 in the morning of that day; others had to go on later; some did not get any rest till 1 or 2 in the afternoon. [Those were not in the show-room.] They had to dress the ladies after their work was over. But we generally had rest to make up for it, when the bustle was over.

I lived in the house, so that I know the usual hours of the work-room in the season, though I was not generally there. I will give you a fair unexaggerated statement. Work always lasted from 8.30 A.M. to 11 P.M., that was the earliest and also the usual time for clearing. I should say they worked on till 2 A.M. for more than 12 and less than 20 nights in the season. [Perhaps 12 times.] Working all night through was very rare. If any worked on till 6 A.M., they would generally be the first hands, trimmers, and finishers; they would in most cases after that stay in bed till 1 or 2 P.M. The food was good and there was plenty, but it was often spoilt in the cooking. The worst of all was the bed-rooms.

10. *C. E.*—I was for four years an out-door worker at Madame Elise's. Some of the young ladies had been there five and six years, but I was one of those who had been longest there. Mr. Isaacson wanted me to live in the house; he said it was not respectable to live out of the house. Perhaps he was right as to many girls; but I can take care of myself, and I could not have worked as those did who lived there. As it was, my health was so impaired, that I had to be away for some months after the last season that I worked there. My sole object in living out was to avoid the long hours. Mine were quite long enough; they were never less in the drawing-room weeks than from 9 A.M. to 11 P.M. I have stood day after day the whole time, except of course the meal times. I used to go home for dinner; our tea was given us. I have quite staggered with fatigue often when I have reached home at night. The usual hours in the house at those times were from 7 A.M. till 12 and 1 A.M., but every night in the season work would go on till 11 at least. [None ever begin work till 8 A.M.; they are called at 7.] Once even the out-door workers went on the whole night. I have no ill feeling of any sort against Madame Elise or Mr. Isaacson, on the contrary I think they are kind in many ways. The fault is in not refusing orders and in overcrowding the house. Many come only for a few months. [I know nothing about the terms.] Those in the house are paid quarterly, and have a month's notice before leaving. The day-workers are paid by the week, but can be sent away or leave at a moment's notice. Most of them have 9*s.* a week, some assistants have 10*s.**

From all that I have heard from young ladies, who have worked in other houses, there must be many worse than Madame Elise's, even the work-rooms. In one thing her's is certainly better,—and indeed the character of the house is quite altered from what it was in this respect in other hands. Mr. Isaacson takes very great pains to keep it select and respectable; he would discharge any young lady who was out after 11 P.M., or who went to places like Cremorne. That strictness has made him enemies. [That is quite true.] The ventilation of the work-room was not properly attended to long after Miss Walkley died, but it is a common fault in work-rooms of private houses; the only air which can come is through the window, so that some are in a draught or others are suffocated. Directly after her death several partitions were taken down in the bed-rooms so as to increase their size. [I never heard of it; I am quite sure that, when you were here last year, you saw every room in the place, and all just as they were when she died.]

Mrs. Day, Bruton Street. (November.)

11. *Miss M. D.*—I keep the books; one of my sisters is in the show-room, and another in the work-room. I have been here for a long time, and can tell you, with the help of our first hands, all you want to know. 26 sleep in this house, and we have accommodation for 14 more at No. 8; we send the last comers there; we do not require all the rooms in that house at this time, but only in the season. They are furnished apartments, but the same supervision is exercised over those who live there, as if they were in this house. They are not allowed to go there in the day-time without leave from me, and the housekeeper has strict orders not to suffer any to be out after 11 P.M. If we are working later, they leave before the others clear up. We have not taken any apprentices since Mrs. Day went to reside away from the premises; she did not like the responsibility of having them, when she could not look after them.

We do not employ French girls as a rule; we rather avoid them; ours are chiefly Scotch. Their ages vary from 18 to 38. Our work-room becomes very hot when there is a fire and the gas is lit; but about that and the hours of work the first hands can tell you better than I. We average from 7.30 A.M. to 11 P.M. in the season.

I think our comfort is studied by Mrs. Day as much as it can be; our food is very good; sometimes we have fish dinners, then we always have wine also. We have lately had fruit now and then; of course I do not mean regularly once or twice in every week, but as a treat for the girls three or four times altogether, and wine with it.

Some are more tired than others by the long hours; one was quite knocked up at the end of last season; others appear to feel it very little. It is the heat and closeness of the work-room more than the work itself that affects them. We have ventilators in the windows, but they only make it very cold for those who sit near them, so they are stopped up—at least one is—and consequently those in this part of the room suffer from the closeness. Two ventilators were put in the chimney, but they, as you see, don't work at all; there is also one in the floor. They are generally stopped up by somebody.

Four or five of them do work, which involves constant standing; that one, who says that she has never suffered from swelled feet, speaks the truth, but some have suffered a good deal in that way. We are singularly exempt from illness.

12. *Miss* —— (referred to by the last witness).—I am a skirt mounter. I have been employed in dress-making for seven years, and was never ill before last season, so I suppose it must have been our work that made me so then. I had very good health as an

* Mr. Isaacson, when I read this to him, remarked "she forgot that others get 12*s.* and 16*s.*"—H. W. L.

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apprentice, and before I was apprenticed. I have lived all my life in London. Last season it so happened that I had always almost to be the latest. I used to feel very tired and sleepy. I did not exactly faint, but I had yawning fits. The doctor afterwards said they were caused by a disease of the nerves. I did not think anything particularly of it at the time, so I did not speak about it to any one. I had had my regular holidays every year before, but had not gone into the country, as my friends live in London. I have now had to be for three months at the sea-side. I think I am quite well again now

13. *Miss Sh.*—I am first hand here. Our room is certainly very hot, although it is a fine lofty room. We have from 22 to 25 in it in the season. There are nine gas burners, which are then all lit in the evening. We now breakfast at 8 A.M., and clear at 7 or 8 P.M. In the season we breakfast at 7, dine at 1, have tea at 5, and supper at 9. Half an hour is about the time for each meal, but our numbers compel us to have our meals in two sets. Our time for leaving off in the season varies from 10 to 12; the most usual hour is 11. We leave off at 8 P.M. on Saturday. The drawing-room nights are always exceptional. For last May drawing-room we worked for two or three nights till 2 and 3 A.M. In one very exceptional case we were working more than 18 hours on an average for four days one after the other. We began at 7 A.M., and went on till 1, 2, 3, and 4 A.M. successively. We were very tired after it, but nothing more; one certainly was knocked up by it; she had not been away into the country for two or three years before; we all want that after the season; every one needs a thorough change. We are always allowed holidays, if we like to take them. We had never worked so long as that before; it was in June last.

The account you have read to me from the pamphlet published by the Ladies' Sanitary Association seems to me very improbable; working for 23 hours, and then three hours rest, and then for 22 hours and two hours rest, and so on through the week, is more, I should have thought, than was possible for any one to stand. I never knew any one to work nearly so long. I have indeed heard of one house where, it was said, they worked for three nights with only one hour's rest, but I never had any means of knowing if that was the truth. We have so many little comforts here that we perhaps do not feel our work as much as in some places. There are many houses where they have very few. For my own part I think that two hours in the morning are worth three or four at night, but the French girls, I believe, all prefer working at night. I should call it very bad management to keep girls waiting for work in the morning. No doubt, when the first hand happened to be dilatory, or unmethodical, or fond of late hours herself, the girls might have to work late, because their work would not be prepared for them in the morning. We always have a list of our work made out to prevent mistakes or delay.

No doubt needlework does affect you in the course of years. It is not so much that dress-makers get really ill, but they become gradually, almost imperceptibly, weaker. A little thing soon knocks them down. It is worse when they begin young. Girls of 14 and 15 in some houses work, at all events, the usual season hours, from $8\frac{1}{2}$ or 9 till 11 P.M., and never have any walk except on Sunday. They might now and then be sent out to match, but their friends would not like that; it is not apprentices' work. I should not have liked it myself; it must often be very disagreeable.

Some girls seem from the first to have no appetite, some perhaps lose theirs as they go on, but there is no general rule. I suppose without exercise you can't have an appetite, yet some of ours have. I have sometimes taken quite a dislike myself to some sort of food, mutton for instance, and really could not eat it, though it was very good and very well cooked.

At some houses they work the same hours all the year. I should not like that at all. I much prefer to work hard in the season, and have some time to myself after it is over. We shouldn't like it at all, if an Act of Parliament were to make us work the same hours all the year round, even though it shortened the hours of the season.

[14. Mrs. Day, to whom I read over the foregoing evidence, remarked with evident sincerity that no one would be more pleased than herself at any scheme for lessening the occasional overwork, but after much consideration and repeated attempts she had been unable to prevent it. The question was not one of profit, but of accommodation, as indeed there was a strong personal feeling subsisting between many court dress-makers and their customers. On these occasions there was always great waste of material and of time, all being fit for nothing on the following day. Some ladies from mere want of thought gave the shortest possible notice; at the same time, if very long notice were given, it would be of no effect, for the dresses would get spoilt, if they were sent home many days before they were to be used, and there was not standing room in any dressmaker's for more than a few of the many trains and other dresses of extensive dimensions ordered in the season, so that they could neither be kept there nor sent home.]

15. Mr. States, Hanover Square. (November.)

The dress-making business is my wife's; we are quite independent of it, and could give it up whenever we chose. I am fully conversant with all the details of the hours of work, the rate of payment, and their social condition generally speaking.

Our system is this:—They commence work at 9 A.M. and leave off at 10 P.M., then they have supper, and after that clear and go to bed; that plan has been recently adopted. They used to have supper at 9, and go on till 11 at work. This is a clear gain to them, and yet I have had a regular strike among them, and had to send off all the ring-leaders.

They are all excessively foolish and ignorant, stupid and careless beyond belief. Dress-makers seem to be so even beyond all other women; but you cannot reason with any of them. Positively I think most of them have no mind at all, or next to none. If the hours are too long anywhere, it is wholly owing to one of two things, the stupidity of the workpeople, or the thoughtlessness or indifference of the customers. The only thing needed is to have one or two persons more than are absolutely wanted, so that you are independent of the fancies or the follies of the workpeople, and are prepared for any ordinary emergency. That is what we do, and as a consequence you hear from my wife that we never worked, even on a drawing-room night, last season after 11 P.M., our usual hour at that time for clearing. Depend upon it no interference is needed. As it is, your inquiry makes the hands dissatisfied. If restrictions are imposed on employers, the hands will either be the mistresses, or be ruined. The only way to keep them alive, and out of vice, as out-door workers, would be to provide asylums for them. What funds are you prepared with for that purpose? I would be glad enough to subscribe 100*l.* a year, as long as we continue in business, to any general home to take them off our hands, and relieve us of the trouble of looking after them. It would be a saving to us. Indeed some scheme of the kind has been discussed by my wife with some of her customers.

There would be no difficulty in getting persons to do our work. We have many who offer to come for nothing, merely to have the recommendation of having

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worked here; that alone is a sufficient reference. We never take apprentices. The machine does apprentice work for us. Our skirts are all made out. We have one person who does all the cutting out upon the premises, both for skirts and bodies. The skirts so cut out are then given out to be made up in the workpeople's own homes. How long work goes on there we don't know. My wife says that they will sometimes take work out at 6 in the afternoon and bring it back at 12 the next day; and when she asks if they can get it done, they always say "Oh yes, we have plenty of workers at home." So far as we are concerned, the majority of our people have never on any night been at work up to midnight, during the 10 years for which we have occupied these premises. Those who do stay so late, on the very rare occasions when any do, are the trimmers and the florists, never more than two or three, who put the finishing touches on to court trains, ball dresses, and the like, after all the making of the dresses is over. They always have wine or coffee allowed them, and some of the others loiter over their work that they may have a share of the refreshment.

We have more than 60 employed here in the season, of whom 35 or 40 are residents. They have very good food and plenty of it. There are 10 servants in the house to attend on them and ourselves.

It is quite clear, I think, that our establishment requires no restriction, and I am certain that no case of overwork can be made out, so as to justify legislative interference with the trade. I do not believe in those stories of long hours continuing day after day.

I am quite convinced that the only result of an Act to limit the hours in private houses like ours would be to injure the girls themselves. No employers would keep them in the house, if they couldn't have them work a little longer on occasions of pressure now and then; so that you would have them all day-workers, or, in other words, you would drive them all to starve or go on the town. We pay probably the maximum price for day-work. How are these women, who are now comfortably housed and fed by us, and paid a salary as well, to live on 10*s.* or even 12*s.* a week? for they would not have a higher rate of wage than day-workers now have. They cannot get cheap lodgings in this neighbourhood, and they cannot manage to live so far off as Kingsland or Hackney for instance, or any other place, where cheap and decent lodgings are to be had. Their dinner cannot cost much less than 10*d.* a day; tea is provided generally for day-workers; but there is breakfast, and probably supper, and clothing all to come out of what is left of 2*s.* a day or less, and then there is no provision for Sunday.

But suppose that we kept them in the house, and that they left off work at 9 P.M., what are they to do from 9 till 11? Work for themselves? Why for themselves and not for us? How is any one to tell for whom the lights are kept burning, and the work is continued? Are they to go for a walk? I know that I for one will never let any young woman, who lives in my house, pass my threshold at that time of night for any such purpose. I know too well what the streets are, when the day-workers leave, to expose any of my residents to that temptation at all events.

I should certainly alter the terms of my agreements; there should be no more month's warning; they must go at a moment's notice, if they are to be in my house and to be able to say as the clock strikes a certain hour, "Now we will work no more for you or for anybody."

In Paris no dress-makers reside on the premises of their employers; only milliners do. The two businesses are kept quite distinct there, and are not carried on, as here, in the same establishment. The only day observed in Paris in a way at all corresponding to our court drawing-room days is New Year's Day, and that is on a very different scale. The grand displays in Paris are the ball at the Tuileries, the ministers', &c. and particularly the fancy dress balls. The dress-makers then sit up all night for two or three nights successively before these. They are very independent; only yesterday a member of a leading French house was telling us of the inconveniences sustained by employers there through those girls choosing sometimes not to work, and so bringing in the orders perhaps a week after they were wanted. That is what our's will come to, if you go on at this rate; and as to the moral character of dress-makers in Paris, I suppose there is not much evidence needed on that point.

16. Mrs. Murray, Portman Street. (October.)

[The following statement was drawn up and forwarded to me from this establishment after I had been conducted over it, and had made various inquiries of the ladies who manage the business, and of others in their employment.]

"The number of dress-makers in the house averages 30; they have only one in-door apprentice, who is 19 years of age, and is their youngest resident; they never take any under 16. The ages of the residents vary from 20 to 40 and over; most have been with them many years, some more than 25 years; they have not, as a rule, been their apprentices; many come from Scotland. They have day-workers, six or seven in number, for the most part previously out-door apprentices, who receive 12*s.* per week, increasing according to worth. Their out-door apprentices do not pay a premium, but serve two or three years, afterwards commencing with 9*s.* per week; all their day-workers and apprentices reside with their parents, who are, for the most part, themselves in business. Their hours are from 8 A.M. to 8 P.M. in summer, and from 9 A.M. to 8 P.M. in the winter and spring months, and less when business is suspended earlier. Most go home to their dinners, some bring it with them; tea is provided for all.

The residents' hours in summer are from 8 A.M. to 9 P.M., occasionally shorter; in the winter and spring months from 9 A.M. to 8 P.M., sometimes less. At this season of the year they frequently leave off at 5 and 6 o'clock. When it is necessary, as is the case from time to time in the season, they consider it better to commence earlier, and never work after 9. Before a drawing-room they, two or three times, commence as early as 5, and on one or two rare occasions at 4 A.M., always leaving off on drawing-room days directly the court things are done, usually about 1 o'clock P.M. They do not work 16 hours a day (from which breakfast, dinner, and tea hours have to be deducted) more than six or eight days in the year; when it is so, they always have two breakfasts, one before commencing, and the second at the usual hour. Each has, at least, a fortnight's holiday in the autumn, some a month. The residents frequently go for a walk, they are well-principled women, and are for the most part daughters of tradesmen, some of professional men. They can, without anxiety, be trusted at any time, but none of the younger ones are allowed to go out in the evening, except in company of their sisters or an older one. The younger ones are sent out frequently, generally on business, but always for the purpose of getting the air. All have good health, and wonderfully little illness. The two or three days on which they work successively beyond the usual time does not appear to do any harm, and is not protracted or repeated so as to become injurious. They have no affection of the eyes, none even wear glasses. A bath, with hot and cold water laid on, is supplied for the use of the establishment. Ladies, as a rule, are most considerate as regards time; court dresses in particular are often ordered weeks before they are required; in this respect they have been very unjustly censured. Owing to a greater length of time elapsing between the several drawing-rooms last season, the necessity for continued length of work was not so great as on many previous years.

Madame Levilly, George Street, Hanover Square. (October.)

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17. *M. Levilly.*—We have as many court dresses, I believe, as any one but Mrs. Murray, so that we have some experience. I think that 12 or 14 hours a day, including meal times, is the very utmost necessary at any time, except perhaps on the night before the drawing-rooms.

On the whole, I think we could manage with working from 9 A.M. to 9 P.M. at this time of the year, and till 10 P.M., an hour later, in the season. Some employers might then discharge their residents, retaining only a few, and putting out as much work as possible, and having day-workers for the rest. Some might get French girls instead of English to reside, for they work much faster, and the extra salary would not be very much; still I should say that most would retain their present staff. I think we should at all events.

You may say that we begin work nominally at 8.30 A.M., but in fact it is always nearer 9, and do not in the season work after 10 P.M., for the occasions on which we do so are very rare. It is, however, impossible to avoid working late on the drawing-room nights. It is the trimmers and finishers, the French girls chiefly, who work very late; they number about 6 or 7 out of 52.

It is difficult to persuade them to take exercise; they have an hour for dinner, and might go then, but they do not; perhaps one in 20 goes once a week for a walk before breakfast. We do not allow them to go out during working hours.

Speaking generally, those who are on the staff, so to speak, in houses like our own, where some have been 8, 10, and 14 years, are respectable truth-telling girls. Some, however, work for the season, living in the house, and leaving at the end of it; perhaps 5 or 6 in 50 do so. I do not think that their testimony is so much to be relied on.

As to moral character, we should never have to discharge any of our girls on any ground of immorality. I am quite sure that if any girl, who was not respectable, got in among them, she would be made to leave without being turned away by us.

It is quite unnecessary to have our girls standing all the day when the court trains are in hand; much of the work can be done sitting, and they can and do change about if they are tired.

I have read over the evidence given by me before the Committee of the House of Lords in 1855. I still think as I did then. All my remarks then made are equally applicable to the present state of things.

18. *Miss L.*—I used to work at Madame F.'s The hours there were from half-past 8 A.M. to 11 P.M. all the year round; but in the season they were often much later. The milliners did not often work much after 11 P.M., but the dress-makers went on till 3 and 4 in the morning several times every week.

19. *Miss Maria D.*—I was apprenticed here, and have been here more than 10 years. I have never worked for three nights together till 1 in the morning. I may have worked as late as that on the drawing-room night, and nearly as late on the night before. The first hands are the longest worked. As a general rule, we never stand at any work all day long, whether court trains or ruchings for ball dresses; the most is several hours.

20. *Miss T.*—I work the machine. My hours are from 8½ A.M. to 8 P.M. In the City I worked from 9 A.M. to 6 or 7 P.M. Here I have 40 guineas a year and my board and lodging. I began at 16. I have never suffered, except from headache and eye-ache and getting very tired. I was always delicate. I never worked at any but machine work.

Madame Einstein—Dévy, Grosvenor Street. (November.)

21. *M. Einstein.*—About 70 persons work here in the season, nearly 40 of whom are then residents in the house. My opinion is that if the hours of work for dress-makers were limited to those between 9 A.M. and 9, or perhaps 10, P.M. it would be a very good thing for the girls themselves, and would not be inconvenient in any serious degree to their employers. They would only have to engage more hands for the season. With regard to our own establishment I am quite sure that we should not suffer from such a regulation; the only thing needed is that *it should be quite general;* that all should be equally restrained. But that cannot be ensured by any mere moral pressure or social influence. Government must do it, if it is to be effectual. I should be glad of it, personally speaking, and should be very ready to submit to it, for I cannot see why young ladies should have to work the hours that men will not, and indeed cannot, endure.

22. Madame Thomel, Regent Street. (November.)

We now breakfast at 8 A.M. and put away at 9 P.M.; in the early autumn we put away at 8 P.M. Our hours in the season do not exceed 8 A.M. to 10 P.M., except on the occasion of a drawing-room or a wedding or a mourning order. I can give you no idea how often such exceptions occur; they are not very frequent. My great difficulty is to get them to bed. They will go on with their own work after the regular work is over. My husband has sometimes turned the gas off at 10, and so driven them to their bed-rooms, but we found that they bought candles and worked there. I intend next season to try to get them up earlier. I am quite sure that nothing is gained by sitting up late at night. One hour in the morning is worth three at night. I believe that if we could get another half hour's work in the morning, have breakfast at half-past 7, and always begin work at 8, we need never go on after 10 P.M. Yet, only two nights ago, I found that they had been working on till 11, when there was no need for it whatever. We were not ever very late last season; the season before was later.

If you want to do any good in the way of stopping long hours of work, you must make it a rule for us, and make us observe it by Act of Parliament; there is no other way.

23. [*M. Thomel* made the following additional remarks on my reading the foregoing evidence to him.]

No doubt we are later on drawing-room nights as a general thing. We try in those weeks to finish at 11 P.M., but it has been sometimes as late as 12 or 1 before our work is over; in that case we always leave off at 4 P.M. next day. When Her Majesty's birthday is kept in the same week as a drawing-room, there is always a great deal of long work. It would be a great relief, if it was a rule never to keep the birthday within at least a fortnight before or after a drawing-room.

The long hours are often the girls' own choice. We have found before now that persons whom we employ, have actually sat up to carry out orders given privately by letter to them from our own customers. It is not only unfair to us; think what a temptation to a girl in our house, with all the materials at hand lying about, for a lady to write and ask if she could make, say, a velvet bonnet, at some price lower than our charge.

Before the Saturday early closing we used to allow each girl one evening in every week by rotation after 5 P.M., in order that they might do their own work. Now, in common with many other places, all leave off at 5 P.M. on Saturday. We found that abused, and were obliged to make a very stringent

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rule that all should be in by 10.30 P.M., unless they preferred to sleep at their parents' or friends' houses on that night, and spend Sunday there.

My own experience is, that if young ladies work too late, they are quite fagged, and useless the next morning. It is to the interest of all to have the hours of labour as short as is consistent with the proper carrying on of business. No doubt there are many, in a small way of business chiefly, who work their young persons shamefully, so that it amounts in some cases to actual oppression. But it must be remembered that there are many season houses, who depend on five months of the year for profits to support them through the whole year.

The effect of any harsh measure of legislation would be that, in our own case, for example, we should keep only 2 in the house instead of 16. That is the habit of the leading Paris houses; two or three clever young ladies reside in the house; they see the work, as it is brought in, and make trifling alterations, if they are needed; but the bulk of the work is given out to day-workers. Of course we should prefer, for many reasons, not to resort to this step; we should not like to risk our patterns being pirated, for example. If we were restrained within reasonable limits only, we could easily manage with taking on, perhaps, half a dozen extra hands for six weeks in the season; 14 hours would, I think, be reasonable, including meal times, for 12 hours of work are quite enough; say from 8 A.M. to 10 P.M. The customers would then know that we could not work to please anybody beyond a certain time, and so would be obliged, as they cannot be prevailed upon, to give us orders in good time. As things are, those who give longest notice are often worst served.

You may rest assured that the mere making of dresses does not pay, except so far as it leads to other things. Millinery pays, and a profit may be had upon the materials provided for dresses, but there is an absolute loss in the cost of making; and certainly, what with change of fashions, misfits, and long credit, dress-making, as a whole, is very far from being the profitable concern it is supposed to be. Most of our bad debts are in that department rather than the millinery.

Madame Jacobi, Bond Street. (November.)

24. *Madame Jacobi.*—I do assure you that I think from 8 A.M. to half-past 9 P.M. quite long enough for anybody to work. When we work till 12 and 1, as we are often obliged to do, we all suffer in health, my daughter, my niece, and myself, quite as much as the rest. It is too much; we work for three months as late as 12 every night, at all events for five of the six in a week. But till an Act of Parliament comes and says "you must not," all is useless. As it is, if I refuse a lady, she goes to my neighbour, who takes her order, so I cannot refuse without displeasing her, and perhaps may lose her custom, because she thinks me disobliging. But if every one were the same, if all were equally prevented by the law from working more than what I have said, we should be all alike, and the ladies, when they know that it is necessary, would give us a little more time; their orders would be executed quite as quickly as now. If there were a law, then the young ladies might complain to some one if they were overworked, and a Commissioner would come and see about it. Now there is nothing to be done at all.

In the season we have about 25 in the house, and 10 or 12 day-workers; now we have about half the number of each. Respectable girls like to be in the house; all of ours are well connected; the worst of it is that they get no exercise in the week, and not too much air; they are not fond of either; but their health, no doubt, suffers for want of them. The pressure of the season lasts quite late into July, as the ladies want dresses to take into the country with them, and often in a hurry.

One thing I will not do, and that is work on Sunday. In Paris it is common, and so some of the French girls here like to do it; but in England it is a day of rest, and I will have it so.

In some houses all the show-room girls are expected to wear black silk, even those whose salary is only 30*l.* a year. We are content with Alpaca for all but those who have to wait upon the ladies at their own homes; the salaries of such persons are 80*l.* and 100*l.* a year.

We do not expect to work after half-past 9 at night between this and Christmas, beginning at 9 in the morning, but to-night we shall have to go on till half-past 11, and perhaps to-morrow also we may be later than usual. It is, however, rare to work in the winter season, November and December that is, after 9.30 or 10 P.M.

In the summer season I have myself been for 36 hours without rest, receiving orders and superintending. Of course that was very fatiguing, but there was a great deal of standing and moving about. To sit for that time at sewing would be impossible.

It is very difficult to manage to keep the work-rooms airy and wholesome. I have "chlor," and burn genièvre, but open windows give colds, and let the blacks in upon our work. Some of our bed-rooms are small; we try to keep them clean, and as little crowded as we can, but we are very much pressed for room.

There is a house in Bond Street—they do business of an inferior class to ours—where the habit is to take a young girl, who applies for work, on trial for a week, and at the end of the week they tell her she does not suit, and send her away without paying her any salary at all. One came from them to us, she was fully worth her 1*s.* 6*d.* a day, a good average day-worker, so that we kept her on for some time. She had, she said, been engaged as a day-worker on trial in this way, and when 10 o'clock on Saturday night came, she looked for her money, and at last asked for it, and was then told that she had only come on trial, and was not good enough for them to keep. We often send bad hands away after a day or two, but we always pay them for their work. The house I refer to is so well known in Paris that the French first hands refuse engagements there.

Madame Studer, 9, Bruton Street. (October.)

25. *Madame Studer.*—We have 21 residing in the house all the year round; five or six of them are first hands. Besides these there is a family consisting of a mother and four daughters, to whom we give work to do at their home; and in the season we have about 14 day-workers also; most of these live at Miss Bramwell's home; they are generally the same for some years; they have 12*s.* and 14*s.* a week. We sometimes take apprentices, but have not more than one or two at a time; they are generally 15 years old when they are first apprenticed. I have no written agreement; they pay 20*l.* premium, 10*l.* at first, and 10*l.* more after six months. Most of those now with me have been apprenticed to me. After their term, which is generally two years, is up, I pay them 10*l.* a year at first.

Our hours are from 8 A.M. to 6 or 7 P.M. at this time of year. In the season we work generally till 11 P.M., not later. If there is any work that must be done after 11, there are two of the second hands who are under agreement to stay for that purpose; they always have part of the following day for rest when they do so. Sometimes others are also obliged to stay later. I dare say we always work 16 or 17 hours on the day before the drawing-room, and perhaps we may work a little after 11 on some other nights. Whenever we do, we always give them wine or what they like of the kind. We never expect any to work

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before 3 on the afternoon of the drawing-room day. My hours must be well known to many out of my house, for I often take ladies' maids to teach them for a few months, and you may be sure that they would talk to their mistresses about the hours we worked, if they were unusually long.

I have my meals with them, and try to make them comfortable. They have Sunday to themselves; a dinner is always here for them. They do not often go out for walks in the week. They might go to match and for other purposes, but the young ladies say that is apprentices' work, and if they cannot go out in the evening, they will not go at all. Mine are very good girls, but they want a great deal of looking after; if I have to go out for an afternoon, I find very little work done when I come home.

I don't think late hours are caused by our customers, and the idea of their putting off their orders for fear of having their dresses imitated is all rubbish. The ladies always give me time enough; we always have at least two days' notice; and if an order is given too long before the dress is wanted, you may depend upon it that it is put on one side for other things, until it is absolutely necessary to begin it.

All ours have a fortnight or three weeks holiday after the season. I do not think they have much to complain of. There will in all businesses be those who are unfitted by constitution for the work they undertake, or who always can find something to complain about. I am quite sure that you will find neither ill health nor discontent among those who have been for some years constantly employed in one good house. Those who make all the noise, are girls who go about from one house to another, changing from season to season, never healthy and never satisfied. We do not like such, and would rather not have anything to say to them. When we have a girl with us, who we see cannot stand the season work, we advise her to leave us and go to some other occupation, that is why those we have are healthy and strong; plenty of weak ones come, but they are of no good to us, so we do not keep them.

There would be much less of these complaints heard, and less of improper conduct in other ways, if employers would take no one without a reference; we never do, but many take them on as they want them without any character, and discharge them at the end of the season, and never see them again.

26. *Miss Bushby.*—I have been with Madame Studer for five years. I keep the books, and am in the show-room now, but I have been in the work-room. Before I came here, I worked for four years at a house in Conduit street. I have not ever had a day's illness, though perhaps I do not look strong. I should not know where to go to for a doctor, if I wanted one. We worked about the same hours in Conduit street as we do here, from 8 A.M. to 11 P.M. in the season, not later. Madame Studer gives her out-workers their dinner as well as their tea, and about 12*s.* a week. Those who live at Miss Bramwell's home are the better class of them. They ought to be in there by 10 P.M., but are not always able to be there quite so soon. The girls do not stand altogether, when they make the court trains, they often sit. They stand to put on most of the ruche trimmings for light ball dresses. We may keep on a little after 11 P.M. sometimes before a drawing-room, but the apprentices and younger ones would not sit up so late as the others. I did not expect to be asked all about this, some one from the work-room will be better able to tell you than I. After my work in the show-room or at the books is over, I often work with my needle to help the rest; it never tires me, nothing of the kind does me any harm.

27. *Miss Gilbert.*—I am an apprentice, and have been here 13 months; 20*l.* was to be paid as my premium, but after the first six months the second 10*l.* was returned me by Madame, or rather was not taken, because I got on so well as to be sooner of use to her than most are.

I worked once last season all night the night before a drawing-room. I have worked several times after 12 in the season, not very often; I can't say how often. I have stood for several weeks all day long at ruche trimming, but never suffered from it; my feet never swelled. I prefer standing to sitting.

Madame Le Jeune, Bond Street. (November.)

28. *Miss Ellen.*—I was apprenticed to Madame, and have been here seven years. We have 11 in the house in the season, and about 10 out-workers who come for the day. Our hours now are from 8 A.M. to 9 P.M. In the season we get up at 7 or half-past, and work from about 8 A.M. till 10 and 11 P.M. We are sometimes later, but in the last season we were very early; we really never worked after 12½, and as late as that only for a few nights. On the night of the May drawing-room we had everything finished by 10½ P.M. I think that there has been more time given, generally speaking, since that affair at Madame Elise's last year. We are fortunate in this respect, that Madame does so much herself; she works harder than any of us; every dress is cut out by herself, and most are tried on by her too, so that her first hand has more time for her own work, and ours is always ready for us; we are never kept waiting. The French girls often will go on working later than we English ones like; they enjoy it; nothing seems to hurt or tire them. We often leave them at work, and go off to bed; they go on till daylight sometimes. They will work all Sunday at their own clothes often. We once had to work on Sunday. When day-workers stay later or come earlier than usual, they are paid 3*d.* an hour if they are dress-makers, and 4*d.* if machinists; so they might have 5*s.* extra in the week, when we are pressed.

Working late on court dresses is not nearly so tiring as ordinary work, for it is a change, and everything is so pretty; it is such a pleasure to put one beautiful thing on after another till the dress gets complete, that you forget to be tired. I should be quite done up in half the time, if I were working on crape.

Madame does not take more than one apprentice at a time; the premium is 30*l.*, and the term two years. After that time is up, she pays generally 12*l.* for the first year, and so on. Madame generally brings us on, after the apprenticeship is over, and while it lasts too.

The French girls come sometimes for 12 months, sometimes only for three, but seldom for more than a year.* They are very strong, and look so. We have not had any illness, but certainly the English girls cannot stand the work as the French do. We have very nice food; always soup as well as meat for dinner. Dress-makers are not great eaters, I think, and they certainly, many of them, prefer bread and butter and such things to solid meat. It may be for want of exercise; but it is very difficult to let them go out late in the evening; there are so many ways of going wrong. Madame did allow it for a short time, but it became absolutely necessary to put a stop to it. We could, perhaps, go out before breakfast, but I can assure you I would rather have half an hour more bed than half an hour's walk any day. We have a fortnight or three weeks holiday in the year.

I should think it quite possible that girls have worked, as you have heard, from 8 A.M. till 3 and 4 the next morning every night in a week; but I can't think they could work 22 and 23 hours a day for a week, as is said in that pamphlet.

29. *Miss Gr—.*—I am the machinist here. My hours in the season are from 9 to 9. I go on to 10 perhaps three or four times. I don't live here. I am 19, and began machine work at 16. It doesn't make me particularly ill. It hurts my chest; that I suppose is the stooping. The worst is with my eyes. I find I

* Madame Le Jeune informed me that she had had one for three, and one for two years consecutively in her employ.

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can never read at all at night; my book seems to swim about. It is the flash of the needle working up and down that causes that. I have to look very intently in time just when the needle comes. It is worst by gaslight. Neither of my parents have bad eyes. One of my sisters has weak eyes; she has never worked.

Mesdames Graham and Beard, Holles Street. (October.)

30. *Mrs. Beard.*—Our hours are from 8 A.M. to 10 P.M. in the season. On Saturday we clear at 8 P.M. We don't work after 10 P.M. twice in the season, and never have. Nobody need; it is purely a matter of management; the fault is with the first hands, if late hours are kept. There is not one in 40 who is really a good first hand,—who knows, that is to say, how to keep the girls systematically supplied with proper work, so as to make the most of her time and theirs.

We make court dresses, and ball dresses, and are just as liable as anybody else is, to the pressure of the season. You may ask any or all of our girls what questions you please about the hours here, and they will all say the same thing. We have ourselves had first hands before now, who would not give out till 6 P.M. work, which was wanted the same night, and which, if they had chosen to get forward with their own part of it, might have been in hand before midday. If principals looked more after their own business, and girls were not suffered to idle away their time, there would be no need for your inquiry. The ladies' sudden orders have not a bit to do with it; there is nothing to complain of in them. Want of system, that is the secret of the whole thing. I can always cut out for myself, and am not wholly dependent on my first hands.

We rarely take apprentices, and had rather be without them altogether. We have 16 residents in the house, and all but three are on salary.

Their health is very good. I never found my eyes suffer from needlework, nor heard any complaints of others. I never will believe that any girl ever died of long work. Want of exercise, and unhealthy rooms, and bad food are more likely to be the real causes. I have been in business for more than 25 years. I was not well treated as an apprentice; we had bad food and little of it; long hours and uncomfortable rooms. I don't think things are nearly so bad anywhere now. Apprentices are generally put to skirt-making; we put all ours out. You will find skirts made at home, wherever they have a large number of apprentices; but very few in London take many apprentices. I think it more convenient to have them made off the premises; among other reasons, because they take up so much room here, which we want for other things.

I like those who live here to go for a walk now and then. I think several of them manage to get a walk before breakfast at least twice a week, but others are too fond of bed.

31. Madame S. Baily, Edward Street, Portman Square. (October.)

We have five now in the house; two apprentices, and one improver. In the season we should have 10 residents and eight or nine day-workers. Our ordinary hours in the season are from 8 A.M. to 11 P.M. Sometimes we are obliged to work later than that, till 2 or 3 in the morning occasionally. In such a case they are always allowed to sleep till 10 or 11 the next day. Sometimes the first hands who have to finish will get up at 6 A.M. and work for an hour and a half before breakfast. Even on Saturday we often have to work much after 9, instead of clearing, as I wish, at that hour.

The late work is often caused by the French girls in houses like ours, where both French and English are employed. The French girls like to work late, and will not be got to begin early in the morning. They detain the rest, because there are perhaps five or six girls working on one dress, and though any one may have finished the particular part, on which she was busy, she will then have to help the others, until the whole is done.

We find a great difficulty in getting enough good workers in the season. The French girls are always changing; that is a great disadvantage, for they generally prepare the dress for the others to make up; but as a consequence, the others, after getting into the ways of one for a season, have to learn the ways of another in the next. All that causes loss of time. If we could keep French girls constant, there would be less long work.

The girls are not unhealthy, but still they want looking after, and we have to give them medicine for indigestion and pains in the chest; their appetite fails now and then; that may be for want of exercise, they only walk on Sunday. Their stays are often too tight, and too long-waisted for persons who have to sit and stoop.

They have a good dinner on Sunday if they like. We always give good food and plenty of it; joints three or four times a week at dinner, and stews or made dishes for a change. We generally give potatoes at that meal, but have haricots and other vegetables stewed or dressed in other ways for supper. Their supper generally is bread and cheese and beer.

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32. *An employer.*—There is one point to which I dare say your attention has not been drawn, and indeed I don't know how you are to find it out, for no one will admit it to you; still it certainly is the fact, that in some houses the work-rooms are used as sleeping-rooms, when the work of the day is over. No sooner have the young ladies cleared up, than the servants come in and place the beds for some of them among all the dust and heat of crowded work-rooms lit by gas. If you do nothing else than this, you should at least most strictly forbid by Act of Parliament any work-rooms being used to sleep in. I cannot tell you the names; they have passed out of my mind; when I have been told, I have said, "It is abominable;" but I could do nothing, and so I have not remembered anything more than the fact.

[33. The following statement was made to me by the principal of a house of business in Conduit Street. She requested afterwards that her name might not appear.]

"I have seven residents and eight day-workers. We breakfast at 7 A.M. and ought to be at work by half-past, but there is not much more than five minutes' work done by 8 o'clock. I think 9 at night is quite late enough for them to work, and 10 or 11 P.M. I call late hours. The utmost they need work if they really do work is from 7 A.M. to 9 P.M.; longer hours than that are, if habitual, the result of want of system. Sometimes an accident may happen to the best regulated house, by which late hours for one night may be unavoidable, but such cases are extremely rare. For example, we were up here all night before the last drawing-room; I was taken ill in the evening, and my first hand did the work all wrong, so that it had to be done over again. Mine are very good nice girls, but they all want a great deal of looking after, and even with all that they waste a great deal of time. I speak with nearly 30 years' experience of the matter, and am convinced that in good management is the whole secret of reasonable hours. I find continually that girls, who come to me from other houses, have no notion of the value of time; I ask them how long they will take, say, to make a body of a given kind, and they cannot tell me at all."

34. *Miss M.*—I have been three years with Miss — (No. 33). In that time I have worked only once all night; that was the night before the last drawing-room. I don't quite recollect, when I left off working, but I wasn't tired, for I went soon afterwards to dress a lady for the drawing-room. I did not go to bed directly after that; I might have, if I had liked,

but I went with some of the others to see the ladies go to the drawing-room. It was on Saturday, I went to bed at about 10 that night, not before.

We do not work as late as 12 or 1 A.M. oftener than once, or at most twice, in the whole season. When we do so, we never begin till 9 the next morning, and we leave off at 7 in the evening.

35. *Miss B.*—I am a machinist, and live out of the house; my hours are from 9 A.M. to 7 P.M. I stay to 8 P.M. sometimes. I used to work in the City; the hours there were from 9 A.M. to 8 P.M. I use Thomas's machine; it is worked with both feet alternately. I often have pains under my shoulder-blades and in my side; I feel it so much, when I lie down. I did not begin to work a machine till I was 19, and have been four years at it; many begin younger, at 14 or 15; it is considered very bad for them. I suffer very much from my head; I never used to before working these machines. I often feel a shooting all over my limbs, when I get home at night. I live at Finsbury, and I thought it was the long walk that caused that.

At one place where I worked in the City we had 12 machines in one small room. I was there for two years and a half. It was very close and hot, much worse than anything here. Our hours there were from 8.30 A.M. to 8 P.M., but from August to November we often went on till 9 and 9½ P.M., but never after 10 P.M. That was the season for export orders.

We all dined at one time, and had half an hour. We brought our dinner with us; it was always cold. We were paid 14*s.* a week, and tea was found us. Here I have my dinner found as well as tea, and 15*s.* a week. We do not have more than 20 minutes for dinner.

[The three following witnesses have recently commenced business for themselves. I was referred to the first in order by Miss Newton (No. 87). Of the second I had no previous knowledge of any kind. The name of the third was given me by some ladies who have taken a great interest in this inquiry. The evidence of the three should be read together. I believe each to be equally desirous of speaking the truth; but there seemed an unconscious tendency to exaggerate in the case of the third as compared with the other two. She, apparently, felt herself put forward, as it were, to make out a case which should justify her patrons in mentioning her to me.—H. W. L.]

36. *Miss R.*—I have lately started in business for myself. I had before been first hand in three dress-making establishments in the west end of London. They were all court businesses. I was very comfortable at all of them. One I left because of my mother's death, and another I gave up to go and help a friend, who had commenced for herself. I was at the third until I began here. I have also been in another house of a similar kind, but I only stayed there a month, for I did not like the hours; they were always from 8 to 12 in the season, and later sometimes, I was told. I was only there in April, which is quite the beginning of the season. We never worked after 12 while I was there, but I did not like working every night till 12 so early in the season, for I did not know what we might have to do in May and June, if we began so. At the other houses the usual season hours were from 8 A.M. to 11 P.M. We frequently worked till 12, but not generally. We did not work till 1 A.M. more than half a dozen times each season. The hours out of the season were 8 A.M. to 9 P.M.

No doubt it is often the fault of the first hand, if the hours are very long, but looking at it from my point of view, as a first hand, much of the loss of time is owing to the carelessness, the backwardness, and the want of thought of the second hands and improvers. They dawdle away their time in the morning, and are continually making mistakes, unless your eye is always on them. When the principal is first hand as well, they will often be late, because she has to take orders, and sometimes to keep her books, and therefore cannot prepare the work till late. In large houses, generally speaking, the principal does nothing but take orders, having a book-keeper, and also one or more first hands to cut out, and superintend the work-room, and wait upon the ladies. That last is the chief good of being a first hand, for you get air and exercise in going to the ladies' houses; no doubt that kept me well; if I had had to sit all day in the work-room, I dare say I should not have stood it. Some girls used to suffer very much from headaches and fainting. I think though that they were naturally feeble. It is not the time so much as the sleeping places and work-rooms that do harm; and the season makes them worse than they would be, by overcrowding them. Every one is obliged to take more hands in the season, several more in the work-room, and a few more in the house. The additional number then in the work-room is what pollutes the air.

I have no doubt that there is a great deal of exaggeration in most of the stories that are made public. I have known several girls speak very well of Madame Elise's house. I dare say the bed-rooms and work-rooms there were overcrowded in the season, but you may be sure the most has been made of it. I should myself look with some doubt upon the statements of any girl whom I found to be in the habit of frequently changing her employers. They are generally hired for a year, and should stay at least as long as that.

I cannot say that I think extravagantly long hours are general. No doubt they are too long, but a statement like that (at p. 19 of "Dress and its Cost") seems to me highly improbable, so far as my experience goes, at all events in houses of anything like a first-rate business. Complaints of food I should always distrust; the food is plain but good, I believe. It is the want of appetite that is the thing. The girls stay in from Sunday to Sunday without any exercise in the open air for weeks together. That is very often their own faults. I am quite sure that if any girl had asked now and then at any of the houses, where I was, for leave to take half an hour's walk in the day, she might have had it, not every day perhaps, but twice a week besides Sundays. Probably they would have had to make it up afterwards, but that would not have mattered so much. Some of them won't go out even on Sunday, when it is at all dull weather.

It is becoming less and less the habit in London to take apprentices, and the premiums paid are smaller. I do not think it would answer any one's purpose to have a number of apprentices, and try and get the work out of them; it could answer only in very second-rate places. Most of the girls have been apprenticed in the country, or at a small place in London where three or four work, and come as improvers or assistants to the larger and better class houses.

Millinery is always out of hand more quickly than dresses, and there is not such a push at any time for bonnets or caps. At some places they are engaged on the express terms that they shall assist the dress-makers, when their own work is over. They can trim low bodies, and make ruchings, &c. quite as well as dress-makers. That arrangement is better for both. The dress-makers don't work so long as they would, and there is no ill-feeling, and jealousy about one class having less to do than the other.

Of this there is no doubt, that more work might be done in shorter hours than are now generally observed, if the hands were all properly looked after. As a rule, work could be given out the first thing in the morning to the first hand sufficient to last the others the whole day, so that, when they had finished that, they might be allowed to do as they pleased. They would get through quite as much for their employers,

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and have some time for themselves. Some would go on working perhaps at their own work. They are not so fond of going to bed. Lights, seen in windows by ladies returning from balls, are very bad guides to what is being done by them. I have often known young ladies sit up reading, or talking, or over their own work for hours after bedtime: I have done it myself.

37. *Mrs. B——t.*—I am now in business as a dress-maker on my own account. Four or five years ago I was second hand in a first-class French house in Bond Street. We used to begin at 8 A.M. in the season and work till 10, 11, or 12 P.M., but mostly between 10 and 11, and scarcely ever after 12, and then only for a mourning order or something similarly pressing. We had very many court trains to make for the drawing-rooms, but still we did not usually work much after 11 on the drawing-room nights. I am sure it cannot be necessary to work very late, if the girls are looked after, and have their work ready for them early in the day.

From what I knew then of other houses, I can quite believe that work goes on from 8 A.M. to 3 and 4 the next morning for several nights in several weeks successively during the season. It is not always the fault altogether of the employers. Often, without any expression of a wish by them, one or two of the hands, in order to curry favour, and get a reputation as hard workers, will offer to sit up late and work beyond the usual hours, and then the rest cannot refuse or be backward. We would never have that sort of thing go on, but if any one of that kind came in among us, we made her leave before very long.

38. *Mrs. B——l.*—I have been a little more than a year in business for myself as a dress-maker. Until the last few years I had been constantly working in fashionable London houses, sometimes living in the house, sometimes as a day-worker. That was before my marriage. I lived in the house for three seasons; after that my father would not allow me to do so, my health suffered so much from the long hours and close confinement. I was then a day-worker and lived with my parents.

We have never begun earlier than 8 A.M. on a Monday in any house where I have lived, but on other mornings we have been at work earlier, sometimes as early as 6. I have occasionally worked from 6 in one morning until 4 the next morning; that was very rare, but from 8 A.M. until 3 the next morning I have worked night after night for weeks together, except on the Saturday, when we left off sometimes as early as 7, and always before 12. I have not only been myself quite laid up at the end of the season, but I have known hundreds to be so.

Two of the houses in which I lived were court dress-makers, and the third was a general dress-maker's, but they all try for court business; there was not much difference between them in respect of hours. The ordinary pressure of the drawing rooms is certainly greater for the last night before, than the ordinary pressure for weddings, balls, and other orders; but, as a rule, in the season the usual hours of work in any fashionable house are from 16 to 18 every day. It is nothing but a regular drive from the beginning to the end of the season.

I have stayed, even when I was a day-worker, from 6 A.M. till 2 the next morning for two or three nights for several weeks together. My father complained of my being kept so late, but I did not like to give up my situation, for the employment was constant, and the wages good. I have heard the first hands say that they have sat up all night for three nights together. That may have been said just to keep us quiet, when we grumbled, and may not be true. I never sat up all night. When we were late, we never used to rest, not even for five minutes, till all the work was done. We used generally to have coffee twice in the night to keep us awake.

The food was generally good; the bread we day-workers had for tea used to be very stale at one place. I dare say that is more wholesome, but it was mouldy sometimes. The meals were very hurried; even the day-workers were frequently not allowed more than 10 minutes for dinner. Many do not allow them to leave the premises for their dinner, and yet provide no means for cooking, or even warming what they bring. Sometimes we got quite faint with waiting from breakfast at 8½ till 2 P.M. before we dined.

It is not always the fault of the young ladies that windows are not opened, even when they might be without risk of catching colds. Employers do not like blacks or damp air on delicate ball dresses or rich court trains.

Many apprentices are taught nothing, and unless they push themselves on, and pick up their business as they can, never are fit for anything. The first hand in a first-rate house has far too much to do, to teach apprentices, and all the others have their own work to attend to. They should be able in their two years to learn any kind of work required in dress-making without improvement; but, as it is, even improvers are often not taught cutting, and apprentices rarely get beyond stitching the bodies; they begin on the skirts and go on to sleeves. If they come to a good London house for improvement after a country apprenticeship, they often pay nearly as high a premium as apprentices.

I have a machine, and sometimes work it myself; it used to make me giddy, but I do not find that so now; I never work at it for more than two or three hours at a time. Two sisters, young friends of mine, work at machines in a City house,* where there are over 50 persons in a narrow room at the top of the house, with six or seven gas stoves at the end of the room for heating irons, &c. Their hours are only from 8 A.M. to 6 P.M.; but it is usual, they tell me, for three or four to faint every day. I have been in the room myself; the heat is dreadful; the girls are always having colds and coughs. These two were strong healthy girls when they came up from the country; they have now been for a little more than three years at this work, and I see them losing health rapidly; they are not like the same persons. I do not think it is the machine work that injures them; it is the terrible heat. Machinists earn from 12*s.* to 15*s.* a week.

Day-workers are frequently, if not generally, discharged without any previous notice. On the Saturday night they are told, that they will not be wanted on the Monday. I have known some to be sent away in the middle of the week, if work became suddenly slack, and paid for two or three days, according to what was owing to them. Overtime is usually paid for at an extra rate. At one house they take off an hour's overtime, when they pay at the end of the week. They say, "You must have lost an hour in "talking; it is the rule of the house."

As for the morals of day-workers, when young women who are being paid their 9*s.* and 10*s.* a week, come to work dressed better than the forewomen or the principal, every one must know where it comes from. That should not be allowed in any respectable house, but many do not care to notice it, if they are but useful. It is no easy matter in the season to get good hands. I know that I have myself tried several times by putting notices up for extra hands, and have had great difficulty in finding any who would suit me. I pay a day-worker 1*s.* 8*d.* a day and give tea.

[The following witness gave her evidence in a most straightforward way without the least apparent attempt to make the most of her experience. Of her character for truthfulness I had ample assurance from her present employer.]

* A wholesale clothier's. The number is overstated.—H. W. L.

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39. *Mrs. Cotton.*—I came up to London six years ago, and went six months as improver to a West End private house. I knew my business well before; indeed, I had been for a few years in business on my own account, but no one is taken from the country into a fashionable private dress-maker's except on improvement for six months; that means, they are boarded and lodged and give their work without salary. Many improvers come up immediately after their apprenticeship in the country is over, girls of 15 or 16.

We had to be in the work-room by 7.30 A.M., and never cleared till 11 P.M.; this was not in the very busy season; I was not there in the spring and summer. Those who had been there told me that they often worked till 1 and 2 A.M., the improvers as long as any. Our meals were all a scramble even when I was there; 10 minutes was a good allowance for dinner. There were 16 there, all living in the house; no day-workers were employed, and no work given out; if there had been, we need not have worked so late. It was a good business; we had some court trains,—never more than six for one drawing-room.

In 1861 I was again at a private dress-maker's in the same neighbourhood; that engagement was for a year, so that I had experience of the season. We were always up by 6 A.M., and never in bed before 12 from April to the end of June; often and often we were later. I was first hand there; the mistress was a milliner, and knew nothing of dress-making. I frequently told her that I must refuse orders, but she would not hear of it, and would come up into the dress show-room to see that I did take them.

The rooms were very bad; I could touch the ceiling of our work-room with my hand; 16 or 18 worked there; 10 lived in the house. The bed-rooms were shocking; in the height of the season three slept in a bed; one bed-room was so damp that the water would run down the walls. I had to leave that situation through ill health; the doctor said it would kill me to go on so. Two of my girls then died of consumption. My health never will be what it was; but I am now forewoman in a City house, where we think it very late to work till 10 P.M., our usual hours being from 9 A.M. to 7.30 P.M. with an hour and a half for meals; all are day-workers, and are paid by time, and for overtime after 7.30. The day-workers in the West End work from 9 to 9, and have overtime after that. I do not recollect a day-worker at the second private house I was at, ever staying after midnight, but they did stay sometimes as late as that; they never came before 9 A.M.

Ladies are often much to blame; when I was first hand I was several times asked by them, late on Saturday night, to let them have a dress home the very first thing on Monday morning. I have taken orders at tea-time—4 o'clock—for a ball-dress to be sent home that same night, "any time before 12 would do." Of course all the other work we had in hand had to be put aside for the time, but that had to be done afterwards, and we could not put it off to the next day, or we should never have got through. I assure you I would not go back to live in a private house, not if my bread depended on it.

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40. *Miss A.*, first hand dress-maker.—I have been for a long time in the business, and have worked in several establishments both in London and in the provinces. I have been at Southport, a watering-place near Liverpool. That was rather more than four years ago. I was first hand there. Their season is in the winter. They used to get breakfast before 8 A.M., and frequently went on till 1 and 2 the next morning; they never left off before midnight then. So few hands were kept, only seven or eight, that it was positive slavery. I left in a month. I was never in so miserable a place; everything was dirty; the work-room was never cleaned except by the apprentice clearing up the shreds, &c. The food was very bad, and we never had enough; a portion of meat was cut off and sent on a dish into the room; the girls were not even allowed a second piece of bread or a second help of potatoes. This house had one of the best businesses there. I have never seen girls so utterly broken down as those; some had not even energy enough left to dress and go out on Sunday.

I was more comfortable at Birmingham than anywhere else; our hours never exceeded 12, and everything was tolerably good. I have been in several first-rate London houses. At one, where I was recently, the rule used to be till very lately to work till 11 P.M. from 9 A.M. all the year round in season and out of season; some four or five of us had sometimes to work till 12 and even 2 or 3 A.M., but not frequently,—three or four times, perhaps, in a season. In the slack season we could often have finished at 8 or even 7, if we had been allowed to. We asked to leave off at 9 then, but the only change was to give us supper at 10 instead of 9, and to send us to bed directly after supper. The gas was turned off from the work-room, and there was no help for it but to light our candles and go to bed. I didn't like that, I thought it unhealthy. Because we did not like it, many of us left or were discharged. We used always to leave off there at 9 on Saturdays, and have one or two gas jets burning for us to do our own work by for an hour or two. The food was always good there. The work-room is also a fine room, but when we had 60 persons, as was the case in the season, the atmosphere became almost suffocating, in spite of the height of the place and the ventilation in the skylight. The tables had sometimes to be so close, that you could not get up from your seat without disturbing those at the table behind you. I was there for two years.

At another London house three or four years ago, the food was bad and insufficient; the younger girls used often to get so hungry, that they would club together and send out for a loaf. The hours there too were from 8.30 A.M. to 11 P.M., even in November when I was there; and the girls said they were often much later in the summer. At many houses they prefer working early in the morning. I know of some where they get up at 4 in the season sometimes, and generally at 6 A.M., and work till 12 at night. Even at this season (Dec.) some houses are working late. An improver, who lives where I live at present, because they have no room for her to sleep, has to be at a Bond Street house to breakfast by 8 A.M., and does not leave till 11 P.M., and you may be sure that those in the house work longer than those who sleep out of the house. I know of one where they have been working this November from 7 A.M. to 11 P.M.

The great cause of these long hours is that no one will refuse an order; they make a promise for any time a lady wishes. I remember a dress ordered at 12, fitted on at 6 P.M., finished the same night, and sent home the first thing next day. The lady who ordered it said, "I suppose you work till 11, and begin "at 6 in the morning." She did not care how long we worked. We were very much hurt at the way in which it was said. On the other hand, we are often told that an order must be completed by a certain time, and yet it remains for days afterwards in the house.

I do not think the girls ever object to the work; the grievance is that there is no time for air and relaxation. They are continually ailing; their appetite fails with long sitting in close rooms; they can't bear to have the ventilators open, much less the windows; they take cold directly. Coughs and face-aches are very general, and headaches too; they often faint at their work; it is so usual that no particular notice is taken; one of the other girls helps them out to their bed-rooms and gets a glass of water, and then they come back to their work again. My health has been injured by my work; I have just had to give up an engagement as cutter-out of cloaks, &c., for I found that it was too fatiguing; my health is too weak for it.

The bed-rooms are often very uncomfortable. Even in good houses bed-rooms have not been white-

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washed for four or five years. I have known 14 sleep in one bed-room, which certainly was not more than just large enough for 12.

I am quite sure that the girls would do their work better, if they had to work only 12 hours, than they do, as it is, in 14 or more, and do quite as much of it. The girls are all ready enough for an Act of Parliament, if they dared say so; they do say so among themselves, but they won't to you. All that the employers would want, is a few more hands in the season; these might be only day-workers. I do not fear that the result of an Act would be that employers would have no residents, but only day-workers. They would not get the class of girls, that suits them, to come as day-workers; as it is, the day-workers cannot be depended on for coming regularly; they often stay away, and cause great inconvenience by doing so. The best day-workers earn 12*s.* a week, some inferior ones as little as 8*s.*, and their tea; assistants, who live in the house, have from 16*l.* to 20*l.*, and second hands from 20*l.* to 25*l.* a year with board and lodging, so that they receive in value nearly twice as much as the day-workers, but it cannot be for the mere opportunity of working them longer hours that their salaries are higher; it is because they are more valuable as workpeople.

With regard to their morals, in any respectable house it is soon found out, if any of the girls bears a light character, and she is speedily dismissed. Those who live in the house are frequently the daughters of professional men. The day-workers may, as a rule, belong to a rather lower social class, but I have very seldom come into contact with any, who were objectionable on any moral ground.

There is no scarcity of employment for good first hands or for clever workwomen; but one half who begin to learn dress-making never get beyond a certain point, and do not succeed; of them there are always plenty to be had.

So far as my experience goes, apprentices work as late as the rest, but I believe there are houses where that is not the case. In one establishment, where I was five winters ago, two of the girls had to sleep in the work-room; I never met with another case of that; I think that very bad. We were then working from 7 A.M. to 11 P.M., and they said that they worked frequently much later in the summer. I left that in a month; but so many of the girls have no home to go to, that they will endure anything rather than leave and trust to the uncertainty of finding employment again.

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41. *Miss G.*—I had to leave the house I was in because of my health. The doctor in London advised me to go, and when I got to the country where I live they at first gave no hope of my life. I was regularly poisoned by the work-room. I had abscesses. It was a small room downstairs, where we worked by gaslight. I was there for three years. My health had not been bad before. I was 24 years old. Many others were ill; they used to faint and bleed at the nose. The room was quite unventilated, and the steam used to roll down the walls like water.

The food was good; we had joints for dinner, no vegetables but potatoes; but our appetite was often so bad that we could eat nothing, however good it was. I often could not manage to eat anything for breakfast, but went on a cup of tea till dinner-time.

The milliners did not work for more than two or three nights a month after 11 P.M., unless it was to help the dress-makers. We generally have to stand to the trains, and also to put the ruching on the skirts, but it can be put on the bodies, while you sit. Some don't find standing at all more tiring than sitting. I prefer to sit. It is commonly said that machinists can't go on for more than four years; I don't know if it is so; they always work shorter hours.

We had to be very quick over our meals; the housekeeper used to carve; I have been often going away from the top of the table as those at the bottom were being served; there would be about 30 at the table. She only carved, some one else helped the gravy.

We never worked there on Sunday. I believe one or two once worked till 2 or 3 on Sunday morning. Everything was very nice there on Sunday. We had a good dinner if we liked to stay there, and were not grudged it.

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42. *Mrs. G. N.*—I have always been a day-worker, and have worked for several houses. I am not far short of 50 now, and can't work as I used to do. Still I go at 4 A.M. sometimes, and sometimes I stay till 12. The regular hours for day-workers are 9 to 9; all over that are paid for extra. I have worked for one house year after year for many years without being a week off work. Our dinner hour is a great comfort to us; we get out and have some air and stretch ourselves, and go back to work again, able to do twice as much as we were, before going out. Those who live indoors miss that; they work longer too; not but what some of the youngest day-workers suffer very much at the end of the season, what with the long hours and the bad work-rooms. The room we work in, is a big room, but it gets over filled in the season; there is a large window, but only at one end of the room, so that those at the other end are stifled, if it is not open, and those close to it are chilled if it is. I caught cold in my arm the other day sitting by it, and thought I was going to lose the use of it.

The work there is frequently from 6 and 7 A.M. to 11 and 12 P.M.; those in the house don't begin before half-past 7 or 8, but they work later. Sometimes a day-worker will stop and sleep there. One week last season was a very bad one; they had a large wedding order, and a great number of trains; the last train wasn't sent out till 11 on the morning of the drawing-room day. I know that the girls in the house worked till 4 A.M. for three nights, and till 3 A.M. for one night, in that week. We used to be there at 6 or 7 A.M., and I know how late they worked, from asking them every morning. I had no particular reason for asking; just for the sake of saying something, I would say, as they came in, "Well, girls, how long were you at it last "night?" The principal was always up to meet us. She used sometimes to go to bed at 11, and come into the work-room and say, "Now, girls, you must be "quick, and be in bed before 12 to-night." But the forewoman knew better; she knew it couldn't be done. I do assure you it was quite sad to look at their pale faces, and see them walk quite crippled with swelled feet by standing so long at the trains; four or five were French, they stood it better. The servants were far healthier than the young ladies in that house. The milliners did not work after 12; they would often come down and talk or sing to make the time pass more pleasantly, though they did not work; they were mostly French; they don't seem to care how late they sit up. Sometimes those in the house worked on Sundays. I know that, because I have left at 12 on Saturday night, and have come at 6 on Monday morning, while they have been in bed, and have seen the difference in the work; it was not often that I did so. I know I wouldn't put any girls of mine to dress-making, if I thought they could earn their living at anything else.

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43. *Miss V. N.*—I am now working at Mrs. M—'s; she takes out mantle work and skirts from several large houses in Regent Street. Until lately I worked at Madame ——'s.

[The same as the last witness, whose account of the hours she confirmed.]

I was a day-worker there as I am now, but I can't tell you what a change it is; it is almost like changing into paradise. I work from 8 A.M. to 8 P.M., and on Saturdays leave at 4 P.M., and have 12*s.* a week. I only wish she had work enough for me all the year round. There are about 20 workers generally, but it depends on the time of year. At Madame's I have

myself worked from half-past 6 in the morning till midnight on Saturdays, as well as other nights. There has been work there from 7 A.M. to 4 and 5 the next morning, and perhaps some, who preferred lying in bed, or at all events doing no work on Sunday, have got up as early as 5 on Monday morning. There was one very heavy week last season, but they never worked from 5 one morning till 4 the next morning, and then again from 7 that morning till 5 the morning after, and so on for every day in that week, or in any other. I recollect that on the Friday night of that week they all went to bed at 1 A.M., and began work at 7.30 the next morning. They were too tired on the Friday to go on, as they had been doing for the other days of the week, that is to say, working from 8 every morning till 4 or 3 the next morning.

I'm sure I don't know why other people can't work the hours we do at Mrs. M.'s; we never got through more at Madame's, though we were about it nearly half as long again; but the thing is, here we work hard, while we are at work.

The work-room at Madame's is large, but the heat in the summer from the hot irons, which have to be kept over gas-fires, is very oppressive. As for standing, some there have stood day after day for weeks at trimming the trains or ball dresses till they got very ill; their legs swelled and their feet blistered. I have myself stood for three whole days. I was not so bad as they were, but my feet were badly blistered and my legs swollen too. The stools are not used, when they have them, for they would have to move them so continually, that it is better to stand.

44. *Miss* ——.—I was for eight months through the season at Miss G.'s, before I came here. She had a very good business in Berkeley Street. There were 30 young ladies; all but a few lived in the house. We usually left off at 9 P.M. and never worked after 10 P.M. or before 9 A.M. We have had as many as seven or eight court trains at one time there.

45. *B. D.*, dress-maker.—I have worked at two other houses besides this; they were not late houses, not what I call late; we never worked after 12 or 1 at night in the season, from about 8 A.M. generally speaking; that is no later than we work here. I worked here 18 months ago from 7½ A.M. to 4 the next morning on the drawing-room night; we had worked every night that week till 12 and 1 from half-past 7 in the morning. I don't recollect on what day the drawing-room was; it may have been Saturday; I know it was towards the end of the week. If it wasn't, then we worked several nights in the week before till that time. I was very tired at the time, but it did me no harm. I am very well now, and always have been.

46. *Miss H.*—I have known Madame B.'s for five years; I was a day-worker there. There were only 3 day-workers. We were very comfortable, except that the tea which she gave us was very bad; but those who lived in the house were not comfortable at all. There were 12 of them; two were apprentices, the youngest about 14; I don't think any was over 23. The day-workers' proper hours were from 9 to 9; I never stopped after 10½ P.M., but the other two would stay for two hours more, three or four times in the season. We used to have supper there; that is to say, a piece of dry bread and some sour beer. We were paid for our extra work, but only at the same rate per hour as for the day; that was 12*s.* a week. The in-door hands used to be at work in the season at 8 A.M., and go on till 12 at night, Saturdays and all, for three or four weeks together, besides working much later, all night sometimes, for the night before the drawing-room. They used to complain very much of the food; and so far as I saw of tea and supper, I should think they were right. The bread was always terribly stale, and the butter, of course it was salt, and there was not much of it, but it really was not fit to be spread. I believe the dinners were better; they had hot joints three times a week, fish on Friday, and a make-up on the other two days; no vegetables but potatoes. They used to say that they were always helped very scantily, and that if they ever ventured to ask for more, some ill-natured remarks were made. Half an hour was considered to be the time allowed, but it was often much less.

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47. *Miss J.*—I was improver from September to June in a house notorious* for the long hours of work. I lived there; there were 30 then. During that time we usually worked until 12 at night; in the season we worked after 12 every night almost for about two hours; then we used to begin at 6.30 A.M., before breakfast, and have breakfast at 8. Some worked on Sunday sometimes. We used to have supper at 9 P.M, bread and cheese and beer, no butter. We never had anything to eat after 9, when we worked till 2 in the morning. I never had any appetite for breakfast there, whether I had been working before or not. The work-room was very close; the girls fainted very often; they used to go and get some water, and work on again. I had to leave through illness. The chief cause of it, my doctor said, was want of exercise; we were never allowed to go out. I and another one went out for a walk before breakfast to try to get an appetite, but Madame saw us coming in, and was very cross; she said that if we went, all would want to, and that the servant would have such trouble in opening the door for us.

The bed-rooms were very close and wretched. There was a machinist there who was taken ill and died in a few days after she had been removed; she had been working from 8 A.M. to 12 P.M. at her machine for some time before. We all thought it was that that killed her; her brain was affected.

[In Miss Bramwell's pamphlet† this case is referred to, and a special reason assigned for the death of the poor girl.—H.W.L.]

GENERAL DRESS-MAKERS.

48. Miss Griffiths, New Burlington Street.

General Dress-makers.

We never work for more than 12 hours in the day; even in the season from 9 A.M. to 9 P.M. is, with very rare exceptions, our longest time. I never employ day-workers. They would make me feel anxious, because I could not look after them properly. I have 12 resident in the house all the year round. In the season I put work out, for I have not space enough to take more to live with me in comfort, so the skirts and cloaks are given out. Mine is a general dress-making business. I take apprentices; the premium is 50*l.* for 3 years. The great difficulty is to manage a walk for them. They are often provokingly fanciful about their food.

I am sure that very long hours are not needed. Very little more real work will be done in 18 hours, than could be done in 12, if the time were properly used. My customers generally give me a week's notice, and if I cannot do what they require, I refuse the order. I have several times persuaded some of my customers to give an order, which I could not execute, to a former apprentice of my own, who was starting in business; I have supplied the pattern,

* Expression confirmed emphatically by Miss Newton (No. 87).

† "Have Faith in God," p. 6.

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and the making has been given to them. It would be a great relief in times of great pressure, if more would adopt such a plan. I do not think I ever lost a customer by doing so, and it was a good introduction for beginners.

Many no doubt are too fond of dress, and overdress themselves. Can it be wondered at, that young girls, who are constantly handling rich and beautiful things, should be dissatisfied with the homely dress that suits their means? It is only natural.

The girls themselves are somewhat to blame for submitting to these very long hours. I often have told first hands, whom I know, that they ought to refuse to work so late. They, at all events, are in a position to be independent. If a good and clever workwoman wants a situation, there are always a dozen houses ready to take her.

Much of the late hours in private houses has grown by degrees, out of the reluctance to refuse some one influential customer. A lady, of high rank and social influence, orders in the morning a dress for dinner on the same day, or in the afternoon a ball dress for the evening. The order is taken and executed. Such ladies never realize that the performance of that promise must involve the postponing of some other work then in hand, until a later time. Then other ladies say, when they are told that their orders cannot be executed, "Why, you made that dress for the Duchess, "—or the Countess,—on such short notice, will you "not do so for me?" So that order too is taken, and so it goes on.

With regard to the cost of dress, I recollect a machinist, who had worked for me for some time, left me, as she told me, to better herself, she had an offer to serve in a shop with a salary of 4*l.* a year more than I gave her, and a silk dress every year besides. In a year's time she came back to me, saying that she found the expenses of dress and washing necessary for a shop or show-room more than counterbalanced her extra allowance.

One of those who take my skirts out to make employs two or three quite little girls, of 11 and 12 years old, to do them. She teaches them very carefully, and they do the work well. For the children it is a most excellent thing; their parents are generally very poor; and they would otherwise be nursing or playing in the streets. The district visitors very frequently send one to her. She never employs them very long, and sometimes reads to, or teaches them other things at their work. She pays them less, no doubt, than older ones would have, but more than they could otherwise earn, and takes some trouble with them, which is more rare.

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49. *Miss E.* (an employer).—We have no court trains, but the ordinary dinner and ball dresses. Twelve young ladies live in our house all the year round; one or two are apprentices. Our hours in the season are from 6.30 A.M. to 9 P.M.; we sometimes begin an hour earlier, but very rarely. We must do it to get on at all, for the season is the only time for our profits. We are at great expenses. In salaries, rent, board, and insurances we pay 1,000*l.* a year. Our customers are often very long about paying their bills; but we have to pay interest on the cost of the materials we buy for them, if we do not pay in three months; the usual course with a city dealer is 2½ discount, if paid in a month; then credit for two months, or very often a bill; after that interest at 5 per cent. The West End houses give longer credit, but charge a higher price to us.

Ladies could easily manage to give us longer notice than they do; much time might be saved if they would order a dress or two early in the season, before they absolutely want to wear it. They all know what they will need at the least, and the patterns are always ready for a month or six weeks before the dresses are to be worn; for instance, a lady could always be sure of seeing by the end of March or beginning of April all the patterns, which would be used for dinner and evening dress in May.

Some of the employers who agreed together some time ago not to work after 11 P.M., have evaded the agreement in a very shabby way. Keeping to the letter of their arrangement, they made the young ladies get up at 3 and 4 A.M., if they wanted extra work. One highly "respectable" house did so. Such a proceeding did more than anything else to put an end to that movement.

We let our young ladies leave off early, whenever we can; in fact, when the work that must be done is finished; so that at this time they sometimes can get out by 7 or 8 in the evening, and of course we begin much later in the morning. Even in the season now and then we manage to send them off to get a little air. We never go on after supper. The girls are all of them willing enough to work, when they see the necessity for it, but many feel it a great grievance—and I think so too—to be obliged to sit up in the work-room till a fixed hour, because it is the "rule of the house," often making or mending the linen of the house, or with a piece of work just put into their hands, to keep them from sitting literally with their hands in their laps doing nothing.

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50. *Miss Gill* (Bond Street) informed me that the hours observed in her establishment during the season were from 8 A.M. to 9 P.M., and that they did not work more than half a dozen times as late as 10 P.M. At other times of the year they frequently left off at 5 or 6 P.M. Her's was a general millinery and dress-making business; court dresses being made by her, but not in great numbers. On a wedding or mourning order she might have, once or twice a year, to work after 10. She had 12 or 14 persons in her employ during the season, all being residents. She preferred giving her work out to having day-workers in her work-room, as she did not like the risk of having unpleasant associates for those who were under her own roof.

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51. *Miss B.*, I was an out-door apprentice in the country, and am now established for myself in London. We find it a very difficult thing indeed to get good hands. I and my sister have often had to sit up late after our work-people have gone, literally to unpick their work and do it over again. There is such a demand for really good hands that they are sure of constant employment in the season.

No doubt dress-makers suffer terribly in health; but it is not all the fault of long hours or bad work-rooms and bed-rooms. The fact is, that delicate girls are apprenticed to it under the notion that it is light, easy, and agreeable work, and therefore fitter for them than any other. But no idea could be more mistaken. That was the cause of my being apprenticed to the business, and now I know that almost anything would have been better for my health. You might almost say with truth that the majority of dress-makers are predisposed to bad health before they begin to learn.

I am afraid that the ladies are not blameless with regard to the long hours. No doubt there are many who do, and more who are ready to give long notice, but I myself know of others who will never give their orders, until the last moment for fear that other ladies should have dresses like them. This is especially the case with the court dresses. There is no concealment about it, they say so to us themselves.

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52. *Miss R.*—Had resided and worked for several seasons at two general dress-making houses where the work in the season was begun at 7.30 A.M., and they did not ever begin to clear up till 11 P.M. This lasted for six weeks or two months. She was very rarely kept later than 11 at work. Her health, she said, had not suffered in any respect. The food was good and the work-rooms and sleeping apartments, in her opinion, unobjectionable.

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53. *C. B.*—I worked for three years at a general dress maker's near Baker Street. There were six or

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seven of us living in the house there. They were very kind; the food and everything was nice enough, but I had to give up through ill health, and my younger sister, who was there, died of consumption. I am 21 now. I was never very strong, though I dare say I look in good health now. After I had been there for a few months my finger became bad, not with using the needle but breaking out in boils. I do not think there was anything wrong about the sleeping place or the work-room; the room we worked in used to have 15 or 16 in it during the season; it was about the size of this (15 ft. sq. by 10 ft.). Four slept in a bed-room nearly as big.

Our usual hours of work there were from 7 A.M. to 9 P.M., but as a rule we worked later than that in the season, but never after midnight; we often worked until 11 at night. We were never any later next morning, when we worked till 11 or 12 the night before.

We had half an hour for each meal. At dinner we always had meat and potatoes, no other vegetable ever. We never had meat at any other time, whether we were working late or not. The supper was bread and cheese. We had prayers at 10, and went to work again afterwards if it was necessary.

30*l.* was the premium paid for me for two years apprenticeship. After that I was an improver, living in the house and giving my work without payment. Those who stayed longer would be assistants, and be paid about 7*s.* a week besides board and lodging.

We never went out merely for a walk, but we went for errands and to match. I think I was favoured because I was delicate; they sent me out more than the rest. Some might not go out for several days.

SILK MERCERS, DRAPERS, &c.

Messrs. Lewis and Allenby, Regent Street.

Silk Mercers, Drapers, &c.

54. *Miss* ——, manager.—I have been here 11 years, and am familiar with most of the details of management in our establishment. The London season commences at the end of March or the beginning of April, and continues until the middle of July. During the whole of that period our work begins at 8.30 A.M., or thereabouts, and ceases at 10 or 11 P.M. We never by any chance work after 11, for the gas is invariably turned off at that hour. Our work-rooms are all lit by gas. I think I may say that we never clear up before 10 P.M. in those months, and very frequently not much before 11. When I say we begin at half past 8, I mean this: we are obliged from want of accommodation to have our meals in two sets; so one set will prepare the rooms and work between 8 and 8½, while the other set are breakfasting; and at 8½ they come to breakfast, while those who have breakfasted begin their work. Three-quarters of an hour are allowed for dinner, and about half an hour for tea, with us; in the season we sup at 9 P.M.

We have meat and vegetables every day for dinner, Sundays included, and meat for supper also in the season. We have no very large number of young ladies in the house, about 35 in all, of whom 10 or 12 are in the shop or show-room; we do not take apprentices now, indeed we have only one, and she is 20; and only one or two improvers, for our work is of the best quality, and we require the most experienced and skilful. The youngest we have is 17, and she is in the show-room. About a dozen of them are dress-makers; they are always later in the season than the milliners; the latter are expected to give them a little help after their own work is done sometimes, as far as they can, when there is great pressure; but still it is always the dress-makers, who are at work up to the last moment before clearing up.

We only make the bodies of the dresses here; the skirts we send out to be made, and last season we had to send out the sleeves too. In the season we have extra hands, who come in as day-workers. We have the same persons season after season. I do not know what becomes of them in the meantime. They are not such experienced workers as those who live with us. We pay them 1*s.* 6*d.* a day, and give them their dinner and their tea. Their hours are from 8 A.M. to 8 P.M. It is very rare that any of them stay after 8 P.M., and I do not think it is usual for day-workers to do so anywhere. I have been in two or three houses, and never knew or heard of any of the day-workers there being kept as late as 11 and 12 at night.

In houses like ours, if apprentices are taken, they are generally bound at 15 or 16 years of age for two or three years, and pay 50 guineas premium.

We have no regular time for them to take a walk. They do not get up before breakfast for that purpose, but if two or three ask to be allowed to go out in the evening together, or with friends, they can always do so twice a week from 7 to 11 P.M., except in the season. They do not have any exercise then. They could, if they wished, go out before breakfast. If we know where they go, we let them sleep out on Saturday and spend Sunday away, but we like them to be back by Sunday night. We leave off work at 4 P.M. on Saturdays now, in the season we leave off at 5 P.M. invariably. All have four weeks holiday in the year, some in August and the rest in September. All of ours are girls of very good moral character.

With respect to the habitual system of late working in the season,—working I mean till 12 at night and often later,—I think it is avoidable, and I am sure that nothing is gained by it.

There certainly is a great difficulty in getting good hands; it is quite a mistake to think that it is a mere question of getting more hands and more room for them, and that it is only a very few superior hands for the final touch, as it were, that we require; even as it is, we have to send many away after a few days' trial, because their work is not good enough. But no doubt a great deal may be done by good system. If the girls knew that they might leave off at 10 o'clock, for example, if a certain quantity of work was got through by that time, they would work harder and more cheerfully too, instead of wasting their time, as they do when they know that, whether they work fast or slow, they will have to go on till 12 or 1 at something or other. In many houses also the work is not given out until the evening; where the mistress is at once the forewoman of her work-room and the superintendent of her show-room, this is very likely to be the case. There would never be that cause for late hours in a large place like ours, where each department has a separate head. But when only a few are employed, it is almost impossible that it should be otherwise; for the payment of a good forewoman might make a serious difference in their profits.

In the dress-makers' show-room we have to stay in the season, after the shop is closed, to arrange the patterns for the orders taken in the day; that is not the case in the shop or the other show-rooms.

55. *Miss P.*—I worked at Madame —— for four months; it was not during the season, but from October to February; I was 18 then. Our ordinary hours were from 8 A.M. to 9 P.M., but I was there at the time of the Prince Consort's death. After that we worked till 3 or 4 A.M. two or three times a week, and once all night through. We rested the whole of the next day after working all night. As a rule, if we worked as late as 3 A.M. then we used to leave off earlier, at 5 or 6 P.M. the next day; 11 P.M. was considered the latest hour they worked there, but it was often later. We had coffee and something to eat at 12 when we worked late. The food was very good; we had meat and vegetables every day. I used to feel tired and heavy after a long day's work, but never had any particular headache.

I was an assistant there; here I am a second hand. Assistants have 8*l.* or 10*l.* a year and second hands

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15*l.* or 20*l.*; that is when they live in the house. Altogether I have worked at dress-making for five years. My health has not suffered at all, so far as I am aware. There is no need to stand to make court trains; we used to sit always at them.

56. *Miss A. H.*—I am a skirt-mounter; that is not often done, as it is here, by one person exclusively. I rank as a second hand. Two years ago I was at Marshall and Snelgrove's; I was there for four years; everything was very comfortable. We began work at 8 A.M., breakfast at 7.30 in the season, and never were later than 8 P.M., except on very rare occasions. When the Prince Consort died we all worked for a week till 10 or 12, and once till 1 A.M. We had a good supper there. We were paid well: assistants from 14*l.* to 16*l.*, and second hands 24*l.* a year. We were always, if we wished, allowed to be out till 8.30 of an evening.

My health has never been injured by any work. I have to stand all the day, but even at the end of the long days in the season I never found my feet swell. I think we could all work faster than we do; we could often get through by 9 P.M., what we take till 11 about in the season, if we knew that we could leave off when we had finished what we had in hand; but as we should have something else to do when that was finished, we have no motive to work very fast. I don't mean to say that we are wilfully idle, but only that the work could be done faster than it is.

57. *Miss K.*—I have been here 4 years, and have very seldom felt ill at all; have never had to be away from my work from any illness caused by working. I was for two years and a half with Mrs. H., before I came here. There were 21 in the house then. We used to work there from 8 A.M. to 12 and 1 for three or four nights in the drawing-room weeks, and till 6 or 7 in the morning of the drawing-room. After doing so, we always had a long rest, sometimes the whole of the day till 8 the next morning. We always cleared up at 11 on Saturday night, whatever the pressure was. After the season, work used to be over at 7 P.M. The food was very good and plentiful. When we worked so late, we had supper at 8 P.M., and coffee with bread and butter at 12, and a good breakfast at 6 A.M. when the work was over. The only bad thing there was the sleeping; eight of us used to sleep in a room, in which there was a sink, where all the slops were emptied; that was very unpleasant and unwholesome too, I think. Mrs. H. was always kind to us.

58. *Mr. S. Lewis.*—The difficulty of restricting the hours of labour for dress-makers and milliners, or even of inspecting the rooms in which they work, will be found to arise in the case of persons in a small way of business rather than in large and long-established places like ours. We can afford to tell a customer that we cannot execute her order by the time at which she requires it; indeed we have to do so frequently in the height of the season. But to persons just beginning business, the custom of one lady may be all important, and to disoblige her is to ruin themselves. They begin business with little or no capital,—an hundred pounds, or two at most,—take a private house or part of one, and have four or five hands to work in rooms intended probably to be used as bed-rooms, certainly not as work-rooms. If they are at all successful, each year which brings an increase of business involves an increase in the number of hands, while the space, which they have at their disposal, being very limited, is necessarily soon overstocked.

Comparatively few can afford to take additional premises, and still fewer to alter or rebuild them so as to make them fit for work-rooms. Take our own case: we are about to pull down five houses at the back, and rebuild, according to an architect's designs for the express purpose; but in the front facing Regent Street we must not alter a floor or a window. Those premises are held under the Woods and Forests, and consisted of three separate houses, which we have taken in at different times. They are in most respects very ill adapted for work-rooms, but they are valuable to us.

With regard to the late hours, I am compelled, by my own experience, to attribute them in a great degree to the inconsiderateness of ladies in ordering their dresses at the last moment. We often have orders to be completed by the same evening. To do so, the work in hand has to be laid aside and finished at another time; but by the delay they get behind hand with that, until it also becomes urgent, and so arrears of work accumulate.

By far the greater portion of our work is given out to be done for us by persons, whom you may call middle women. They hire and pay day-workers, who come to their work-places, but do not reside on the premises.

The remarks which our manager has made about the difficulty of obtaining really good hands are strictly true, and that question is worth the consideration of some of our social reformers. It is quite astonishing to see how very few of the girls, who must know, and whose parents must know, from the first, that they will have to earn their own living, are taught the commonest rudiments of a business education; but, apart from that, in what is peculiarly woman's work, in the mere use of the needle and the scissors, the small number of those, who are really valuable, is even more surprising.

Messrs. Jay, Mourning Establishment, Regent Street.

59. *Miss L.*—I have been in this establishment as first hand or as forewoman in the work-room or the show-room for many years. We very rarely have apprentices or even improvers; they are much more in private houses. Scarcely any of ours are under 20. We have 39 in our work-room, of whom 14 sleep in the house; the rest are day-workers. Of the 14 eight are milliners and six dress-makers. We are of course liable to sudden pressure at all times of the year, but more especially in the London season, though not to the same extent as the court milliners. From April to July we breakfast at 7½, begin our work at 8½, and leave off at 9 P.M., or at latest 10 P.M. At all other times our hours are from 9 A.M. to 9 P.M. The milliners work as long as the dress-makers with us, for they manage to help them when their own work is over. We have not worked all night for years, except, that is, for one night at the death of the Prince Consort; we had then to work for several nights till 12 or 1. But I am convinced the principals gain nothing from late hours; the workpeople are too fatigued for work the next day, if they work late at night. I have had many battles about it,—I do not mean with the principal,—but I think I may say now that I have gained my point; and except on some very extraordinary occasions like that which I have mentioned, we never work after 10 P.M.

If those in the house have parents or friends to go to, we let them go out for Saturday and Sunday; that is to say, the younger ones. We cannot ask questions of the older ones as to where they intend to go; they have dinner and a home here on Sunday, if they prefer to stay. They can all go out for half an hour's walk in the morning before 9, if they like; some do, but it is a common fault with them to neglect exercise. Our doors are always locked at 11 every night; I could not myself get in after that time.

Our work-room here, I must admit, is not as nice as I should like to see it; but all the rooms are ill adapted for the purpose. Mr. Jay has spent a good deal of money on it, but it is still very close and hot, especially on foggy days in winter, when the gas is lit. In the summer they can have the windows open; but you see they have stuffed up the ventilators, which were over the gas jets; they said they made the gas blow about and gave them cold. They do

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not, however, suffer any more than by feeling the heat oppressive; fainting is not frequent among them. However, I must say that I think it would be bad for them, if they had to go on working here beyond our usual hours; they are quite long enough. No one in the room has weak eyes. Those that are in the house have a fortnight's holiday; they arrange so as to take it at different times. They are paid monthly. All but two or three have a salary.

[In the centre of the room was placed a glass skylight, the top of which could be raised above the vertical sides on which it rested; this, Mr. Jay had hoped, would have created a sufficient up-draught for the purposes of ventilation, but it seems not to have answered his expectations. The state of the bed-rooms was satisfactory. Mr. Jay in discussing with me the size of the work-room mentioned the great difficulty experienced by all tenants of houses in Regent Street, who desired to adapt their houses to the exigencies of their business, in consequence of the objections entertained by Her Majesty's Commissioners of Woods and Forests to sanction permanent alterations.

In answer to a question relating to the quality and amount of food supplied to the residents in his house, he referred me to his butcher, baker, and grocer, whom he named. At the same time he told me, in illustration of the groundlessness of complaints made on that score by the young ladies, that at one time, having thought that the porter which was then furnished for their consumption by a neighbouring public-house, and was complained of, was adulterated, he arranged with a wholesale brewer to supply them with pure good stout; notwithstanding that this arrangement was properly carried out, several persisted in sending out for the previously repudiated porter, and preferred to pay for it out of their own pockets.—H.W.L.]

60. *Miss Mumford.*—I am now the housekeeper, but I was for six years in the work-room. I never suffered in health, never fainted. My only reason for giving it up was that I liked this much better, and Mr. Jay wished me to try it. We have from 12 to 18 here dining on Sunday; they have meat and vegetables every day and sometimes a pudding. They dine in two sets; each has 20 minutes. Sometimes the young ladies in the show-rooms are not able to come, then I always let them have a chop or steak later. They do not have beer in the middle of the day, but as much as they like at supper. When there is great pressure in the show-room, as at the time of the Prince Consort's death, we have sandwiches and sherry in an adjoining room, and they run in and get a mouthful when they can.

61. *Miss S.*—I have been a day-worker here for 14 years and have never worked anywhere else. We seldom work more than from 9 A.M. to 9 P.M.; if we do we are paid for it, but it happens so seldom that I have never thought whether the rate is higher than our regular wage or not. That is 13*s.* a week for me. My lodgings cost me 4*s.* out of that. An hour is allowed us for dinner; most of us bring it here, for we live too far off to go home. I live near the Euston Road. On most Saturdays we leave at 5 P.M. Holidays are not forced on us in the dull season, but we may take a week or a fortnight then, if we can afford it.

62. *Miss H.*—I have been here 12 months; before that I was apprenticed at Ely for two years and a half. My premium there was 10*l.* I did not live in the house, but slept and had all my meals at home. They never worked there later than 10 P.M., and I always left at 9. We used to begin at 9 A.M. I have never worked here after 10 P.M. I was ill this summer and had to go home, but I have been back for three months, and am still very well now. I don't know that it was the work, or what it was, that made me fall ill.

Messrs. Swan and Edgar, Regent Street.

63. *Mr. Macintosh.*—We have only for the last two months employed mantle and dress makers on our own premises, so that I cannot speak from actual experience as to the hours of work, which are absolutely necessary in the height of the season. But I am quite sure of this—and I have had some experience in the conduct of a business—that the best thing for all would be a strict factory law to limit the hours of work; the trade might safely be left to right itself. We have, besides our resident saleswomen, from 40 to 50 young women here in our work-rooms; all are day-workers. Their hours are from 8 A.M. to 8 P.M., and we do not mean ever to exceed them. One hour is allowed them for dinner, and half an hour for tea. When we have as much work as we can get through in the week, we must refuse orders, or take on more hands.

I am quite sure that all philanthropic efforts, whether by individuals or associations, will end in smoke; nothing but an Act of Parliament will be of any use to restrict the hours of work. I do not say this merely on the spur of the moment, it has long been my deliberate conviction.

Of course it would not do to have the same stringent rules applied to those who serve in the shop; on a very busy day the stock may have become so disarranged as to require some hour or two to put it in order after the shop is closed; and with respect to meals too, the overseer and others, who have to wait on ladies at their own homes or in our show-rooms, must necessarily be uncertain and irregular; between those and the workpeople a well-defined line can be drawn. For the bulk of those who are in the work-room it would be the greatest boon to enact simply that work should not begin before or continue after a fixed hour.

64. *Miss K.*—I am now the head of Messrs. Swan and Edgar's work-room. I have been in several private dress-makers' houses in London. We generally considered the hours of the season to be from 8 A.M. to 11 or 12 at night. For about two months we never thought of leaving off till 12 or 1 A.M., but we did not work all night more than twice a season. I do not think it possible to avoid late hours in private houses then. It is very difficult to get good hands in the middle of the season, even when you have room for them. Still I must allow that it is bad for their health; my own constitution has been very much impaired by the late hours which I have had to work, and no doubt very many suffer very much from that cause. I was myself very strong when I first came up to London.

It certainly would be a great disadvantage to the young ladies in several ways to be obliged to live out of the house; still I must say that if I had to choose for the season, between living out of the house and working from 8 A.M. to 8 P.M., and living in the house and working from 8 A.M. to 11 P.M., I should prefer the former. As for the protection which residing in the house gives, that depends on circumstances. There are many residents who are no better in a moral point of view, than if they were wholly unprotected.

I never heard of any case of the work-room being used for any of the young ladies to sleep in.

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Messrs. Howel and James, Regent Street.

65. *Mr. Jeffery*, junior.—When our number is full we have 32 young ladies resident on our premises; 11 of them are in the show rooms and the rest, 21, are milliners or dress-makers. It happens by accident that several have left us since last season, either to get married or to commence business for themselves. We never discharge any at the end of the season, but keep them through the year. Seven of them are apprenticed; they are generally bound for three years; in one case we were obliged by the rules of an institution from which we received one to bind her for five years, but after the third year we have been giving her a salary of 16*l.* a year the same as if she were out of her time.

We do not take on additional hands in the season, but we give more work out. Next year we shall have sewing machines, which will enable us to take more dresses than we could last season. The machines can do any straightforward work, such as running the seams of bodies as well as skirts, and the finest kind of work also. We reckon that three women are required to finish off the work of one machine.

In the work-room the work begins at 9 in the morning all the year round; we are at no time earlier; the shop is closed at 6 in the evening for the three winter months, and at 8 for three summer months; in the intermediate seasons we close at half-past 6, 7, and half-past 7 according to the time of year, and they always finish in the work-rooms within an hour or an hour and a half of that time. Even in the height of the season and on the drawing-room nights we never by any chance continue work after 10 P.M., and we very rarely work so late as that. We dine in three parties, each having half an hour.

Apprentices always ask for the millinery in preference to dress-making department; the latter is so much heavier; it is frequently really hard work. We find it difficult to get good dress-makers.

66. Messrs. Marshall and Snelgrove, Oxford Street.

Mr. *Marshall* conducted me over the whole of the premises occupied by his firm. From conversation with him, with Mr. *Snelgrove*, and with the manager of the work-rooms, I obtained the information which I subjoin.

At the time of my visit (November), the total number of female residents was 63; 34 were milliners and dressmakers; some of the rest were in the show-rooms or shop; the carpet stitchers, who belong to a lower class, did not live on the premises In the summer season a dozen or twenty more were usually taken on, but none were discharged at the end of the season, the ordinary casualties of marriages or leaving to better themselves being generally sufficient to reduce the number to the same limit before Christmas-time.

The manager considered that there was room for about 40 persons in the work-room; a number which, according to my experience, would leave it one of the least crowded rooms of its class in the trade. Many of the skirts and mantles were given out to be made off the premises, frequently to dress-makers beginning business, whose time was not fully occupied by their own customers.

The hours of work at the time of my visit were from 8.30 A.M. to 7 P.M.; in the three winter months they always left off at 4 P.M. on Saturday, and for the rest of the year at 5 P.M. In the season they are expected to be at work by 8 A.M. and do not often work after 8 P.M. The occasions on which work goes on till 10 P.M. are not half-a-dozen in the season.

Apprentices are not taken, but young ladies go as improvers to reside in the house, without a salary for 6 or 12 months, under a verbal agreement which admits of their leaving at any time, and after their improvement they begin with salaries of from 12*l.* to 15*l.* for the first year.

The health and comfort of the residents of both sexes are studied here with very satisfactory results. Most of the "young ladies" live in a separate house with an entrance in Henrietta Street, where they have sitting rooms for their especial use; they are always allowed to go out in the evening on entering their names with the doorkeeper, but are obliged to be in by half-past 10 under pain of dismissal the next morning, if they cannot account for their being out later in a proper way. If they were as late as 11 P.M., they would probably be locked out. The kitchens and all the arrangements for feeding are very good. The young ladies are provided with a dining apartment distinct from that used by the young men of the establishment; they dine in two parties, each having about half-an-hour. If any are detained in serving a customer, or are absent on business at the dinner hour, a separate table is always provided. Such cases occur with such frequency as in Mr. Marshall's opinion to render it impossible to adopt anything like the factory system of meal hours.

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67. *An employer* of great experience in the conduct of one of the largest silk mercer's businesses at the West End.

In considering any scheme for limiting the hours of dress-makers it becomes important to look at the price paid for their labour. I have no hesitation in saying that, so far as my own experience goes, the mere price paid for making a dress, at all events in the present state of fashion, results in a dead loss to the maker. Of course I do not mean that we lose upon every dress we make, but our profit arises from the material which we supply, and it is a mystery to me how dress-makers live, who merely make up ladies own materials. There is a charge almost stereotyped for dress-making, 15*s.*; some have in some cases charged 1*l.*, but they are considered dear. Now take for example these linsey dresses, which are worn with a good deal of braid on the skirt. We give our skirts out to be made; here are several for which we have paid respectively 3*s.* 6*d.*, 5*s.* 6*d.*, 10*s.*, 15*s.*, and in one case 1*l.*; yet for making the skirt, body, and all we can only charge the 15*s.* As a matter of fact we do not ever, or scarcely ever, make up any but our own materials; still this fact remains unaltered, that the value of the labour expended on our premises on the body is wholly or in great part unrepresented in the charge for making the dress, as distinguished, that is to say, from the cost of the dress when made. Now we pay salaries varying from 20*l.* to 120*l.* a year to those who work for us residing here,—the average will be 40*l.*,—and the cost of lodging, board, &c., must be reckoned at another 30*l.* at the very least; (one firm used to reckon it at 35*l.* in account with a partner who used to contract to furnish everything for them, rent and taxes not included.) The margin therefore for the profits of small dress-makers must be found in the saving the expense of our salaries and household, so that they necessarily have but few hands, doing all their superintending and cutting out work themselves, and live as plainly and as economically as they can, working as long as they can manage day after day, while there is work to be done in the season, to make up for the want of work that must follow, and has preceded, the excessive activity of three or four months in the year.

I have known dress-makers, whom we have supplied, actually fall asleep over our counter as they ordered what they wanted, after working night after night till one o'clock from five in the morning. Those particular cases, that I have now in my mind, were young ladies who had been some little while in business for themselves and had a good connexion; there was no choice for them but to take all the orders they could, and certainly if their assistants had to work

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late, they did not spare themselves; and after all, like many others in their position, they had often to wait a long time for their money.

You may depend upon it that there are no large fortunes made out of dress-making.

68. *A member of a well-known West End firm*, whose position eminently qualifies him to give an opinion in the matter, stated to me that he had no doubt whatever that considerable fortunes were still frequently made by private dress-makers, who supply materials, and in so short a time as eight or 10 years. He mentioned several cases in illustration of his assertion, in which he had peculiar opportunities for knowing the actual state of things, and accounted for the not unfrequent bankruptcy of fashionable establishments by referring to the great and noted extravagance, in which those had indulged. In his opinion, although beginners in the business who had not capital to back them did suffer from the habit of giving long credit, the fault was in a great degree their own for being needlessly fearful of offending by asking for the money due to them, and he was quite convinced that, as a general rule, ladies, although they might be in arrear with their accounts, paid well; so that in any average business of two or three years' standing the actual receipts for the year would about balance the debts upon the books for the same period. Of this he gave me, in confidence, some signal instances. He also commented strongly on the exorbitant percentage of profit upon the value of material, which private dress-makers were enabled to, and did usually, make by insisting on charging for the dress as a whole instead of in detail for material, trimmings, making, &c.

69. Messrs. Harvey and Nichols, Lowndes Terrace, Knightsbridge.

The extreme of working hours was stated to be 11; the usual time being from 8 to 8, with two hours for meals, and the occasions of continuing till 9 being very rare. Only five or six resided in the house, three of whom were saleswomen and the others first hands; the rest of the work-people all lived out. The carpet-stitchers are paid by the piece, at the rate of 1½*d.* a yard for Brussels, and averaging 1*l.* a week in the busy times, which are for some weeks before each quarter day. It is considered to be very bad work for the fingers. The youngest in the room, when I was there, was 19 years of age.

The number of mantle-makers varies from 30 to 50 or 60, according to the time of year; they earn from 25*l.* to 40*l.* in the course of the year, the weekly wages averaging 14*s.* Milliners are also employed, but dresses are not made on the premises, and even skirts are given out.

The youngest in the establishment were two girls of 14, who were employed to help the work-people by fetching and carrying things for them; these were paid 5*s.* a week; they were not apprenticed; no apprentices were taken in any department. The youngest at any work with the needle was over 16.

The first hand milliner informed me that she believed the latest hour at millinery shops in the district to be 10 P.M., and the average earnings for assistants 10*s.* a week.

Mr. Nichol's experience was that few ladies ordered anything till just before it was wanted.

Messrs. Shoolbred's, Tottenham Court Road.

70. *Mr. Knight.*—Three years ago we had 650 persons in our employment. I do not know our numbers now, but probably they have increased.

Our workwomen do not live on the premises, but only the girls in the show-rooms and shop,—20 or 30 in all, including one or two forewomen. We have most of our young men resident. There are now more than 80 mantle-makers in our employ; at the busiest time the number is 128. They will earn then, good workers, that is to say, from 15*s.* to 22*s.* a week; they are paid by the piece. They are closely packed then, all in this room, but there are two of Watson's ventilators, and the room never becomes oppressive. All our work-rooms, except the carpet-seaming room, are ventilated by that means, and warmed by hot-water pipes. We find that mode of warming more successful than any other; it is easily regulated and is without risk.

A separate room is provided for dinner and tea for the female out-workers. Besides the mantle-makers, there are 11 milliners, 95 upholsteresses, and about 40 carpet seamers. We have also 13 sewing machines. They come to tea in four sets. The room will hold about 75 at a time. Those who live near go home to dinner, but there is apparatus for all who like to have the food they bring, cooked for them. Most prefer that, for as they are on piecework, generally speaking, they save time by doing so.

We have some little girls of 13 or so to run about on errands for the work-people, and some wind spools for the machines, and so on. Some of them earn 3*s.* 6*d.* and 5*s.* a week. The milliners make from 16*s.* to 32*s.* The carpet-seamers from 15*s.* to 20*s.* in the summer, and from 12*s.* to 15*s.* in the winter. They work in gangs or sets, and are paid at the week's end so much per yard of carpet; that they share among themselves. The shape of the room is chalked out on the floor, and they first tack the pieces of carpet loosely together in this shape and then take it to the inner room to be seamed. That room being on the basement, and on dull days lit with gas, becomes close at times; it is the only work-room in the establishment, I think, in which we have not yet contrived a perfectly adequate system of ventilation; there are from 30 to 35 there. They are employed by us, with few exceptions, nearly the whole year round. In the other departments, the factory as we call it, that is the mantle-making, upholstery, &c., they are most of them off work for a month or six weeks in the year; still they know that they are sure of employment again at the end of that time; and as we give the preference to those who have been longest with us, they keep themselves disengaged, so that we employ the same hands year after year. Comparatively few are under 18. None are apprenticed.

The room, in which our residents have their meals, is not even yet quite as well ventilated as we could wish; it is on the basement under the shop. The ceiling is low, and consequently when the hot joints are on the table, and the very large number we have are present, the room soon grows hot. Before this shaft, which you see, was put up, it was very close and unpleasant, but that has now quite done away with the chief part of the annoyance. It is very simple, consisting merely of a chimney, as it were, carried up vertically from the recess of the window along the outside wall, and terminating in a moveable cowl level with the other stacks. Until we adopted Watson's ventilator, the air of our shop, which, though extensive, is also low-pitched, used to become very offensive on a busy afternoon. We had several letters and communications from physicians and others on the subject, and indeed perceived it ourselves, if we came in from the open air, but now there is nothing whatever after the most crowded day at all objectionable or unwholesome. That we owe entirely to Watson's ventilators.

Our hours throughout the establishment are from 8.30 A. M. to 7 P.M. in the six winter months, and to 8 P.M. in the six summer months. In the latter we used, until last year, to close at 9 P.M., but we have found quite as much work done with an hour less, and the hands are better pleased. The machinists never work after 7 P.M.; they are in constant employment all the year; they are paid by the piece, and earn from 15*s.* to 25*s.* a week. The place, in which they work, used to be close and unpleasant, till we had a Watson's ventilator there; the rapid motion of the

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machines give rise to a great increase of heat by mere friction, and the more active exercise of the limbs causes more animal heat to be thrown off from the workers than when the needle is worked by the hand. We are also obliged to have a gas-burner to each machine. The work is certainly much heavier than needle-work, yet it seems to be less wearisome; it is more interesting to them, less painfully monotonous. A highly nervous or delicate girl would not do for it, but none of ours suffer in health.

[Several of whom I inquired here told me that, beyond their feeling very tired, the machine work had no ill effects on them; none had felt the trembling nor the headache and other pains mentioned by other witnesses; some said they thought it no more tiring than needlework.—H.W.L.]

I think the work of the girls in the show-room on a busy day is as fatiguing as any. I can assure you that, when we used to work till 9 P.M., they often looked very haggard, when that time came. The constant standing must be very tiring.

We have taken great pains, and have been at some expense, to make all our people comfortable, and, I hope, not without success. I am convinced that we lose nothing by being a little liberal. To study the comfort of those who work for you is in the long run the best economy, to put it no higher. At first starting in the "factory," we had a little difficulty to make all conform to strict rules as to hours and other matters, and some gave themselves a few airs about it, but that has all passed, and I think I may say that now we may have the cream of the classes of work-people, from whom our hands come, and all are very orderly, well-behaved, and respectable.

71. Messrs. Tarn, Newington Causeway.

I went through this establishment before the work-rooms, which are ultimately to be in a building separate from the show-rooms and warehouse, were complete. Even the temporary accommodation provided for the milliners and mantle-makers was very good, the room being clean, airy, and not crowded. The milliners, 12 in number, were resident; the mantle-makers, about 40, came only for the day; but besides them a large number of persons had hitherto been employed off the premises. The manager of those departments stated to me that in May and June they could find work for almost any number of work-people. The new work-rooms were to be very large, one 128 feet long by 23 wide and about 9 feet high. The matter of ventilation had been the subject of much consideration, and Mr. Tarn intended to have it carried out efficiently in the new building. A room for meals was also to be provided there.

The longest hours were stated to be from half-past 8 in the morning to the same hour at night, and that only in the season. The really good hands were said to be very independent, going off for a holiday just as they pleased for a day or half a day, whether they were wanted or not. They were piece-workers. An average hand-worker in the "mantles" would earn 10*s.* a week; a good machinist, 20*s.* to 30*s.*

MILLINERY SHOPS.

72. Mr. Clift, Regent Street.

Millinery Shops.

Only four sleep in the house; four of the others sleep at my place of business in Oxford Street. We take none but out-door apprentices; they are engaged for two years and pay no premium; they begin at about 15 years old. Milliners used to have more resident in the house than they have now; it is becoming more and more general with us to employ day-workers chiefly.

Our longest hours for the three months of the season are from 8.30 A.M. to 9 P.M.; for about seven months we leave off at 8, and for the remaining two at 7 or 7.30. There is no need with milliners for the long hours which dress-makers work: the drawing-rooms do not affect us; but the fêtes and such affairs. Our business was unjustly attacked last year in the public papers because it happened that that poor girl, Walkley, who died, was a milliner; but it was at a dress-maker's, and not a milliner's, that she was working; and because the two trades are carried on by the same person sometimes, people seem to think that they are carried on under the same conditions. That is not the case, no milliner need ever work longer than we do. I do not know any first-class houses where they do.

We have our day-workers only for the season; we pay them 7*s.* or 8*s.* a week, and give them dinner as well as tea. Our residents all have a fortnight or three weeks' holiday in the year. They have time for their meals, but it would be very difficult to give them a fixed time; ladies often, for example, will leave something in the morning to be altered, saying they will call in an hour or two, or a customer calls in the shop, while they are at the meal, and has to be attended; in the first case the meal will be postponed, and in the second interrupted.

I have no doubt that good was effected by the Dress-makers' Protection Society. Certainly the stoppage of Sunday work is mainly due to them, and they also have had some influence in reducing the hours of work. The hours are still very long and very generally so, I dare say, but not so long or so universal as they were 20 years ago.

73. *The manager at Mr. Clift's, Oxford Street.*—15 persons sleep here; four of them go to the Regent Street house for the day. They always come in a very few minutes after closing. Both our places close at the same time. We have indoor apprentices here; they are bound for two years at 14 or 15 years old, and pay a premium of 20*l.* We make a point of sending them out on errands, when we can, for their healths' sake, but we don't allow them to go out of an evening, unless we know where they go. Several of our young ladies take a walk before breakfast. We have supper at 8 P.M.; it is left on the table for an hour, so that they can go out for half-an-hour, if they like, without losing their meal. After work is over, they sit in the dining room. They all go off to bed at 11. Their health is very good, and so is their appetite. They dine at 1 P.M.; half an hour is usually taken for that meal. It is not the time of day at which customers usually call, so that there is seldom any interruption. One, of course, has always to stay in the shop, and would attend to anyone, unless it happened to be some one, whom one particular girl was accustomed to wait on, or had taken an order from. Tea is at half past 4.

The average salary is 20*l.* or 25*l.* a year. A first hand living in the house has about 40*l.*, and one who lives out 50*l.* a year. A second hand bonnet milliner has higher pay than a second hand hat milliner; the former if she is out of the house would receive 40*l.*, and the latter 10*l.* less. Mr. Clift often makes the apprentices a present when they are going home for the holidays or leaving. He is very kind and considerate. Milliners' hours are not longer than ours, except in private houses where millinery and dress-making are carried on together.

I have been with Mr. Clift for ten years. Before that I was in the show-room at a very fashionable private dress-maker's near Hanover Square. I had been in a shop before that, and it was made a great favour to take me in a private house, as I came from a shop. Things have changed since that: young ladies who have been in shops will not go into private

houses. They think more of the hours of work than of salary, and in shops generally, I mean by that in establishments for dress-making or millinery, where the business is not carried on solely in a private house, the hours are far shorter. Consequently I believe that we have much less difficulty than they in getting good hands when we want them. The first question, which any who apply here for employment ask me, is "What are your hours." And so I believe that those large establishments like Lewis and Allenby's, or Marshall and Snelgrove's, can have almost any one they choose of the best work-people, simply because their hours are reasonable; and that would be the case, even if they paid smaller salaries than they do.

Many are never allowed to go out, evening or morning, on any week day. I was for nine months at the house I mentioned without ever going out except on Sundays. It was "against rules." I know a great deal of what goes on still in private dress-maker's houses, either through friends of my own who work there, or through some of the young ladies here, whose sisters or other relations and friends do. There is not very much change there in the last 10 or 12 years, except, perhaps, that working on Sunday is very much less frequent. But as compared with 20 or 25 years ago there certainly is an improvement; there is much less night-work than there was; still working from 7 A.M till 11, 12, and later is not unusual; from 8 A.M. to 11 P.M is the shortest time in the season for most private houses.

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In many places in the country they work as long as in town; only their seasons are not so long. In the country the reason is that they have not—probably they can't get—hands enough, when they want them; but they could easily get a good deal of the work done out at people's houses, if they chose to do as half the London houses do, give skirts and such things out to be made. At the last private house that I was in in London, the girls in the show-rooms were always expected to help in the work-room, after their own work was over; I worked till 12 and 1 A.M. there; the principal would say "I will not have some of my "young ladies idle, while others are working." That is no very unusual thing now. For myself, I became a dress-maker of my own choice, and I would not be one again for any amount of money.

From what I have seen and know, I do not think that fashionable dress-makers are wealthy people. They charge high prices, but they give long credit, and having in most cases to buy all the articles they require in detail at shops, instead of being able to keep large stocks, they pay at a much higher rate than, for instance, we do, and must often take nearly as long credit as they give, if they can get it, and have so to pay proportionately. Some may keep carriages and live in country villas; one did with whom I was, but she went through the Gazette. Those who make money, and save it out of dress-making, have to be careful and work hard for it. Extravagance and luxury are not by any means characteristic of our fashionable dress-makers.

74. Mr. Brandon, 139 & 140, Oxford Street.

[The following statement was given me by Mr. and Mrs. Brandon, after visiting their establishment.]

They employ about 100 persons, about 40 of whom sleep on the premises.

The hours of business are from 9 o'clock in the morning to 8 in the evening during nine months of the year, during the remaining three from 9 in the morning to 9 in the evening, Saturdays excepted, the hour being 7 o'clock on that day.

Those who sleep out of the house have their dinners and teas, and during the longer hours their suppers; breakfast is served at 8, dinner at 12.30, tea at 5, and supper immediately after business, thus giving an opportunity to those who wish to visit their friends, or do their own work, or take a walk, the principals considering it necessary after the sedentary occupation of the day to take fresh air and exercise.

The house is closed at 11 o'clock for retirement to rest, and as quickly as possible after that hour all are expected to be in bed. On Sundays meals are provided as during the week-days. Those who prefer spending the Sunday with their friends have full liberty to do so, or otherwise, according to their own convictions.

74*a*. Messrs. Foster and Duncum, 16, Wigmore Street.

In the premises in Wigmore Street, 18 young women are employed in the show rooms, either as saleswomen or in mounting flowers for wreaths, &c. About one-half of them are resident; these have a sitting-room on the first floor, with a piano; the bedrooms are clean and comfortable, none having more than two, and several but one occupant. Their hours for the six weeks preceding Christmas last had been only, in extreme cases, as long as from 9 A.M. to 8 P.M., and even in the London season they do not usually work from 9 A.M. to 9 P.M. Occasionally, if a sudden pressure has arisen, through short notice for a drawing room or a similar cause, they have worked until 12 at night, but that had occurred only once or twice in a season.

75. Mr. Hill, Holborn.

You may fairly take ours as a specimen of the medium millinery business. You will find the work carried on under the same conditions, whether it is at Ludgate Hill, or Edgware Road, Newington, or Knightsbridge. I know nearly every shop of the class in London well enough, at all events, to give you an account of the trade generally.

As a rule about half live in the house and half out, but during May and June there will be a larger proportion of day-workers. Those who live in the house are the saleswomen and the first hands and apprentices. We are more particular as to their references than with day-workers, so they may be rather more select. For example, we have 10 residents and about 10 day-workers; in the summer we should have no more in the house than now, but five or six extra day-workers.

Our hours of work are from 9 A.M. to 8 P.M., with an hour for dinner and half an hour for tea. We have supper at 8.30. In summer the saleswomen are employed till 9 P.M., but not usually those in the work-room. We do make to order, but the bulk of the business in establishments like ours consists in the sales from the windows, so that there is never very great pressure. When we are pressed, we offer our hands the work, but it is not very often that they care to take it, so we often have to buy in the City, and have to be content with a smaller profit. Sometimes an out-door hand, they are the second hands or assistants, may take a bonnet or two home to make, especially if they have any one to assist them there, and any special cause for wanting to earn as much as they can, some one of their family to support, for instance; they are then paid by the piece, 1*s*. 6*d*. or 2*s*. for the bonnet, but for their ordinary work they have a weekly wage. The lowest we are giving is 14*s*.; the wages of day-workers vary from that up to 20*s*. I believe they are better paid in shops of our class than in the private houses at the West End; as compared with their hours of work they certainly are.

When our residents work after supper, which they very rarely do, they are also paid by the bonnet, but as they are our best hands we pay them at a rather higher rate. They have the best materials, and exercise the best taste upon them, so that they

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produce a higher-priced article. Good milliners living in the house have quite 40*l.* a year.

We have four apprentices, two have been placed here by the Lord Chancellor, so I suppose we take care of them. They live in the house, and pay a premium of 20*l.* for one or two years. After two years they ought to be able to earn a fair salary. Girls have left us, as soon as their time was up, to take a situation with a salary of 25*l.* and board and lodging. The fact is that there is no better paid class of young women than milliners, and yet they never save, not one in a hundred ever puts money by. They are generally very fond of dress, and often form very extravagant habits.

All of ours have a fortnight's holiday towards the end of August; we pay them their salary before they leave for it. Most go home or to friends from Saturday to Monday; those who stay here, frequently dine with myself and my wife; on week-days we have all our meals with them. I am afraid there is a good deal of truth in what has been said about their treatment on Sundays in some places. I know that they have been as good as told that there was no dinner for them, unless they chose to go to their friends for it.

We always lock up the house at 11 P.M.; they frequently, I may say generally, go out after work is over of an evening. I never knew any harm come of it. You may be sure that keeping them in the house would not keep them out of mischief, if they were inclined that way. We do not, however, allow the apprentices to go out in the evening, but we can always find some errand for them to go out upon in daytime. As for the rest, we should never be able to keep a single hand in the house, if we tried to curtail their evenings. Indeed there is great scarcity of good hands; we are always obliged to advertise in the summer, and often to no purpose. Some of those who are now with us, have been here with ourselves and our predecessor for 6, 7, and 10 years. We have had no illness; they suffer from colds and toothache, but nothing more. Millinery has no hard work in it, like dress-making, indeed you might almost say that more is done with pins than with needles in it. All that I have told you about hours and wages, &c. is of very general application, none of it is peculiar to ourselves. As for overwork, I assure you that even in our busiest time not more than one in 10 ever takes work home.

I know the City wholesale houses too; they work there even more easily than we, for their hours are from 9 A.M. to 6 P.M., and they seldom stay longer, and are very well paid.

[The state of both bed-rooms and work-room here was very satisfactory, and every information was given me with the utmost readiness. The same may be said with equal truth of most of the other millinery shops visited by me, with the exception that the work-rooms were in too many cases liable to be overcrowded, and were inadequately ventilated.]

76. Mrs. Henderson and Mr. Houghton, Edgware Road.

Ours is almost exclusively a millinery business; we do occasionally make mantles. We have been established more than 12 years here. Only 15 persons reside on the premises exclusive of ourselves. We prefer out-door workers who come for the day. We think their health is better, than it would be if they lived in the house; indeed we have not room to take more to live here, without crowding them more than is good for their health. We have two busy seasons in the year, three winter and four summer months. In those times we employ 40 or 50 out-door workers. We have three apprentices in the house and 12 out-door ones. The latter are engaged to serve us for 12 months, they pay a premium of two guineas; but some, if they are sharp and useful, pay none at all; they have no stamped agreement. We take improvers without a premium. Many stay as assistants at a small salary, 6*s.* or 7*s.* a week, after the first year. Those who do the underwork, caps, curtains, &c., earn from 6*s.* to 10*s.*, but bonnet-makers from 10*s.* to 20*s.* a week. Most go home to their dinner; those who bring their own here, have it in the kitchen. The dining-room for our residents is on that floor; they always have a clear hour for that meal; they are all either saleswomen or first and second hands. Their salaries are from 20*l.* to 70*l.* a year.

Our hours are from 9 A.M. to 8.30 P.M. in winter and in summer 9. We would gladly close at 8, if our neighbours would. The house is always shut up at 11 P.M. in summer, and at 10.30 in winter, but we do not allow any work to go on after 9. If we are pressed, our day-workers take work home with them, and sometimes our residents get up an hour or so earlier in the morning. Our work is better done by daylight. We pay our residents extra, so much per bonnet, if they work longer than the usual hours. We have work all the year round, enough to employ all whom we have residing with us.

Our ladies stay long with us, some have been 9, 10, and 11 years. I think their health is tolerably good. They seem to suffer from colds a great deal; they paste up the ventilators themselves. The chimneys are boarded up in order to allow the stoves to burn properly; the smoke used to be blown into the rooms before that was done.

77. *Mrs. G*——, (head of milliner's work-room in Paddington).—Certainly there is no particular thing to notice in respect of their health; but milliners are not strong, not even those day-workers, who have some air and exercise every day. A little thing pulls them down. I think many parents prefer the work-room to the shop or show-room for their children, because they are delicate, but in fact they would be better if they had more standing and moving about. Necessarily a room, where a large number work together, becomes very hot, especially after the gas is lit. We light up soon after 4 P.M., and always give over work at 8.30 at this time of year, yet there is time enough to make a considerable heat. I do not know how that can be avoided.

[78. The mistress of the establishment, where the above information was given me, wished it not to appear, at all events not in connexion with her house, stating, that she herself considered them as healthy as servants or other girls who had to work for their living. She admitted, however, that show-room girls were decidedly healthier than those in the work-room, and said that the sedentary occupation and constrained stooping position of the latter accounted for it. She observed that the day-workers were a very "gay set," would be up half the night at dancing saloons and such places, and come to work the next morning looking dreadfully ill and unfit for work.]

79. *Miss O*——, a young lady at the head of the millinery department in a large and very well conducted business in Whitechapel, told me that although the hours in the work-rooms of millinery and drapery establishments in that district were not longer than from 9 A.M. to 9 P.M. and occasionally half-past 9 or 10 in their season, May, June, and July, it was not unusual in the smaller houses, where only six or seven were employed altogether, to make the apprentices, who usually lived at home, stay till 11 P.M. to serve in the shop; the older ones being paid by the day would not be subject to that additional labour.

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80. *Miss Jane Le Plastrier.*—I am the writer of a series of letters upon the employment of dress-makers, which appeared in the "Times" in the year 1853, signed "First Hand." I have also lately contributed articles on the same subject to the "Englishwoman's Journal." I feel a deep interest in the question, and have had very considerable experience. It is only four years since I left the business, and for the eight years before that I had been in business for myself; previous to that time I had had the superintendence of more than one very fashionable establishment. I am thoroughly familiar with all the evils of the system, I know some of the causes of them, and if I have not a complete remedy for all of them, at all events I am quite sure of this, that nothing but an Act of Parliament to limit the hours and to put the work-rooms and sleeping-rooms under sanitary inspection will do any good in the matter. Promises are worthless; they were freely made 10 years ago, but only to be broken. At that time all was done that could be done by meetings and agreements, or anything short of compulsory legislation, and all was a failure. The last three seasons have been unusually dull; if the coming one be only what it bids fair to be, the state of things will be as bad or worse than ever.

I assure you that there is no colouring or dressing up of facts in what I have written; nothing is even overstated, much less fictitious. I can give you the names of all to whom I allude. I cannot trace them now, for they are scattered about.

My own work at the house, where I was superintendent, brought on congestion of the brain, which forced me to give up for a time. I will give you only one instance of the work there: before a certain marriage in high life, not one in the whole establishment went to bed for three nights in succession. That was a place, where 27 were expected to do the work of 40; they all lived in the house; no work was ever given out to be done off the premises, and no day-worker was ever allowed to come there. That was for fear of the patterns being copied; there is immense jealousy in that matter. At present it has the bad effect of burdening those in the house with excessive hours of work; but if those hours were limited, the same feeling would, I am quite confident, prevent the employers from reducing to any great extent the staff of their residents.

For myself, I found no difficulty in keeping my work within the limit of 12 hours a day, from 9 A.M. to 9 P.M. I had a large business, but I had in the season 12 living in the house, and often 12 more day-workers, and besides them I put out many of my mantles and skirts and sleeves; there is no reason whatever, why others should not do the same. Now too, the general use of the sewing machine certainly renders fewer hands in the house necessary, than were formerly required.

There is no doubt that these large establishments of silk-mercers and drapers are infinitely superior to the private houses, both in their hours and their comforts, speaking generally.

I believe that there is no private house in which millinery is made without dress-making. All who are exclusively milliners have a shop front.

After all, the system of long credit, and the ladies' want of forethought, are, perhaps, almost as great sources of the mischief, as the cupidity or mismanagement of employers. But yet, if employers would only take the trouble, they can always tell within a little what amount of work they will have for the four months of the season, and might provide for it by engaging a sufficient number of hands to meet any ordinary emergency before the pressure of the season comes upon them. No doubt, many customers thoughtlessly give very short notice, but long notice does no good; the work is always put aside till it must be done. As for pressure, where I was superintending, we have had 22 trains to make at one time; and very often, instead of resting after the late hours before the drawing-room, have had the skirts sent back directly after it was over to alter for wear the same evening at the Opera or some such thing.

The Early Closing Association, 35, Ludgate Hill.

81. *Mr. Joseph Pitter.*—During the time that I fulfilled the office of Secretary to the London Early Closing Association (1860–64) my attention was frequently directed to the state of the employed dress-makers and milliners in the metropolis. This was more particularly the case at the time of the death of Mary Ann Walkley in June 1863, when I was enabled to obtain some reliable information as to the exact hours of labour observed in the West End millinery establishments. I will not specify the several houses, but will simply name the locality in which each one is situated, distinguishing between the hours observed in the season and out of it. Thus:—

Dover Street.—In the season: 6 in the morning till 12 at night, or a period of 18 hours. Out of the season: half-past 8 A.M. till half-past 10 or 11 P.M., a period of 14 or 14½ hours.

Regent Street.—In the season: half-past 8 A.M. until 11 and 12 at night, and sometimes 1 and 2 in the following morning; from 14½ to 17½ hours. Out of the season: from 8.30 A.M. to 10 or 11.30 P.M.; 13½ to 15 hours.

Grosvenor Street.—In the season: half-past 8 in the morning till half-past 11 at night, and sometimes 1 and 2 o'clock the next morning; 15 to 17½ hours. Out of the season: half-past 8 A.M. till half-past 9 and 10 P.M.; 13 to 13½ hours.

Bruton Street.—In the season: half past 7 in the morning till 1 and 2 the next morning; 17½ to 18½ hours. Out of the season: 8.30 A.M. till 10.30 and 11 P.M.; 14 and 14½ hours.

Bond Street.—In the season: half-past 8 in the morning till 1 and 2 the next morning; 16½ to 17½ hours. Out of the season: 8.30 A.M. till 10.30 and 11 P.M.; 14 and 14½ hours. In this establishment some of the young people occasionally work on Sundays. These are said to be "French girls."

It is generally admitted that the efforts made some years ago succeeded in abolishing Sunday-work, excepting so far as it might be voluntarily undertaken in a few instances by other than English females. When I speak of the work being "voluntary," I simply mean that the worker has no conscientious objection to it. So far as my inquiries have carried me, I cannot find that these protracted hours of toil are undergone in consideration of commensurately high wages. The day-workers, who are engaged as occasion may require, and who do not lodge in the house, are paid on the average about 2*s.* a day, with sometimes the addition of dinner and tea, or tea only. Perhaps few are without the tea, though some receive as little as 1*s.* 6*d.* a day. Their working day is considered to last 12 hours, but is sometimes exceeded. As a rule they are allowed an hour for dinner and half an hour for tea, a privilege not granted to the regular indoor workers, who in busy times have to despatch their meals in extreme haste. On the other hand, the indoor workers have the advantage of an annual holiday during the dull season. The prolonged hours which I have mentioned apply to the higher class of establishments. A less aristocratic trade, particularly in connexion with an "early closing" shop, exhibits many milder features. But as a rule the labour is excessive; and if it be asked how it comes to pass that these young people submit to such health-destroying toil in preference to domestic service, I can only say that, so far as my experience goes, great value is attached to the liberty enjoyed on Sundays, while the vocation in itself is considered

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superior to that of the domestic servant; thus it proves easier to find a competent "hand" for the dress-maker's or milliner's work-room than to meet with a well-trained domestic servant. The love of liberty and the idea of gentility lie at the root of the mania among young women for becoming dress-makers and milliners. In the case of the day-workers, the liberty is of course much greater than among the young women who are regularly engaged indoors, and who are considered to form a superior class. Among these there are many who belong to really respectable families, being perhaps the daughters of professional men, whose death has left the family unprovided for.

As for a legislative remedy, nothing occurs to my own mind as more practicable than a species of sanitary law. Although this would not amount to an actual remedy, it might very much mitigate the evils which exist. Having made this part of the question the subject of special inquiry and consideration, I would respectfully suggest that great good might be effected by a law which should place the work-rooms under a complete system of sanitary inspection, whereby the present over-crowding and defective ventilation should be prevented. The necessity for this is shown by the facts which Dr. Lankester's inquiries revealed at the time of Mary Ann Walkley's death. It would also greatly add to the value of such legislation, if the sanitary inspection were distinctly authorized to visit the work-rooms at all hours during which work was going on. If such visits were duly reported to a vestry or other public body, and the hours specified, this kind of publicity would be a powerful check upon the present system of overwork. Not unfrequently the workpeople would be found at their toil all night long, as on the night preceding a Royal drawing-room. The principal difficulty in the way of such legislation appears to be one of definition, the question being "what is a work-room?" A certain number of workers seems necessary to convey the idea that an actual work-room exists, and yet care must be taken to prevent an evasion of the Act. There are many employers who might be glad of such legislation, but those who most require supervision would of course endeavour to evade the law.

It is only an act of justice toward the Early Closing Association to say that, so far as persuasive measures are concerned, including frequent and costly appeals to the public, it has done its best to excite the practical sympathy of all classes on behalf of the employed dress-makers and milliners.

The Home,* Great Marlborough Street.

82. *Miss Bramwell.*—My position here has enabled me to know a great deal from the girls themselves as to their treatment and condition in houses of business. You will find much of my experience on the subject in my report† for 1862. I also know several of their employers personally, and see them from time to time.

There are two things above all which I wish employers would observe. One is, not to close their doors on a girl who comes back after hours. Let them dismiss her next morning if they please, but if they only knew how many falls are due to nothing more than missing a train or an omnibus they would alter this. The other is, to have a separate bed for each person. Some I know have had to sleep with women of known bad character and even suffering from a loathsome disease. I cannot describe to you the sense of pollution which some of the young ones have shown in telling me of the character of their bedfellows.

In a large establishment, where a great deal of mourning is made, they work from 8 or 9 A.M. till 11 P.M. all the year round; this is very bad in the winter, when the days are dark and gas is necessary for many hours together. One who works there has told me that her brain seems to get on fire before the time for clearing comes. She used to be a bright good-tempered girl, but now she has grown so irritable that I sometimes fear for her brain. Indeed she knows it herself, and deplores it. In several of these places, where you are shown a nice and comfortable sitting-room, you will find that it is only for the young men of the establishment. Even the show-rooms, where the girls, who serve there, are allowed to sit after their business is over, are locked on Sundays, so that they have only their own bed-rooms to spend the day in, if it rains. Very frequently indeed no accommodation is provided for them to attend any place of worship. In the more outlying districts, such as Knightsbridge, Paddington, &c., they often are not expected to be in the house on Sundays. One poor girl, the daughter of a professional man who lived in the country—a curate I think he was—told me that on her first Sunday in London she asked her employer, in whose house she resided, what she was to do, as she had no friends to go to in London, and he only said, "Go to the devil if you like; I can't be bothered "all day with you." So for that day she went to Church, and wandered about the park all day. The next two Sundays were wet; she had no money, as her salary was paid quarterly; so she went without food from breakfast to tea-time, and had to sit under the trees in the park to keep herself dry during the interval between the morning and afternoon services. After that she was taken on Sundays by some of her companions to a room where infidel doctrines were discussed, and was led away by them. She is dead now.

Last season many of our day-workers were employed from 5 A.M. till 11 P.M., and some kept them all night. I do not mean that this occurred night after night as a usual thing, but I should say it happened quite once a week, and they always worked beyond the ordinary day of 12 hours. They could not have deceived me about it, for in the first place we always have several from the same house, but besides that, in many cases I knew from the employers that they did so.

No doubt the cupidity of employers in taking more orders than they can possibly get through without these long hours of work has much to do with it, but their customers also have a great deal to answer for; I do not mean in not giving orders in time, so much as in neglecting to pay their bills. I know of cases of dress-makers in this part of town who have four and five thousand pounds of debts in their books, for which two and three years' credit has been given to persons apparently able to pay, and who have yet been unable to raise one or two hundred pounds to meet a bill that was coming due. They have themselves to pay interest after three months on the cost of the materials which they procure. They are obliged to give credit in order to get the stock which their customers expect them to bring from Paris off their hands, before the fashion changes and they become worthless. I know that one lady of title has owed her general dress-maker—not her court and fashionable dress-maker—70*l.* for three years, and actually has not given her a single order for the whole of last year. They often have not ready money enough to pay their quarter's rent or even the day-workers at the week's end, though hundreds of pounds are owed them.

Many of the day-workers are nice, respectable, and virtuous girls, but they are surrounded by temptations; even those who live in the houses are far from being exempt, and some houses are really disreputable; there are some, where it is well known that the young ladies always spend their holidays in the country with gentlemen. The show-room and shop girls are especially to be pitied; they are always chosen for their bright-

* Where about 70 young women reside, nearly all of whom are employed as saleswomen in shops or as milliners and dress-makers in the work-rooms of fashionable establishments at the West End of London.—H.W.L.

† The pamphlet entitled "Have Faith in God."—Morgan and Chase, 3, Amen Corner.

ness, their good figure, good manner, and pretty face. Then the tricks encouraged in some houses to get off an article out of date, for which some are allowed "tinge money," a small per-centage, and even to substitute an inferior article for one selected from the window, are painfully degrading.

Apprentices are taken in the show-rooms as in the work-room. The apprentices there suffer very often from swollen feet, they have so much running about and are always on their legs. In some large establishments the girls in the show-room are not allowed ever to sit down, because it does not look like business. At some houses all in the show-room are expected to wear black glacé silk. A dress does not often last them more than six weeks or two months; in the season especially the wear and tear is very great. I know of houses where the terms offered are, that the girls should provide themselves with silk dresses on 16*s.* a week, living out of the house. If they wear their dress, until it begins to look shabby, one of the young men will ask to be allowed to serve them with a new dress. The hint is generally understood, and the new dress ordered. That has to my certain knowledge happened in a first-rate establishment to a lady whose salary was 40*l.* a year. Nearly 20*l.* a year must go in that one way. Their healths suffer very much as the others; they all break down.

I do not wish it to be thought that all employers are unkind and covetous; far from it. There is one house in Regent Street where they make a present of a new silk dress often once and even twice a year to persons whom they are paying 1*l.* a week and more. I think that at Madame Elise's they act kindly and wisely to their girls; so much so, that a very short time ago they had 17 girls there who had been sent to them from us. I never heard any girl of good principles speak ill of them. Some time ago Mr. Isaacson discharged without notice two of those who lived in the house, because of some conduct, of which he disapproved, with regard to the receiving of letters and calls from gentlemen; they came here, and I gave them a home for three nights; they then left, and I have heard no more of them. They spoke very violently against him and Madame Elise, so that some of the others, who live here and had worked there, were quite annoyed at it, but soon after, another came here, who gave quite a different complexion to their story.

The introduction of sewing machines has interfered very much with the employment of day-workers at the West End; they can rarely get more than five days a week, or about 9*s.*; in second-rate houses they are offered as little as 6*s.* I do not allow any of those who live here to go for so low a sum as that, and consequently I have—that is, I feel bound—to let them stay here till something better offers. We find situations for quite a thousand in the course of the year, generally among the best class of houses. I do not therefore come very often into contact with those who work at the small dress-making places. They told me, a night or two ago, of one near Portman Square, where the work-room was below the level of the street; none of the windows in that or in the bed-room would open, and the ventilator was immoveable through rust. The wages are often miserable in such places; at one the cutter-out and first hand is actually paid only 10*s.* a week, and the workpeople get 6*s.*; that is a place where the finest ladies' sleeves and collars are made.

From what I hear of day-workers for wholesale City houses, their morals must be very low. The forewoman of a very large place there said the other day that she feared that not one in 10 was respectable. The conversation is most shocking, especially on Monday morning, they tell me. In one instance a manager tried to check it, but three or four of the best workwomen actually went to the chief of that department, and complained of her interference. He sent for her and forbade her; so she left, as she could not bear to hear it, and not object.

The West Central Home, Great Ormond Street (established in 1855 by the Countess de Grey and Ripon, and Lady Hobart).

83. *Mrs. Chevallier*, Lady Superintendent.—We have 22 milliners and dress-makers in this home; many have lived here for several years. They are very rarely out of employment. Shop or show-room girls do not often come. We have day-workers both in City and in West End houses. The wholesale City houses keep them later, but their pay is higher, as it is by the piece generally. In the West End, too, they are very late sometimes. It occurs at all times; weddings, mourning, and Indian outfits are the frequent causes of late hours out of the season. In the last fortnight one of our residents, a first-hand dress-maker, was for two days and a night without rest. We often wait until 11 P.M. for those who work in the City. Some of them I do not see from one week's end to another. They are too late for prayers, come in tired and hungry, and have their supper in the kitchen, and then go straight to bed.

There is one fashion in dress now prevalent which involves great fatigue to the dress-maker. Ball dresses in light materials are trimmed with ruches, and for this work the girls have to stand at a board or counter the whole day long, pinning and tacking. At one place there is no other work done. They come back dreadfully tired after that work.

We have all the grades among our residents. There is very seldom more than one first hand in a dress-making establishment; she superintends the work-room, cuts out, and fits. The second hands do the superior work, finish the bodies, for instance, and prepare their work for the day-workers or assistants. Improvers, if they have been apprenticed in the country, pay a premium of 15*l.* or 20*l.*; if in a good London house, they generally give their time and work in place of any premium. They stay for six or 12 months. In many cases they have first been apprentices, and stay on in the house after their term has expired. After nearly nine years' experience in the Home, I find that we have not had one serious case of illness during the whole time. I attribute this partly to the general healthiness of the house, partly to the enforced walk night and morning to and from the places of business.

Although persons frequently come to me in a state of general debility from overwork and confinement in crowded work-rooms and sleeping apartments, (as our physician, Dr. Druitt, can testify,) they have rapidly recovered their health after becoming inmates of the Home, and have in very many cases preferred remaining with us, and going out as day-workers, rather than accept a more profitable engagement indoors.

In some West End houses they do not give the day-workers anything to eat after tea at 5 P.M., though they stay till 11; they do not always pay day-workers for overtime, but they make it up to them by giving them half a day at another time, if they do not want them.

[84. The following statement was made to me by the Superintendent of another Home.]

We have more than 60 young women resident here; most of them are between the ages of 18 and 30; we take none in over 30 years of age, as it is considered that by that time they either do not need, or need less than younger ones, the protection which we endeavour to give. Of course all are day-workers. Nearly two-thirds are dress-makers; some few are milliners, and others artificial flower makers and fine shirt makers. We require two references with each girl, and are obliged always to keep a very strict watch over them

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all. I have unfortunately had to dismiss two or three; they were receiving notes from gentlemen, and making appointments to meet them. It might be all innocent, but for the sake of the rest we were obliged to send them away. They vary very much in character. Many are very respectable quiet girls; some are not so steady as they might be. Those we dismissed were particularly pretty and well-mannered girls. I had great doubts as to what I ought to do, for to dismiss them was perhaps to take away their last chance; but the example to the others was too dangerous. The fondness for dress and admiration in young girls in their class of life is a terrible temptation. We close the house at 10½ at night; if any are out three times after that hour without a satisfactory explanation, they have to leave. When they stay later at their work, they send a note to let me know, but it is very rare for any of them to be working after 11 P.M. Some have to be at work at 8 A.M., some at 9, and they do not usually exceed 12 hours a day. We have scarcely any who work in the French or court milliners' houses; they are for the most part in the general dress-making houses. Some work at the sewing machines. At one place in this neighbourhood the machinists work only from 9 A.M. to 6 P.M., and in another till 7 P.M., as a rule. The artificial flower makers often work to 10½ and 11 at night in the season, from 9 A.M.; they are on piece-work. Their health is not below that of the others. I do not know much about their wages; indeed, I make a point of not asking, but sometimes they tell me. Shirt makers for good houses have 12*s.* and 15*s.* a week when in full work; but for several months, probably from August to November, they are on short time, and make what is equivalent to about four days. Those who work in the crinoline shops are poorly paid. We have one of 15 who is now earning 7*s.* 6*d.*, but they have had as little as 6*s.* and 5*s.* a week. The artificial flower makers earn about 2*s.* a day. Dress-makers earn 9*s.* and 10*s.* a week.

All of them do certainly appear to suffer in health, more or less, from the nature of their occupation. I have been here for a year and eight months. In that time three have died of consumption. They complain of their chest hurting them, but nothing else, except being very tired. The machinists seem to suffer more than the others from pains in the chest; they are always doctoring for that. They complain of their legs also. I never heard any complaint of their eyes being injured. One of them, a very delicate looking woman, who works at the very finest shirt-making, told me a short time ago that she never knew what it was to have a head-ache or eye-ache.

The effect of the close rooms, in which many of them work, is shown, when they are at home here, in their great dislike, and even fear, of anything like fresh air, and indeed it is not unreasonable, for they certainly are very prone to catch cold, if there is the slightest draught.

In respect of the hours of work, I do not think the day-workers are at all oppressed. They rarely exceed the usual hours, and do so of their own free will and for extra pay, when that is the case. I do not even think that they would, any of them, be discharged if they refused to work, when requested, beyond the usual hours; the demand for them is so great, in the season at all events, as to make them independent to that extent.

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85. *Miss C. J. M. Bramwell*, 3, Chatham Place, Bridge Road, Blackfriars.

The majority of the girls who reside at this Home now are milliners and dress-makers. There seems to be nothing like oppression, either in the matter of overwork or low pay, in either wholesale or retail City houses; nor, when they live on the premises, are they otherwise than well treated. They are never expected to begin work before 9 A.M., and the very latest is now and then 10 P.M. One I know actually apologizes to his hands, if he wants them to stay after 9 P.M. It is with the skirt and mantle hands, who are employed by those who take out work even from good houses, and with milliners who make for the large warehouses, that the pay and the premises are both bad, and the hours long too, I am told.

From all that I hear, the language used by the older women in the mantle-making departments of many of the City wholesale houses is very demoralizing. A few bad women of 30 or 40 do a great deal of harm. I wish the girls could be kept separate from them.

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86. [The following letter was forwarded to me after an interview with the writer, a lady who has taken a very active part in the management of one of the Homes, and who derives her experience as well from having been herself for some years in business, as from having been long engaged in endeavouring in various ways to improve the condition of young workwomen in London.]

I have sifted many cases of distress, and I find, almost without exception, that such distress arises either from want of energy, or from inefficiency. Young women now learn only branches of manufacturing or making up, and the consequence is, that when this fails, or does not occupy the same time that other branches of the same article require to produce, they are thrown out altogether. I think workers have been gradually deteriorating in work and morals, ever since the old apprenticeship system has died out. The restraint and supervision, exercised then, was wholesome discipline for the young. I know it would not do to go back to that, but some modification might be adopted, that would be good for employers and employed. My experience proves that the love of dress, and the dislike to any restraint, are the great causes of the distress amongst the young women of our day. *Steady, efficient, industrious* workers would, I believe find work at any time, and in any number.

Another advantage would arise from *efficiency;* no one would be found, who would do the cheap work, and it would gradually go out of the market.

A further cause of misery is those *terrible* places known by the name of music halls. They are just the places for vain and dressy girls to be led away, hence the misery of the girls, who come to our midnight meeting movement. And the great majority go wrong by going to these places. Then their homes, if you can call them homes, they are another source of misery. I repeat, if you go into the cases one by one, you will find the love of dress, and the dislike to restraint, is the beginning of sorrow. If we could give them good wholesome training, and a love of *thrift*, much would be done. You can use any idea you can get from this; I am not accustomed to give such reports, and very much prefer *not* appearing in a blue book.

One thing I should have called attention to, that is, those "*middle women;*" they cannot pay, as they should, for one reason. They cannot depend on what they give out being done *properly*, and as they take the risk they pay accordingly.

Registry for Dress Makers, &c., Ludgate Street.

86a. *Miss Meachin.*—Quite 1,000 girls apply, and over 500 are provided with employment in the course of the year through this registry at various millinery and dress-making establishments, both wholesale and retail, in London and the provinces. Speaking generally, about two-thirds of those will be on permanent employment, for a year at least, that is to say, and the remaining one-third on season engagements. The latter may be said to follow this course:—In March and April they find work in the City warehouses; then they go to the West End for the court season till the end of July; then they have a month's holiday; for September and

October they will return to the same situations they had in the early spring; and for the remaining four months the good hands will return to the West End or go to the country, and the bad workers will live, some at their own parents' or friends' houses, some at the Homes, which are generally full all the winter, for there is not accommodation for more than about 300 in them altogether. Employment for those, who know how to work and are willing, can generally be obtained. You seldom see a girl want who really likes work, if she only knows where to look for it. I should say we have had 100 taken as apprentices, and another 100 as improvers, in the last year. We find that an arrangement can generally be made for a premium of 20*l.* and a term of two years. We can, and do to some extent, influence both employers and employed, for if the former do not treat those well, whom we send, we never send another; and if the young ladies do not behave well, we do not recommend them again.

A salary of 10*l.* a year may be fairly expected after a two years' apprenticeship, and in the second year it should be from 20*l.* to 25*l.* By the time a young lady has been in the business for four years she ought to be a first hand, and always could be, if she would take pains. The salaries for practical hands vary from 40*l.* to 100*l.* It is true that all, who are taught the work, cannot be first hands; but in the four or five years marriages or deaths reduce the number so much as to justify what I say.

It is to be regretted that so few care to be practical workwomen; all ask for employment in the shop or show-room as saleswomen; but it is a mistake. A knowledge of work would be far more useful to them, and young men are being employed more and more in shops at all events. Girls are only wanted at the lace counters or in show-rooms, when they have to put on mantles and shawls and such things.

Their dress is no doubt a serious item; I found it so myself, for though I was very economical, and could make my own, I found 20*l.* the least that I could do it for in the year; and many of these show-room girls, who often cannot make their own, pay nearer 40*l.* than 20*l.*, when they wear black silk.

I wish some loan fund could be started. Many a good girl is prevented from taking a situation—after an illness, for example,—for want of a wardrobe. Five pounds lent at the right moment would often be the making or the saving of a girl; it could be repaid out of her salary.

We supply West End houses as well as City wholesale and retail houses, but the chief of our work is with the country houses. Most of those, who go to City warehouses from us, are saleswomen of cloaks, flowers, baby linen, and such things. Those who work in their factories are a very different class; all day-workers, and often coarse in their behaviour and language. The wholesale millinery houses are the only places of that class, where any whom we send are engaged in the manufacture.

My experience is, that the City men are very liberal and kind to those whom they employ. The hours are seldom long. In the wholesale millinery houses, where they supply the country buyers and shippers, they are latest; but I never knew of any being there after 12 at night. I should say that work from 9 A.M. to 12 was the extreme, and that not common. The pressure is from March to May, and again in September and October—five or six months in the year. At those times hands often cannot be got at any price. In the slack season they often leave early, at 4 and 5 P.M. At one wholesale millinery house they used to give their hands the whole of Saturday in the slack seasons, paying them all the same. The great proof of their not suffering from ill-treatment is that they don't, as a rule, make complaints to me. There is a good deal of affectation and fastidiousness with many of them. I have been myself in several houses of business, and have seen it repeatedly.

What wants looking into is the state of the small factories, where the work for the wholesale houses is done by people who take the work out. The pay is often very low, and places bad both for their health and for their morals.

Association for the Aid and Benefit of Dress-makers and Milliners, 81, New Bond Street.

87. *Miss Newton.*—I have been for 18 years the manager of this association, and though I knew nothing about dress-makers and milliners when I first came, I have been brought so continually into contact with both employers and employed since that time, that now probably I know as much as most do about the general state of things. The chief means of my learning so much has been through the registration department; for we have procured situations for as many as 700 persons a year on an average for the last eight years.

The system of registration is very useful in giving us an additional check upon employers; for we soon know the character of a house, and will not supply them if there is anything objectionable in it. There certainly have been improvements in the fashionable houses at the West End since 1855. Many have tried all they could to lessen their hours, but unless they are very good managers and have excellent first hands, they cannot get on with less than 14 hours a day, from 8 A.M. to 10 P.M., in the height of the London season. If work were always ready for them to begin the first thing in the morning, they could do with 12 hours a day; but there are still some very fashionable houses, where they work continually for 16 hours and even 18 hours a day. If that happens only now and then, once every 10 days, perhaps, in the season, the girls never grumble.

Sunday-work has, I may say, been quite put an end to; that was effected in a great degree by this society. In a few establishments the young persons on Saturdays do not work after 6 o'clock. Still I think that if our society, or some one like it, were not in existence, things would soon be as bad again as ever.

It is only in inferior houses that a dinner is not provided on Sundays; and even among them it is the exception where they have not dinner on that day in the house, if they have nowhere else to go to. In such places also the food is bad, and scanty too sometimes; but in all the best houses there is very little to complain of on that ground. The dining-rooms, however, are often very uncomfortable even in first-rate establishments; they are frequently gloomy rooms on the basement. The work-rooms and bed-rooms have been improved in many houses, but there are still many bad ones. Still I have not heard so many complaints lately about that. It is very rare indeed for any to have separate beds.

I think there is no fault to be found with the salaries paid in fashionable houses; resident first hands in second-class houses have 30*l.* and 40*l.*, and in first-class houses often 60*l.* and 80*l.* a year; second hands 20*l.* and 25*l.*, assistants 12*l.* and 16*l.* The day-worker's regular wages is 9*s.* a week and her tea, but some have 12*s.*, 14*s.*, and even 16*s.* in first-class houses. We allow none who are sent by us to have less than 9*s.* They have been offered as little as 7*s.*

Apprentices are generally sent to bed early, that is, earlier than the rest.

The day-workers are no doubt a lower class than the residents. When the season is over, many of them are discharged; they then go to inferior houses, or to mantle-making, and often take work for themselves at home.

A great deal of the trouble arises from irritability of temper and want of judgment on both sides. The girls are often very difficult to manage, and a fit of ill temper in the mistress or the first hand may keep the whole work-room in a fever for days together.

Some mistresses have bad health, and cannot look properly after their business; others do not live on the premises where the work is done; that is a very

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great disadvantage when it occurs, but it is by no means common. The consequence in such cases is that all is left to first hands, and the employer does not really know how late her girls work, and very little else about them.

In the country, as a rule, they are more comfortable, especially at the linen drapers' and silk mercers' houses; the hours are shorter and the rooms better.

I think that employers in the West End would still keep their residents, even though their hours were limited by Act of Parliament; they would not be able to get the class of hands they require as outdoor day-workers, for the girls would rather go into the country, where they would, as I have said, have more comfort and less work, than stay in London, unless they were indoors.

I am convinced that this inquiry has done much good; the mere fact of your having gone all over a number of houses and examined persons has made them a little ashamed. In several cases hours have been shortened and rooms improved since your visit. It would be an excellent thing if by any means such visits could be kept up. Many also are getting day-workers now, in order to enable them to work shorter hours by having more hands. That could be done much more generally than it is; for the number of residents, however crowded they may be, is often insufficient for the work. No doubt they must be content with rather less salary, if they do not work so long; but the day-workers will not be much affected by that, for they do not very often exceed their 12 hours a day.

CHELTENHAM.

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88. *Mrs. H. Gilling*, Promenade Villas.—Our season is from March to July, and again from October to January. My hours are from 8 to 8 in the former and from 8.30 or 9 A.M. to 8.30 P.M. in the latter months. On Saturday we leave off at 5 P.M. If we are pressed in summer I sometimes get them to come at 6 A.M., but that does not happen more than six times in the whole season. I have worked myself at dress-making as few mistresses have, and know how wearying a thing it is to work late night after night; it is the feeling obliged to work that is so wearisome. Upon any great emergency, I am sure, all are ready to work any time for an employer, who is kind and considerate to them.

I have three machines. I should like every dress-maker to use them; they save much labour, and also enable you to pay at a higher rate those whom you employ, whether machinist or finisher. Much more work can be put in too; we should never put 100 yards of trimming in a summer dress, if it were all to be done by hand; the pleating up and finishing must still be hand-work; and we find it best to have different machines for different work, just as with hand-workers; one will do the sleeves, another the skirts, and a third the bodies. We stitch the seams of our bodies by the machine. I believe that the sewing machine will make dress-making a better business than it has been for some time, for the skilled dress-maker, who finishes the dress, has to depend on the inferior ones to get the work ready for her, and is very often kept late through their delay, ignorance, or neglect; the machine supplies their place, and so it will get rid of the great number of inefficient hands, who are only fit for the commonest work, such as running the seams of skirts, and who ought to be at service. The machine is much better for their health too, if they are not constantly working at it. I am quite sure that my machinists, who used to be hand-workers, have improved in health,* since they have been able to vary those long hours of sitting and stitching; but machine work becomes detrimental, if continued without intermission. Besides, in the dull season I let mine bring their own work, and get it done by the machine here; that saves them time and money too, and all are very ready to assist one another. I have 17 in my work-room. Only two live in my house. I should like to have more in the house, but they prefer to live at home. Three are out-door apprentices; they come at 13 or 14 years old.

I know there is much suffering in London at all events, and probably in other places too, from long hours of work. I myself would most gladly submit to the inconvenience of being limited to fixed hours, and conform to any regulation of the kind, if it were made general. Now and then something will happen, no doubt, to make it necessary to work very late; for instance, some years ago my first hand cut a wedding dress so much too short, that at the last moment all had to be unpicked and done over again. We were up all night at it; but that is a thing, which no one would allow to occur twice in a lifetime, I should say; I think I may safely say it will not occur again with me, for I date a serious illness from it; indeed with the worry and the long hours together we were all knocked up.

To keep my hours what they are, I have always in the season to refuse customers, who come to me without a recommendation. I feel bound to oblige my old customers first, and they are, I must say, most considerate. Even those fresh ones, who come recommended, I have often to tell that they must wait three weeks or more; some have come and ordered dresses for the next day. Those I always refuse at once, except, as I said, in the case of an old customer, who is really in want of a dress immediately. Still I have often found ladies, whom I have refused in the very busy season, come to me when it was dull, and so have become regular customers; so that my refusing has not lost me their custom. I am sure that no lady has ever left me because of my disappointing her, for as soon as I have shown them that there was a reasonable excuse for the delay, they are satisfied. It is the excessive competition among the employers more than any other thing that causes long hours, by leading them to take all the orders that come to them, regardless of the time required to execute them.

89. *Mrs. Gregory*, Cambray Villa.—I have been in the business for 40 years. Things are very different now from what they were when I entered it. I have gone for a whole week on an emergency without ever going to bed. Now the girls complain if they have to work through one night. I think they are either much less strong than they used to be, or much more idle. My hours are from 8 A.M. to 10 P.M. generally, in April, May, and June, and October, November, and December; sometimes they work till 11, and now and then a little later on a mourning order perhaps, but not more than once in a fortnight or three weeks. Working from 8 to 11, I am sure, will hurt nobody in large airy rooms like mine. I have six in the house besides my two daughters; I do not choose to employ day-workers, as most do here.

90. *Miss Thomas*, Promenade.—I have only three residents, two apprentices and one paid hand; our day-workers vary from six to nine or ten. In the season we very rarely work longer than from 8 A.M. to 10 P.M.; it is very seldom that we work till 12. I have one machine; we do not use it for more than an hour or two in the day, but even that saves one or two extra hands. Our work-room unfortunately is on the basement and rather low pitched; although it is large, and we never have very many in it, and only three gas jets, it is often very hot. There certainly are inconveniences attached to having day-workers, but others are not to be had. I do not think, speaking of the business generally, that so

* One of them confirmed this without hesitation.—H. W. L.

many respectably connected girls are apprenticed to it, as there used to be 15 years ago; many now are taken without premium by persons in a small way of business; they live at their own homes, and give their work for nothing for some time after they have learned enough to be useful.

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91. *Mrs.* ——.—My two daughters are now living in the house of a dress-maker at Cheltenham; they went there for improvement at first, and stayed for more than a year afterwards at a small salary; there are seven altogether in the house, and they employ no day-workers; the number is far too small for the work; for the last two months they have never left off before 10 P.M., beginning at 9 A.M.; in May and June they always go on till 11 P.M., and sometimes till 12, and more than once till 2 A.M. on mourning orders; they have no exercise except on Sunday, and have become so ill that they are going to leave, but because, I suppose, they are useful, the mistress refuses to give them any reference.

Cheltenham General Hospital.

[92. By the kindness of Mr. Hartley, the resident surgeon, I was enabled to examine several young dress-makers who were patients in the hospital wards, and had worked in Cheltenham. One, who was suffering from disease of the kidneys, stated that her longest hours had been from 9 A.M. to 10 P.M. for May, June, and July; she thought herself weaker since she had taken to dress-making. A second had worked only from 9 A.M. to 9 P.M., but in a hot close room "underground."* A third had begun soon after she was 12 years old, and at 15 had worked "from 8 A.M. to 11 P.M. three times a week" through the winter season (October to January), on other nights from 8 A.M. to 8 P.M. or 9 P.M. She always felt much more tired at her work now than she did for the first three or four years of it. There were three others besides herself where she worked. The evidence of the next I give in full.—H. W. L.]

93. *E.S.*—I began at 19 years old; before that I had been in service, but was not strong enough for it. I can manage dress-making from 8 to 8, but sometimes I have been obliged to work from 7 A.M. to 12 P.M. for three and four nights in one week; that knocks me up, it was doing so that sent me here this time; it does not happen week after week; one week perhaps we work only one night till 11 P.M. from 8 A.M., and for the rest only from 8 A.M. to 9 P.M.; and then in the next come several late nights together. There were three or four living in the house where I worked, and eight or 10 day-workers. It is the night-work that is so bad; I can always do as much in one hour of the day as in two of the night. I have been in the hospital before this time. I am always better for a time, when I go back to work, until one of those weeks comes.

94. *R.E.*—I am 17; I was apprenticed at 15; there were six living where I was; we worked from 6 A.M. to 12 at night four or five times in one week, not every week, but more than once in the season. I left because I became so ill through it. Many suffer, I know, here in Cheltenham from the hours; those in the house are latest, and don't get the walk for their dinner; they have to eat their dinner too as fast as they can. In the winter, when they are busy, or if the weather is bad, many of the day-workers don't go home, but bring their food; then they eat their dinner as fast as the rest, and go on with their work directly.

95. *F.E.*—I have only been apprenticed since the beginning of last year. I am 16 nearly. I was an indoor apprentice; there were three of us, and one improver, and the mistress. We had to be in the work-room at 8 A.M., and might generally go out at 8 P.M. for a walk, if we liked; if we didn't, we sat in the work-room working till 11 P.M.; that was at our own work often. I was only there for five months, when my eyes got bad; they had never been bad before; they became so a day or two after I had been working for two whole nights on a mourning order; we went to bed for an hour on the second morning, and then worked through the second night till 8 the next morning. I didn't go to bed then even; I might have, if I liked, but I didn't care to. On one other night also I worked all night. We were not usually very late. I was here for five weeks with my eyes before, and went back to work again, but now I have been here the second time for three weeks, and I don't know if I shall ever be able to do anything.

[The nurse and assistant both assured me that the last witness was to the best of their belief truthful and respectable, the nurse adding "and not much of a talker generally."]

Silk Mercers, &c.

96. *Mr. Thompson* (in the absence of Mr. Freebody, of Cavendish House) showed me the work-rooms, and enabled me, by inquiries of himself, the housekeeper, the first hand press-maker, and others employed on the premises, to obtain the following information.

The season, at which they feel most pressure in the dress-making department, is for about seven or eight weeks from Easter. In 1862 they had worked for five weeks consecutively at that time of the year from 8.30 A.M. to 11 P.M. on every night but Saturday. Upon this being stated to me, both Mr. Thompson and the housekeeper thought that there must be some mistake, as they considered the occasions of working till 11 P.M. much less frequent, but upon further investigation the statement was fully corroborated. In the same season of the following year, however, the work had much less frequently been continued to so late an hour, although the amount of dress-making done was equal to that of the year before, the simple explanation being that in 1863 more hands were employed. For the last six months 9 P.M. had been the latest hour, and 8 P.M. frequent. The day-workers always had supper provided, when they stayed till 11 P.M.

At the time of my visit (February) only 13 milliners and dress-makers were employed, five of whom resided on the premises, two were apprentices; their full numbers were stated to be 23, but all the extra hands were day-workers. The made-up robes and skirts were all made out.

Mr. Thompson considered that, for those who lived in the house, half an hour's walk early in the morning enabled them to get through their day's work far better and more quickly, so that they could do in three hours, what would take four if they had no exercise. His experience was that such a privilege was always appreciated; they could be trusted to return to the moment, and he was convinced that mutual confidence between employer and employed was the great thing needed.

97. *One of the dress-makers*, whom I questioned as to the hours of work there and elsewhere within her knowledge, stated that she had been at Cavendish House for 18 months; for 18 months before that she had resided at a first-rate establishment in Windsor, when the ordinary hours through the year were from 8.30 A.M. till 10 P.M., and frequently much later; at the end of her time there she had worked on a mourn-

* This expression is always used by the girls of the basement, if any part of the window be below the level of the road.—H.W.L.

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ing order for three successive nights, resting at intervals, but never going to bed; this had made her so ill that she was obliged to leave; she had, however, quite recovered, and was in very good health, when she spoke to me. All the other arrangements at Windsor, she said, were very good, and the fault of the excessive hours was wholly with the forewoman, and not with the principal, who, she said, constantly complained of it, but was told that it was necessary. Fifteen were employed there, all of whom resided in the house, none of the work being given out. They had no exercise there except on Sunday. During the 18 months of her stay there she had been out for a walk on only three week days.

98. *Mr. and Mrs. Smith*, Brunswick House, informed me that they were not liable to the variations of the Cheltenham season to any great extent, as they had a large country connexion; it was rare for any to be in their work-room after 9 P.M., and though half-past 8 was the time for commencing in the morning, 9 A.M. was in fact more usual. On Saturday they always left off at 5 P.M. They had had twice in the last six months to go on as late as 12 at night, those being very extraordinary occasions, and those who did so had a day's holiday by way of reward. In summer-time the milliners frequently left at 6 or 5 P.M.

Three dress-makers and six milliners resided on the premises, the remainder in the work-room being day-workers. The bed-rooms had in part of the house been re-arranged, so as to give separate beds and rooms to seven of those sleeping in the house. In one bed-room, which was large and airy, six usually slept.

Three machines were used here, which were found to diminish materially the labour of the dress-maker. Mrs. Smith stated that one of those who worked them, though rather a slow worker, could stitch a body in a quarter of an hour, which would take a hand-worker the whole day.

LEAMINGTON.

Leamington.

Private.

99. *Mrs. Sweeting*, Clarendon Street.—All who are in my work-room live in the house; they are 12 in number; I have no day-workers. Our hours are from 8 A.M. to 9 P.M., and in summer from 7 A.M. to 9 P.M. You may ask either of these young ladies any questions you please.

100. *Miss S.*—I am Mrs. Sweeting's first hand now; I have been with her for 10 years. This last season is the busiest we have had; we may possibly have worked for three nights in one week till 11 P.M., from 8 A.M., but that would be a very extraordinary thing. We don't go out in the week; I don't care to get up early for a walk; one on Sunday does for the whole week for me.

Two years ago I went up to London; I was in two houses there; I think another season there would have killed me. At the first we worked from 8 A.M. to 1 and 2 A.M. continually, that was near Portman Square; the hours at the second were even worse, that was across Oxford Street. I came back here last April; nothing shall induce me to go to a London house again; I feel quite worn now with an ordinary day's work; I never used to mind it at all before. I was 26, when I went. The rooms and the food were both very good in both places; nothing was bad but the hours.

101. *First Hand at Madame Latoix's*, Fountain Villa.—Our hours in the season are from half-past 7 nominally, but nearer 8 A.M., usually, till half-past 8 P.M.; we may perhaps work till 10 P.M. three times a week then, and as late as 11 P.M. three times in a month. The day-workers, however, never stay after 8 P.M., and come at 8 A.M.; there are eight of them, and four of us in the house. We have had indoor apprentices, but not now. An out-door apprentice usually pays 3*l.*, if she comes for one year only, and no premium if for two years.

I have worked at Bristol; their hours were later than any I know of here, but that was five years ago; I frequently worked two or three times a week from half-past 6 A.M. to midnight. The hours there are less now I understand; the stir that has been made about the death of one or two overworked girls in different places has led to shorter hours. I should be sure to know, if any were very late here, for we have had workpeople from most houses in the town. I often get a walk, all of us now and then do.

102. *Miss Reeves* (Russell Terrace).—Fifteen years ago the hours used to be very bad in Leamington; where I then worked, we went on constantly from 3 and 4 A.M. to 9 P.M. I have not heard so much about it lately, so I hope it is less; but one mistress has told me herself of her hands working till 1 and 2 A.M. not very long ago. My girls very seldom stay after 8 P.M., and from 8 A.M. to 9 P.M. is the very longest. I have only five or six, and they all go home. In fact I found I could not do with more, for I am my own first hand, and, as it is, I am often up till 12 and 1 A.M., preparing their work for them. If I had more hands, or kept them longer at work, it would necessitate my own working later, and I have had too much of long work in past times to do more than is necessary now. It is very wearisome work; none can tell how fatiguing dress-making is, until they have sat hour after hour the whole day long for many days at it. Besides, the rooms become very close; I find even my own room, where we have so few, and plenty of space, with two windows, as you see, gets quite oppressive towards night.

The hours in Birmingham are still very late I fear. A young friend of mine, who is a first hand there, tells me she has been working from 8 or 9 A.M. to 4 and 5 A.M. nearly every night for four or five weeks before Christmas, and twice in that time the whole night through. She actually had to work till 5 on Christmas morning in order to get her little holiday.

103. *B.A.*—I was at Mrs. —— for three weeks six weeks ago; she was short of hands, and I was not wanted here, where I am usually employed, so I went to her; five or six were working there; the usual hours were from 8 A.M. to 8.30 P.M., but we were several times much later; we worked twice till 1 A.M., and were not paid anything extra for it; she never kept her apprentices after 9 P.M.

104. *Miss Turner*, Bertie Road.—My own health has suffered too much from long hours to let me have anybody work late for me. We begin at 8 and leave off at 8; not more than once a month do we ever go on till 10 P.M., and rarely, even in the season, till 9. I have been in business for seven years; during the four years before that I had been at a house here, where we continually worked from 6 A.M. to 12 at night; but things are altogether better now. I should say that at the latest houses 8 A.M. to 11 P.M. would be the extreme. The girls have found, as I did, that their health gives way under such excessive hours as used to be, and won't stay. I have had as many as 10 working for me, and four of them in the house; but I only have two residing here now, and have not room for more. They usually contrive to have a walk twice a week. I have had to refuse an order, but generally have been able to get through my orders in the time I state, by getting every one to work a little harder than usual in the day.

105. *Mr. Bedford* (Messrs. Whitehouse & Bedford), Lower Parade.—The chief pressure for dress-makers in Leamington is during November, December, and January. Our longest hours are from 8 A.M. to 9 P.M., but we usually leave off at 8 P.M., even in the season. We have then 13 or 14 persons in our work-rooms; of them all live out of the house except the first and second hands; we never have more than three apprentices; they all live at home, and pay no premium; many are 16 or 17 years old before they are apprenticed, few, if any, under 15.

I do not think the hours in Leamington are long as a rule, for I am sure we should never have found the difficulty we have at times in getting hands, if other houses were generally much later than we are. I dare say others are later, but not to any great extent; probably a mourning order or a ball may keep them till 10 P.M. now and then, but that will be the utmost. Most in Leamington are day-workers.

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106. *Mr. Wackrill*, Waterloo House.—We employ only mantle-makers on the premises. Sometimes only two or three, at other times 10 or 12; our average is six; none are under 18 years old; all live away from us. We have plenty of work from March to July, and again from October to December. Our hours then are from 8 A.M. to 8 P.M.; perhaps they may work twice a week till 11 P.M., and three times in a year till 1 A.M. We always pay for any overtime, and give them supper if they are late. They earn 8*s.* a week on an average, and machinists 10*s.* They have an hour for dinner, all go home for that; and about a quarter of an hour for tea, which we give them here. Most have very good health; we have had one or two delicate ones, but have always sent them home early.

C.

Silk Mercers, &c.

107. *Mr. C. Pratt*, Higher Parade.—We have lately given up making dresses here, but for eight years we used to make them on the premises, and scarcely ever exceeded 8 A.M. to 8 P.M.; 9 P.M. was quite our latest; if we were pressed we worked harder in the day. I am sure that is quite long enough for any young woman to be sitting at work; those who are in our shop get quite tired enough in the summer between 8 A.M. and 8 P.M., I can assure you, and they are often nearly an hour after that, before they get fairly off; it would be a very good thing, if they could leave off an hour earlier. Still the hours in Leamington are not generally bad; the pay is the worst thing here; some give only 5*s.* 6*d.* and 6*s.* a week to their assistants; we could get as many as we liked for 6*s.*, merely because they know we had stated hours, and no overtime; we used to give our junior hands 6*s.*, and the others 9*s.* and 12*s.*; all were day-workers. Those that live in the house are worst off here; in some places they work from 7 A.M. to 10 P.M., and haven't a really good meal all day, besides they haven't any exercise in the week. I don't say that that is general, but it ought not to be at all.

BATH.

Bath.

Private.

108. *Mr. Roberts*, Prince's Buildings, stated that in his opinion the hours of business were, as a rule, good throughout Bath; most of the dress-makers were day-workers. The Bath season used to be in time past like the London season, but that was not so now; even at the time of the fancy ball and other public balls the pressure was not much felt; 12 were employed on his premises, who never exceeded the usual 12 hours, with the hour and a half for meals. He stated that he was quite convinced that there was no profit to be made out of the mere labour of making dresses, and that, but for the profit in supplying material, money would be actually lost in a first-class business in paying workpeople alone, leaving nothing for the skill and taste of the mistress.

109. *Mr. Eyres* (of Messrs. M. & G. Eyres, Milsom Street,) informed me that the hours at their establishment were from 8 A.M. to 7 P.M. in winter and to 8 P.M. in summer, and that it was only on very rare occasions indeed that any work went on after that hour; about two-thirds were resident, but that was unusual in Bath.

110. In the absence of *Mrs. Stent*, Edgar Buildings, her sister stated that the usual hours in her dress-making business were from 8 A.M. to 8 P.M.; now and then in summer they would begin at 7 A.M. for the sake of leaving off an hour earlier. Working from 8 A.M. to 10 P.M. was an extreme case. On one Easter Monday they had worked for a fancy ball from 8 A.M. to 12 at night, a day which, she was sure, they would never forget, for all were so glad, when it was over. About 20 were employed, all day-workers or outdoor apprentices; the latter paid a premium of 3*l.* for three years, and received 1*s.*, 2*s.*, and 3*s.* a week in each successive year of their term.

111. *Mrs. Dunning*, Paragon Buildings, employed six apprentices and three assistants, none of whom were resident. Her hours were from 8 A.M. to 8 P.M., except in the case of a mourning order, which might happen three times a year. She had herself, as an apprentice in Bath, been called at 4 A.M., and worked on a cup of strong tea at 5 A.M. up to breakfast-time at 8, not leaving off till 10 P.M. for more than a month continuously. Such work, she thought, was not to be heard of anywhere in Bath now. She only wished that a higher price could be paid for the actual making of the dress, and the hours be reduced to 10, for she found 12 hours a day "very laborious at the best."

112. *Miss M——*.—Had worked for several seasons at one of the most fashionable private houses in Bath. The usual hours were from 8.30 to 8.30; sometimes she had worked till 10 P.M. in the season, but never for every night in the week; occasionally, but very rarely, for one or two nights successively till 11 P.M.

[This account was confirmed by another, whose sister had been employed at the same house.]

113. *Mrs. King*, Milsom Street.—We employ nearly 40 in our work-rooms, including those who make mantles, baby linen, and ladies' underclothing, as well as milliners and dress-makers. It is the having so many engaged in various occupations of needlework, that enables us, if we are pressed, to get through any extra work without working longer than usual, by taking some from one department to help those in another. Our hours are from 8.30 A.M. to 8.30 P.M. with an hour for dinner and an hour for tea. All but a few are day-workers; for about a fortnight in the months of April, May, and October they probably go on till 9.30 P.M., but that is the latest. We often leave off at 6 P.M. on Saturdays, but that is not an early day in Bath, for it is market day, and although our customers are not the market people, the carriers for the surrounding districts make that their day for coming to Bath. We often give skirts and cloth mantles out to be made.

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A good day worker earns from 9*s.* to 11*s.* a week, the inferiors ones 1*s.* a day. Many live but poorly, having for instance only bread and butter for dinner; they will often, if they have the opportunity, do some work on their own account after they get home, and in that way some work long, and being also ill fed suffer in health. We have had two remarkable instances of day-workers who were certainly not healthy before, becoming quite strong after they had been resident in our house for a little time.

I often tell mothers, who bring their children to be

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apprenticed, that dress-making is great drudgery at the best of times, and so it is. Milliners' work is far lighter and better paid as well. We usually take our apprentices for two years with only a small premium or none at all; after their time is up we begin with 4*s.* 6*d.* or 5*s.* a week, and increase according to their capacity. We use machines, but the machinist prepares her own work, and is never working long at her machine without a break.

[113a. One of the machinists told me that when she had been working for the full time rather hard she felt very tired indeed, but had not found her head or eyes suffer at all; she had worked a machine for several years.]

114. *Mrs. Barry*, Milsom Street.—Employed eight residents and five day workers; her usual hours were from 8 A.M. to 8 P.M.: in May and June they were not unfrequently as late as 10 P.M., but scarcely ever later. Hers was solely a millinery business.

[115. From *Mr. Jolly* of Milsom Street, who gave me great assistance in my inquiry, I obtained information as to the hours of work and other matters, both in his own establishment, and generally in the town, which fully confirmed the foregoing accounts. All whom I asked, both employers and others, assured me that the work in Bath seldom exceeded the 12 hours in the day. One stated that the latest hours she knew of were at a milliner's, where two of her girls had worked from 8 A.M. to 11 P.M. for several nights a week for two months or more, but that, she was sure, was not general. I was informed by several, who had very good opportunities of knowing, that those who took out mantles, &c., even for very good houses paid their work-people, young women of 18 and 20, as little as 3*s.* and 4*s.* a week for working from 9 A.M. to 9 P.M., with 1½ hours for meals.—H. W. L.]

116. *Mrs. Crowden*, the matron of the Blue Coat School, Bath, informed me that 10 or 12 girls on an average were apprenticed every year from that institution, most of whom went to milliners or dress-makers. The number in the past year was 17; they were bound for a term of three years as outdoor apprentices, a premium of 3*l.* being paid with them. It was always stipulated that they should receive 1*s.* a week for the first year, 2*s.* for the second, and 3*s.* for the third; the majority of them went to service as ladies' maids or nursery maids, after the term was ended. The trustees generally obtained a promise from the employer that they should not have to work longer than 12 hours in the day, and she believed that that promise was generally observed, and that the hours in Bath generally were not longer than that. The annual gathering of old pupils at Christmas, at which every one of them, who conducted themselves well, were invited and made a point of attending, gave her special opportunities of hearing from time to time, if they were overworked or otherwise unkindly treated, but in 30 years she had had, she thought, scarcely half a dozen complaints. She thought that their health usually remained good during their apprenticeship; perhaps they might grow paler. At the last annual meeting of old pupils as many as 86 young men and 78 young women were present, and she was sure that this practice exercised a most beneficial influence, and that the exclusion, which followed misconduct, was felt very keenly.

BRISTOL AND CLIFTON.

Bristol and Clifton.

Private.

117. *Mrs. Wilkins*, Park Street, Bristol.—The results of my long experience in the business of millinery and dress-making is, that it is much better for all concerned not to work late, and that in all but very extreme cases long hours may be avoided. I used to think and act otherwise. In times past I and those with me have frequently worked till 1 and 2 in the morning; indeed I attribute the loss of a dear sister entirely to our long hours of work, but in those days we thought it impossible to avoid it; now, however, we find that we can get through quite as much work between 9 A.M. and 9 P.M., if we begin at once and go on steadily and cheerfully, as if we were several hours longer over our work, but growing, as is generally the case, more and more listless and dispirited every minute. We give out our skirts and mantles. An ordinary skirt can be made, and made well, out of doors for 1*s.*; it would take the best part of a day: if there were much trimming, we should pay 1*s.* 6*d.* or 2*s.*

I have eight residents, and 12 or 13 more, who live at their own homes and come for the day; they are most of them apprentices, and are usually with me for a term of two years; after that time, if they have taken pains, they can obtain salaries of from 12*l.* to 20*l.* a year. I am very careful about food; we never have salt meat, and very rarely veal or pork, they have green vegetables, and rice especially.

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118. *Mr. and Mrs. Coombs*, Park Street, Bristol, informed me that they had the reputation of being as late as or even later than most milliners and dress-makers in the neighbourhood, and that the occasions on which they kept their hands at work longer than from 9 A.M. to 9 P.M. were not more than a dozen in the year. They said that all the work done in that time could easily be finished by 7 P.M., if the girls chose. As a rule, one who worked at home, would do in one day as much as she would in two on their premises. A girl, who took work home in the morning, would frequently bring in at 5 P.M., what she would be from 9 to 9 about in their work-room. They considered that a system of paying by the piece would be far more satisfactory both to the employer and to the girls themselves than that of salaries of 30*l.* and 40*l.* a year, and often more, which was usual in the business, but they had always found on proposing it that the girls would not adopt it. Most of their skirts and mantles were given out.

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119. *Miss M——*.—I was for a short time at a house in Bristol, where the milliners worked from 8 A.M. to 9 P.M. every night for more than three weeks, and twice or three times till 10 and 11; the dress-makers were frequently later, an hour later than we milliners; it was at the beginning of the winter. About eight lived in the house and 10 out; most of the out-door ones were apprentices. I left chiefly because of the living; few stay there more than six weeks or two months; the apprentices were very late on Saturdays, they often did not get home till Sunday morning.*

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120. *Mr. Kingcome* (Regent Place, Clifton), stated that they were busy for about four months, and then slack for two through the year. I had opportunities of speaking about to several of the girls employed here, and had from each of them a most satisfactory account of their hours and treatment. They stated that they began their work at 9 A.M. and only on very rare occasions worked later than 9 P.M., frequently leaving off before; they could recollect but one occasion of working till 11 P.M. in the last two years. Eight were resident, 14 or 15 day-workers; the latter were stated by one of the residents to be the nicest set of day-workers she had ever met with.

121. *Miss P——n*.—I was for 12 months at a house in Torquay; there were only four or five in the work-room both for milliners and dress-makers; that number was not half enough for the business. They went on

* I had this statement unexpectedly confirmed by an independent person.—H. W. L.

week after week from 8 A.M. to 11 and 12 at night; the room was very small. They used to come up stairs in the evening quite beaten with the work, and go into hysterics from exhaustion and the heat of the gas; they used to get quite dizzy with stooping over their work. This was only a year ago. I am now in Clifton and very comfortable. I do not think the hours are very late anywhere there, nor even in Bristol generally; one or two there have a bad reputation, but that is more for the bad living than long hours.

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122. *Miss Jones* (at Mrs. Mathews', Mall Buildings, Clifton).—I have the management of Mrs. Mathews' business at Clifton, while she is in London. We have eight or nine residents. For six months in the year there is not much going on in Clifton. We consider our hours to be from 8·30 to 8·30; when we are busy we go on, it may be, till 10 P.M. for one or two nights in a week; and now and then perhaps as late as 11. We certainly do not work all the night through on a mourning order so often as once in six months. I always give them half a day's rest, when they have been late.

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123. *Mr. Syme*, Wine Street, Bristol.—Our numbers vary, but we do not employ more than about 12 in the workrooms; they are milliners and mantle makers, and do not reside here. Some earn 7*s.* 6*d.* and others 6*s.* a week, and they have their tea here. Their hours are from 8 A.M. to 7 P.M. for about three months, to 9 P.M. for four months, and to 8 P.M. for the rest of the year. We take out-door apprentices for a year or 18 months, giving them work in place of premium; they have no formal indenture.

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124. *Mrs. Collins*, Superintendent of the Christian Women's Association, Bristol, told me that she was constantly brought into contact with girls, who worked at various milliners' and dress-makers' houses in Bristol and Clifton, and felt convinced that they very rarely worked for more than 12 hours a day even when busy.

EXETER.

Exeter.

Private.

125. *Mr. Brothers*, Northernhay Street, Exeter.—My wife has 22 in her employ. Our longest hours are in the summer; we begin then between 7 and 8 A.M., and go on till 9 P.M. We have not worked once in five years after 11 P.M. Things have changed in that respect even in the last 10 years; they used to begin much later in the morning, and so of course work later at night.

The introduction of the sewing machine has done away with the need of working as long as formerly. Mourning orders are not so very pressing, because we always have four or five days notice for them. It is the evening dresses, ordered, perhaps, only a day before, that make things get wrong. But I think the long hours, if anywhere in Exeter, are where only two or three are employed; they have not constant work for a larger number, and if suddenly pressed, do not like to, and perhaps cannot at the moment, get extra hands.

Apprentices who live in the town usually pay a small premium, from 3*l.* to 5*l.*, and are bound for three years. Day-workers earn from 7*s.* to 12*s.* a week. The first and second hands generally live in the house; a second hand has from 15*l.* to 20*l.* a year, and an assistant, if she lives in the house, about 12*l.*

126. *Miss Evans.*—We have 15 residents; three are apprentices; from 7 A.M. to 9 P.M. are our usual hours in the season; those hours are scarcely ever exceeded, except perhaps one or twice for an hour. All seem anxious to get up to London; I am afraid the gaiety there has too great charms for them. We have also 14 day-workers; their hours are less.

127. *Miss H.* (Bristol).—I have been a dress-maker at Exeter, and have had friends in different houses there; they are certainly later than we are here at Bristol and Clifton. At one house in particular, Mrs. ——, where they have several in the house, they often used to work for several nights in a week from 8 A.M. to 10 P.M., and later, till 11 and 12 now and then; the day-workers did not stay usually much after 8; some were in-door apprentices, girls of 15. It is certainly too long for them; this has been so within the last three years.

128. *A. M.*, aged 18.—I am now working for myself; for two years I was an out-door apprentice, and assistant afterwards, in Exeter; there were seven or eight there. Our usual hours were 8 A.M. to 8 P.M., but for a month or six weeks each spring and fall we often were later. I should say about every other night we went on till 11 P.M. then. I have worked every night in a week till 11 P.M. from 8 A.M.; that did tire me; but I could manage every other night very well. Sometimes I have worked till 1 and 2 A.M., but not more than twice in the season; that would be for a funeral order, most likely. We were payed 1*d.* an hour overtime, and 1*s.* a day for the regular day's work; so for work from 8 A.M. to 11 P.M. we had 15*d.* The money was not so much an object to me, as I had a home to go to; those in the house sometimes were later than we; they were the first and second hands, who would be finishing or cutting out for next day; I don't think we were later than other people. I know that at Miss ——, round the corner, where nine or ten are employed, they are quite as often as late as I used to be. It has done me no harm. The room was a very fine size.

129. *Miss D—s.*—Dress-makers' hours in Exeter are from 8 A.M. to 8 P.M. usually; but for two months in spring and six weeks at the end of autumn they are longer. You need not fear that the person, who told you she worked at least every other night in our season from 8 A.M. to 11 P.M., was exaggerating. I don't call from 8 A.M. to 11 P.M. late for the season; 12 and 1 P.M. is; that does not often happen; but hundreds work as long as from 8 to 11, especially among the small people, who have only two or three to help, and in some of the best places, where there is a good connexion.

No doubt they are often up half the night at making dresses, but that will be making their own dresses at home. Very few of the apprentices or of the others live on the premises. They are usually bound for three years, and pay a very small premium, or none. Many are paid only 3*s.* a week for the first year after they are out of their time.

[The above witness quite laughed at my doubting the hours of work in the season being frequently so long as from 8 A.M. to 11 P.M.]

130. *Miss* ——, at Mrs. Treadwin's.—I call nothing late till after midnight; 8 A.M. to 11 P.M. is nothing. I don't mean that we ever work so late as that even with Mrs. Treadwin, for we have no cause for it. But at Ipswich, for instance, where I was apprenticed, there were dress-makers, who used to go on till 1 and 2 A.M.; the apprentices as long as any. The fault was in having just one first hand, and all the rest apprentices, without any second hands or assistants, so that the first hand, instead of only superintending and cutting out, spent half her time in working herself or unpicking the bad work of the apprentices.

I never worked late in Ipswich, but I have in London. Indeed, I left London in consequence. I have no doubt that the mere length of hours there injures the health. I am very well here, but there I suffered considerably. It is partly the girls' own fault for submitting to it; they should make it a part of the

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agreement from the first not to work beyond a certain time.

Other things, too, are often uncomfortable in London; but in Exeter, and in Ipswich too, I think the work-rooms are good, and the girls are well treated.

[131. An apprentice, a native of Exeter, confirmed this statement, and added that she thought that working from 8 A.M. to 11 P.M. though frequent, was not the rule even in the season in Exeter.]

132. *Mrs. Brown*, Silk Mercer, Queen Street, Exeter.—Our hours are from 9 to 7.30 in the winter, and from 8.30 to 8 in the summer; we don't work an hour later half a dozen times a year, yet I believe we have turned out as much in a given time as any one in this town. However, I do not think that any are very late here; there is no pressure from visitors, and the orders of residents here and in the country round are pressing only on occasions like the race ball, next week; perhaps there are one or two more in each season. Saturday is not a late night.

We have two seasons, one from September to November, the other from May to July, each a little over two months; eight or nine years ago we used often to have work go on till 11 and 12 P.M.; that was wholly the fault of a first hand, who would never give the work out till about 4 in the afternoon.

We employ from 14 to 20 persons on the premises in millinery and dress and stay making; all live elsewhere; only four or five of the young ladies in the show-room live on the premises.

In businesses of the higher class here apprentices pay a premium of 25*l.* or 30*l.* for three years, and have their meals in the house, but sleep at home; in those of a lower class they pay a small premium or not any, and give their work for six months or so for nothing; but there is no rule about it, and much depends on the circumstances of the parent and the ability of the apprentices.

Torquay.

TORQUAY.

133. *Mr. Betts*, Silk Mercer, the Strand.—There is very little pressure on dress-makers here except just for a night, perhaps, once or twice in the season, or for a mourning order. I believe I employ more than any persons in my work-rooms, with one exception. I have 14; they do not live in the house.

Though the Torquay season begins in November, there is no pressure in dress-making till February; for about two months at that time our hours are at the utmost from 8 A.M. to 9 P.M. I have been here in business for three years and a half, and in that time we have only once worked till 12. I do not think that the others are later than we.*

134. *Miss T.*—I was for three years at Miss A.'s, a private house, as an apprentice; we were all well treated. The hours there were about the same as here, 8 to 8; we never worked after 10, and seldom so late. There were 22 there; if we were pressed, more hands were taken; we had sometimes 28. We nearly all lived out of the house.

Plymouth.

Silk Mercers, &c.

PLYMOUTH.

135. *Mr. W. Radford*, Bedford Street.—I employ about 30 persons in my work-rooms in making millinery, mantles, dresses, and ladies' outfittings. I have taken to dress-making only within the last five years, having been, like so many other drapers and silk-mercers, driven into it, as it were, through the private dress-makers objecting to make up any materials for ladies but what they supplied themselves.

I suppose that I have more employed and more work turned out on my premises than any one in the town in the best class of business, but long hours of work do not occur with us, nor anywhere else in Plymouth. I am confident that, if you went from house to house through the whole trade here you would find all much the same as mine, except that they are on a smaller scale; in the private houses only five or six will be employed.

Our hours are from 9 A.M. to 7 P.M. in the winter, and to 8 P.M. in the summer: those who live off the premises, of whom the majority consist, very rarely stay later; the four or five who live in the house, the manager and first and second hands that is, work a little later if we are particularly pressed; just now, for instance, we have five mourning orders and a large ball coming off soon; they have for the last two or three days worked from 9 A.M. to 10 P.M., but that is quite an exceptional state of things, and the milliners have never worked longer than usual. You may depend on it that if there are any places where they work longer than we do, they will be small places where only two or three are employed.

We have four or five apprentices who live out of the house, paying 5*l.* premium for three years; they always leave an hour earlier than the rest, 7 P.M. in summer and 6 now, and wait for their tea till they get home; the others have the usual half-hour for that meal. For seven or eight of the outdoor hands I provide dinner as well as tea and pay 10*s.* a week; they would always be the ones to stay later, if any special occasion required it. When we are pressed we have extra hands, two in the outfitting and four or five in the dress-making departments.

There is a plentiful supply of water, with water-closets and other conveniences. They are almost too fond of air; I often tell them they will catch their deaths of cold sitting with the windows open, but they say they like it.

[The whole of the arrangements of this establishment were very satisfactory. Mr. Radford, who took especial pains to assist me in my inquiry, gave me material confirmation of his own views as to the hours of work, by requesting his manager and first hands to obtain from the young ladies in his work-rooms their own opinion and experience in the matter.]

136. *Miss Johnson*, at Mr. Chigwell's, Union Street.—I am quite sure there is no very long work in Plymouth; the difficulty is to get them to work enough. It is the same with dress-makers as with outfitters. The machine ought to have lessened the hours of work everywhere, for it is very generally used. I know one dress-maker who used to have 10 or 12 hands, and now, through having a machine, gets the same done with four or five. London is the place for hard work for dress-makers. All that have had any experience of it complain bitterly of it when they come back again, and not only of the hours, but of the want of comfort. Two are in my mind just now; one, who had been very well in Plymouth, was utterly broken down by one season there. She was in a fashionable house near —— Square. She has told me that they were called at 5 every morning and never went to bed till 12 at night; never went for a walk in the week at all. She is living in the country with her friends; she could not go back to dress-making. The other is still in business in the neighbourhood. What she said was much the same. We advised her, because she was not succeeding here, to go back to her former employer in London, but she said she could not endure it a second time. Both these are young women. I have known some comfortable in London houses, but even they have not liked their hours.

* *See* No. 121 *supra*.—H. W. L.

137. *Miss May*, Saint Aubyn Street, Devonport.—I am sure there are no late hours to speak of among dress-makers in Devonport; hours are from 8 A.M. to 7 P.M. in winter and 8 P.M. in summer. Now and then we may go on till 10 P.M., but that does not happen more than half a dozen times a year. I have been in business for 12 years, and have worked only once all night in that time. I then resolved never to do it again. I have four or five working for me; they are most of them apprentices. If they come for 18 months they pay a small premium, 2*l.* or 3*l.*, but generally their parents prefer them to come for two years and pay none; not so much to save the money, as because what they learn in the last six months is worth so much more. I have seen girls here taking home bundles, which looked like dresses, on Sunday morning, but I think they must be out-workers.

Dress-makers, &c.
Plymouth.
Mr. H. W. Lord.
Private.
c.

PORTSEA.

Portsea.
Silk Mercers, &c.

138. *Mr. H. Turner*, Queen Street.—We have taken up dress-making for the last three years. Five only live in the house; the rest, 25 in number, only come for the day; our hours are from 9 A.M. to 8 P.M.; they have an hour and a half for their meals out of that; many live a mile and a half off, and have the walk, which is very good for them. There is a dining-room for those who prefer bringing their food here; both milliners, and dress and mantle makers do so; five are milliners. If we are pressed, we take on four or five more outworkers. Those who live in the house have a sitting-room. They often go out for a walk on a summer evening, and as for trusting them, my opinion is that not trusting them is the surest way of making it impossible to trust them. They have a trip to the Isle of Wight sometimes. There is no season here in the fashionable sense of the word. We pay our machinists 12*s.* a week.

139. *Mr. Davies*, Landport.—We employ 24 on the premises, and about 40 out in millinery and mantles; our hours are from 8.30 or 9 A.M. to 7 P.M. now, and an hour later in summer. All have a half holiday once a week, not on the same day; only two of those in our work-room reside on the premises; all our residents have a fortnight's holiday each year. I am sure that they are all very susceptible of kind and generous treatment; it creates an interest in their work. Most of the drapers' shops here used to remain open till 11 or 12 on Saturday nights, but now they are earlier, mine closes at 8. Two of our mantle-makers employ from 10 to 16 hands on their own premises, but their hours are not long, 8 A.M. to 6 P.M., and till 8 P.M. perhaps once a month. In fact, long hours are not usual now in any establishment of milliners and dress-makers in this district.

140. *Miss Weeks.*—From what I know of other places I should say that the usual hours out of the season are from 8 A.M. to 8 P.M. and to 9 P.M. in the season; there are two seasons, spring and autumn. They may occasionally work till 10 and 11 P.M., and now and then on a mourning order all night, still such hours would not occur day after day. I think that even such occasional exceptions are frequently unnecessary, and I believe that we get through quite as much work in our regular hours by keeping to it, while we have it to do.

RYDE.

Ryde.
Private.

141. *Miss L——*, Union Street.—Our season in Ryde is from June to October, a little over three months, but we are never much pressed. Then we breakfast at 8 A.M. and sup at 9 P.M., and between those hours all our work is done, except on very rare occasions. At this time of the year we clear at 8 P.M. The same is, I should say, the case with the other dress-making and millinery businesses here of the same class as mine. We may now and then have to be half an hour or so later, and on a mourning order, or something very pressing, may work after supper till 11 P.M., and we have worked till 12 or 1 A.M. once or twice in a way perhaps; but as a rule we do not work after half-past 9 P.M. or so half a dozen times a year.

I have eight in the house with me, one first hand dress-maker and one milliner; the others are apprentices from 15 to 18 years old; they pay a premium of 30*l.*, and stay for three years. I have also three or four out-door apprentices, but no other hands out of the house. They are all daughters of highly respectable persons, tradesmen and others.

When their time is up, they generally seek to better themselves in some other place. Several have gone from me to fashionable London houses; they have generally come home again "quite sick," as one of them said just lately, "of London hours and habits." One very fine girl, who was quite observed here for her good looks and health, left me to "better herself" as she thought, poor girl, in a London West End house, but before her 12 months were ended, she had broken down, and very soon after she died of consumption. The underground arrangements there were very bad,—I do not mean work-rooms or sleeping-rooms;—they were complained of by many as being most offensive; the young ladies avoided them as much as they could—the drainage and such things.

In too many such houses there is not enough done to make them decently comfortable. Of course that can be managed much more easily where the numbers are small, as mine are; but at least they might have sufficient supply of water and washing apparatus, instead of having three or four to take their turn at a tap and an ewer, as I know to have been the case.

It is the neglect of little things that makes the difference. In one of the large French houses in London not long ago, only a pewter mug was handed round for them all to drink from at dinner. That is not nice; for they have, many of them, been used to very different treatment at home. Another important thing, which is almost wholly lost sight of, is the giving them a little pleasant variety of food, and especially vegetables. I am sure from my own experience that potatoes day after day do not suit them, they quite turn away from them; and I am also sure that a little attention to securing trifles like these is very fully repaid by the interest they take in their work, and the spirit with which they get through it.

I understand their complaints well, for I went through more in my day as an apprentice in London than they have to do now. Things are improved, but they might still be better than they are. The girls ought to be more independent, and refuse to submit to such things. Perhaps they are becoming so. I know they all prefer working, where there is a shop, to being employed in private houses. Some are rather too independent; one would not take a very good offer at a neighbour's of mine the other day, because she would be expected to work after 7 P.M.

BRIGHTON.

Brighton.
Silk Mercers, &c.

142. *Mr. Hilton*, Manager of Mantle Department at Messrs. Hannington's.

There are two seasons in the dress-making and mantle business at Brighton, which last for between three and four months each, from September to December, and from March to June. We are probably more liable than any one in the town to suffer from the pressure of sudden orders during those

Dress-makers, &c.

Brighton.

Mr. H.W. Lord.

c.

times, but we meet them partly by taking on more hands, and partly by giving out more work. None of our work-women, except one forewoman, reside on the premises. Our hours are from 8 A.M. to 8 P.M., with an hour and a half for meals. Those are our hours all the year round, but in the season we have about 80, while in the slack months we have only 40 or so working here. The same is probably the case with those, who take our skirts or mantles to do at their own houses; they will perhaps have work for only two or three out of the season, but when we and everybody else are busy, they will employ half a dozen or a dozen. We give work out to some 10 or 12: of course it is much easier for each of them to get two or three extra hands, when they want them, than for us to get 20 or 30; at all events that is so in a place like Brighton, where no registration office exists.

No doubt we do occasionally exceed those hours, but only to a trifling extent and on rare occasions. It is on Saturday nights chiefly that we do so; things required for the Sunday are often ordered very late, but the fact of their having to be delivered before people go to bed is a practical limit in that respect, so that 10 P.M. will be the latest, and only a few will stay so late as that. Taking the year round we leave off on an average at 7 P.M. on Saturday, because when we are slack, we let them go at 5 P.M. to make up for their staying later at other times. We do not pay them extra on the occasions of their working after 8 P.M.; they are so rare, and so fully made up to them, that it is never thought of. I believe that Saturday is generally a late night in Brighton; the average would probably be later than ours.

Our chief work besides mantles is morning and dinner dresses; we have not gone into ball dresses as yet, but I do not think that the balls in Brighton are likely to produce any extraordinary pressure on those who work them here; and so far as my own experience and that of those who are now in our employ, extend, long and late hours are not frequent here. The hours of work have no doubt been much reduced in the last 12 or 20 years. Probably the example set by our establishment has had a considerable effect in that particular; for we employ more than any four or five others, and consequently, if the girls think themselves overworked elsewhere, they begin to grumble and say that they will leave, and go to us, where the hours are less.

I cannot myself at all understand the need for very long hours as a system, and am sure it is a very bad one; for, besides being injurious to the health of the girls, as no doubt it is, you can never get so much out of them the next day, so that when it comes day after day you do not get as much as if they worked a shorter time. A great deal of it I believe to be caused by not putting the orders in hand at once. We make in the season on the premises about 200 mantles a week, all to order, and certainly have not above three days' notice on an average.

There are very few milliners' or dress-makers' houses in Brighton, where more than three or four of the work-people live on the premises; so far as I know there is no piece work. The day-workers' wages average 9*s.* a week, both in mantle and in dress-making. They always have tea given; most go home for dinner. In the slack season they are scattered about a good deal, but most come back to us as the busy time returns.

We have five or six little girls of 13 to 16 years old; they are not regularly bound apprentices, but they assist in little things and pick up something by degrees; at first they will merely run about, and perhaps are put at a table next to some experienced hand, and do the tacking of basting; they pay no premium; as soon as they are able to earn anything we pay them a little—2*s.* 6*d.* a week to begin with.

Machinists work only from 9 A.M. to 7 P.M., and have higher wages; they are all comparatively young,—from 17 to 27 or so,—and usually the quickest and cleverest. It is quite a mistake to think that machines have reduced the number of hands. They enable us to put very much more work into a cloak without increasing the price, as we should have to do if it had all to be done by hand; but in fact we should never have dreamed of doing by hand much of what we now do by machine. So much more superfluous ornamental work is expected now, which was never looked for, until they were used, and what with the preparatory work of fixing and tacking, and the final work of trimming and finishing, four or five hand workers are always employed for each machine. Even in the hemming there is more work put in by the machine than there used to be by hand, and similarly quilted linings and such things are much more generally used.

Their health is good; they are seldom absent from work for more than half a day now and then; that is generally said to be a sick headache, but, as our forewoman says, it usually means either a bonnet or a dress to make at home, or a little dissipation over night. They are usually very well in the intervals.

We try, and I think succeed tolerably well, to have none but well conducted respectable girls in our employ. Perhaps our greatest safeguard is in the girls themselves, for, if any improper character were to get into the work-room, they would be sure to take means to let the forewoman know and get her out again.

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143. *Mrs.* ——, mantle maker.—The hours in Brighton are not very long, even at the fashionable dress-makers'. Where they work longest is at places just below the first class houses. At one of that kind a relative of mine worked a short time ago from 9 A.M. till 11 and 12 P.M. for some weeks. They had a good business all the year round. There were a few residents; my relative was a day-worker. Her health suffered so much that she left, and went to mantle-making. Everybody remarked how much better she was after she had been at that for a few months. It was all the hours of work with her, because the work-room at the dress-makers' was a very nice one, and everything else was comfortable.

[144. A dress-maker and milliner who has an extensive business in Brighton gave me the following information:—]

It is the exception, I believe, for either milliners or dress-makers in Brighton to have more than three or four residents; a first hand and an apprentice or two at the most. Some come down from London and stay in the house only for the season, but no one would have more than one or two such.

I never allow any work after half-past nine at night in the season. You may be quite satisfied that from 8 A.M. to 9.30. or 10 P.M. are the extreme of our season work in Brighton, except on very extraordinary occasions, and work will often be over by 8.30 and 9 P.M. In my opinion, long hours are usually owing as much to a want of system in mistresses as to anything; they often neglect to put their orders in hand at once, and stay in their show-rooms instead of personally attending as much as they can to the work-rooms.

Girls often come down to us from London thoroughly prostrated by their work in the season there; they hope to recruit themselves by the air here, and do so, but at our expense sometimes. There is now a young lady from a fashionable London house, who has had a situation all this autumn in Brighton, and she has never been able to get up once to breakfast, since she has been here.

One great mistake some employers make is to keep girls at their work for certain fixed hours, whether there is work to do or not, merely because it is the rule of the house. Nothing is, I believe, more dispiriting to them. They work with twice the energy when there is need for it, if they have some relaxation at other times.

I am quite sure that any system of inspection would

result in our employing only day-workers as a general rule. I should, as it is, very much prefer to do so, if I could get the class of girls that I want; but at present those whom it suits us to employ as first and second hands will not come to us, unless they can live in the house. This is much more widely applicable to London business, where so many more reside on the premises.

Dress-makers, &c.

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145. I also visited several other millinery and dress-making establishments, including those of Mrs. Ade, Mlle. Arnould, Madame Dévy, Mrs. Henderson, Miss Jordan, Madame Mercier, Mr. Pocock, and others, and had in all cases interviews with the principals or their representatives. From my conversation with them, and with young persons who had worked for some of them, and others, it appeared that the usual hours of work in the season were from 8.30 A.M. to 8.30 P.M.; working beyond the 12 hours being of rare occurrence, except on Saturdays, when an extra hour was not unusual, and very seldom reaching to the extent of two hours' overtime. Once or twice in some seasons some had been at work from 8.30 A.M. to 12 P.M.; in one house they considered that the work was continued for about 10 nights in the season till about 11 P.M. from 8.30 A.M., but only a portion of those employed would be sitting up on each night, and not for more than two nights consecutively. Occasions had arisen on which work had been continued throughout an establishment till a very late hour, as, for instance, at the time of the death of the late Prince Consort, when the mourning orders had at one house kept all at work from 8.30 A.M. till 2 the next morning for one night, and till past 12 for the night preceding; but such work was altogether exceptional.

Some of the work-rooms were overcrowded and very insufficiently provided with means of ventilation, the cubic feet of air for each person in one of the largest being only 120, and this without any contrivance beyond the ordinary doors, windows, and chimneys, for letting fresh air enter or foul air escape. In another work-room, of a person in a smaller way of business, the cubic feet per head were under 112, when the room had 11, its full complement of workpeople in busy times. Here, there were one door, one window, and one chimney; everything, however, was very clean, and the proprietor, of whom I had from an unexceptionable source a high character for kindness and liberal treatment, quite unconscious, from pure ignorance, of any shortcoming in respect of ventilation, showed me her room with a pride in every other particular quite justifiable.—H. W. L.]

HASTINGS.

Hastings.

Silk Mercers, &c.

146. *Mr. Turner*, Castle Street, Hastings.—The best season in Hastings is from about September to Easter, four or five months; but there is no pressure anywhere of a serious kind. We are not so much in the dress-making ourselves, as in the millinery and mantles, but it is not likely that long hours would go on even in private dress-makers' establishments without our knowing it. Our own hours are from 8.30 A.M. to 7 P.M. or 8 P.M. sometimes. I have just learned that from 8 A.M. to 9 P.M. would be the utmost even at a private house, where they have the greatest drive from business pressure, except perhaps they may be a little later on Saturday. Two of my present hands were there for four years; 10 or a dozen, they tell me, are the most employed there, and that is the largest in the town. I was prepared to find the hours longer there, for these girls complained of them, when they came to me, but you hear what it amounts to. I should say that no one here has more than 20 in their work-rooms; we never exceed 16.

We can't get apprentices; we have had but one in the last five years, she was an out-door apprentice. We have at one time advertised by bills for three months, and had no application. They can in fact do better in other occupations here, and they know it. The milliners are rather superior as a class to the dress-makers; they have 10*s.* a week and their dinner and tea; the dress-makers have 8*s.* and 9*s.* and their tea only; the average rate of wage for them will be 7*s.* 6*d.* We are obliged to keep them on through the dull time for fear of not getting them in the busy season, when they are wanted. There are only a few millinery and dress-making establishments at St. Leonard's; they would not be so liable even as those in Hastings to work late.

147. *Mr. Spencer*, High Street, Hastings.—Our season lasts about six weeks twice a year, in May and in October; our hours then are from 8.30 A.M. to 8 P.M.; we were not later than 9 P.M. all this last season; between seasons they leave at 7 or 7.30. We have 20 milliners and dress-makers now, only four of whom are residents; the apprentices all live at home and go home to dinner; we have nine of them. They are usually apprenticed at 12 or 14 years old, for two years, without premium.

Improvers and assistants are as a rule boarded but not lodged; a good dress-maker will have 1*s.* 6*d.* a day and her board, dinner and tea that is. We take two or three extra out-door hands in the season.

In the work-room we are not more than an hour later on Saturday than on other nights, and even that is not usual.

[148. The following information was given me by two highly respectable and trustworthy persons who wished me not to mention their names:—]

Most dress-makers in Hastings are day-workers; there are not usually more than from 5 to 10 in one place. Their latest time is half-past 9 or 10 at night, from 8 or 8.30 in the morning. Their mothers complain of their having to come home so late; that is on Saturday more especially; now and then they may be a little later, but it is rare. The early closing movement is not as well observed in the town as it was when Mr. Pitter, the present Secretary of the Association in London, was here.

The girls are generally kindly treated, and have good work-rooms. There was one case to the contrary, so far as the work-room is concerned. It was a long narrow low-pitched out-building, very cold in winter and very hot in summer; in some parts the top could be touched with your hand,—a girl's hand, that is to say,—as you stood on the floor. They were much too closely packed at times, and were always leaving ill; they suffered from bronchitis and consumption. We have peculiar means of knowing this to be true. All else there, food and treatment, was good. The above case, no doubt, is quite exceptional; whether it is so still I do not know; it was so two years ago.

[I visited the establishment where this state of things was said to have existed, but found the room had been for some time used for other purposes, and that the present work-rooms were unobjectionable.]

SWANSEA, SOUTHAMPTON, DOVER.

Swansea, Southampton, Dover.

149. *Miss K.* (Bristol).—I was at a draper's at Swansea, where they made millinery and mantles on the premises; there were too few for the work; they used to be at it for weeks and weeks from 8 A.M. till 11 and 12 at night for most, if not for all, the nights of the week; they were often very late on Saturdays.

Dress-makers, &c.

Swansea, Southampton, Dover.

Mr. H. W. Lord. c.

I have information of them to within three months of this time; they have not altered; the apprentices were as late as the others.

150. *Miss* —— (at Mr. Michell's, London).—I have worked at Southampton in millinery houses; the busiest months there are May and June; the usual hours there are from 9 A.M. to 8 P.M.; the longest I ever worked was from 8 A.M. to 11 P.M.; that happened three or four times in the two months.

The drapers there are late on Saturdays, not only in the shop, but the work-rooms; I mean by late about 10, they are not later than 8 usually.

151. *Miss* —— (at Mr. Michell's).—I have worked at milliners in Dover; they are busy there from October to April; but seldom much after 7 P.M. from 8.30 A.M.; now and then they worked till 9, or, perhaps, 10; that is the very latest.

[The following witness, who had recently given up a first-rate and long established business in a fashionable watering place as a private dress-maker, desired that her name should not appear.]

152. *Miss* ——.—I believe that I always went on a different principle to most people, where I carried on my business, and as it might be thought that I was setting myself up to teach them, I had rather not have my name mentioned. There was a time years ago, when I worked late, as all dress-makers did in ———, and elsewhere too; I believe that now the hours are much shorter there than they were, but for the 10 years previous to my retiring I think my hours were shorter than most, though my business was one of the best, and this is the way I managed.

I never employed day-workers, and never had more than 10, sometimes 7 or 8, living in my house, but I always gave out the whole of my plain sewing, skirts, cloaks, &c., mourning as well as others, and even had my trimmings made by the smaller dress-makers in the place, whom I knew to be respectable, and good workwomen; very much of my millinery I used to have constantly sent down in large cases from London, so that, in fact, London and —— were my assistants. By these means I kept my hours down to 12 in the day from 9 A.M. to 9 P.M., but I could not have got through one quarter of the work I did in any other way. In the months of April, May, and November we did, I should say, work until 10 and 11 often, but not continually, and never after 11, except, perhaps, for a very extraordinary mourning order; that sometimes makes it necessary to work all night; I had not done so for the three years last before I retired. In October 1862 I had a large mourning order for ladies, who were to attend a funeral: I had at that time another mourning and a wedding order in hand; so I had to refuse the second mourning; but those ladies still came to me. Other orders I have often refused, but have, I think, lost very few, if any, by doing so.

I should say that in a good dress-making business you might fairly expect to have to sit up for all one night every six months on a pressing mourning order.

My young people were really like my own family, for the most affectionate feeling always existed between us. I am afraid I spoilt them at last, for I used to have letters from those who left me, complaining of the work in other places, which was certainly no more, indeed not nearly so much, as I had undergone as a young woman, but I was always blest with very good health.

MANTLE MAKERS, LONDON.

153. Mr. Putt, 1, Duke Street, Portland Place.

Mantle Makers.

London.

I have for many years taken out the mantle-making for several large firms at the West End. My business includes the making of jackets and other similar articles of ladies' apparel. There are many other employers of labour in this business at this end of London; I dare say that they employ more than a thousand persons, all of whom with a few exceptions are women. There are also great numbers similarly employed in the City for wholesale houses.

The workpeople do not reside on the premises, but are day-workers. I pay by the piece, but usually in this part of London they are still paid by the day. When I commenced in 1851, I found the average weekly wages of a day-worker to be 9*s*. I wished always to have the best hands, and began by giving 12*s*. a week; but that did not answer, so I adopted a system of piece work, calculating from my own practical knowledge of the work that a fair average worker might earn 3*s*. a day if she liked. My general principle is to give two-thirds of what I receive. You shall see the result for yourself; here are the wage books of some ten or a dozen of them. Here is one women of 45 who earns 13*s*. on an average; another, who has a learner to help her, is earning 25*s*., a portion of that goes to the learner. This one is our fastest worker; she earns 1*l*. 3*s*. 6*d*. by herself; her age is about 30. Most of them work two together, earning as you see from 1*l*. 1*s*. to 1*l*. 18*s*. and 2*l*. 1*s*. between them. I was obliged to adopt the system of partners working together in order to make payment by the piece succeed. When payment is by the day, any number can at any time be put upon a particular job that requires to be finished at once; but that would involve endless complications in payment for piece work, so I adopted this as the best thing I could do to ensure the pressing orders being got out of hand quickly. I always make two, who are equal workers go together. They have to provide their own sewings, thread, &c., out of their earnings; that averages from 6*d*. to 1*s*. a week. Plenty come here to work who don't earn 1*s*. a day I don't let them stay long, you may be sure. Some are really ignorant and useless, they can't work fast or well. I have tried to teach some myself, but they "are not going to be taught by a man," they say. Others come merely as a blind, never caring how much they earn by their needle; they have other ways of getting their living. Why, I have been accosted at night on the pavement by some of them within a week of my discharging them. There is the greatest difficulty to get good hands, scarcely 1 in 10 is worth keeping; some come with a double knock and a veil and parasol, who cannot hem a pocket handkerchief; but by a real good honest industrious woman as good a week's wage can be earned at our work, as at any work in London. Here are two who earned over a pound last week at quite common work. Some have put by, and even lent out money at interest.

My number varies from 20 to 35 according to the time of year. We have two seasons, each of about three months, from April to June, and from September to November. Some are constantly employed by me, some work here for a season, and never come again; many migrate like birds of passage from the City to our end of town and back again; for their busy season is much of it in our dull time.

Very few are under 20 years old. I should say young ones would not have enough stuff in them for me, would not "mean work," that is to say, so as to work fast enough, and well enough, for my purpose. Most of those who work for me have been driven by some unforeseen necessity to do so, widows, orphans, or wives forsaken by their husbands.

I do all my cutting out myself. Others have several forewomen and cutters out, so they can employ more hands than I; several have 50 or 60, I believe. Machines are not used so much by those who make for the retail trade in the West End. They are useful for such work as the binding of waterproof cloaks; but for most of our superior work we could do very well without them. I have two, but only one in use. They do very well for the country trade and the

ticketing shops. All that we want them for is just to do the slavery part, the common stitching, for the workpeople.

Our hours are from 8 to 8; they very seldom stay later, and often don't come much before 9 A.M. They wouldn't come till 11, if I did not make them, and they would burn the gas on till 10 or 11 at night. But in our good fine work more can be done in an hour of daylight than an hour and a half of gas-light. The machinist leaves at 7 P.M.

The only thing their health suffers from is cold and toothache; they are obliged to leave the work-room very often, 10 and 20 times a day, to fetch their irons or to take their work to the machine, and for one thing or another, and so get into draughts in the passage.

I make no fixed charge or deduction for the help which the machine gives them. I pay them less for their work according to my view of the value of it in each case.

[153a. The machinist, who had worked for four years, told me that her eyes were not in any way affected by the work, and that her health was very good.]

Mr. Kent, Fitzroy Square.

154. *Miss S——*, forewoman. — Our hours are from 8.30 A.M. to 8 P.M., on Saturdays work is over at 4 P.M.; the average wages 10*s.* or 12*s.* with tea. I think that the same system is very generally followed among all mantle-makers for West End houses. In all but a few cases they pay by the week and not by the piece. I think payment by the week is better; it is not so driving as piece work, besides which piece workers have often to wait so much longer in the morning for their work, and consequently have to work later at it to gain a living; they do not stay later in their work-rooms, but take it home after hours.

The times of pressure occur twice in the year, in early spring and autumn, and last for about two months each time. Most mantle-makers take on more hands then, twice as many as they have in the slack times; we have certainly more than twice as many in those four months than at other times. By that means we are enabled to let them go always at the usual hour, 8 P.M., or a little after. We have about 40 in those times, all are day-workers. I do not think that any who work for mantle-makers live on the premises.

Where they don't take on so many extra hands, those whom they have must work later; they will not usually stay, but take two or three hours' work home with them; that is not at all uncommon in the season. It is far better than going home through the streets late at night.

As we get slack, dress-makers get very busy; so most of the good workers who are not kept on by mantle-makers find employment for perhaps two months more at that. What becomes of the rest, if they have no home to go to, I cannot say.

Mantle-makers sometimes take out-door apprentices, they are generally bound for two years at about 14; we have had them as young as 12. We pay them from the first 2*s.* 6*d.* a week, and take no premium. After their time is up, if they stay, we give 8*s.* a week for the first three months, and 9*s.* for the next three or 6 months; and then they will earn the regular wages. All are not so well off as to the premium and wages during the term as ours are.

Machinists are not specially apprenticed; they often pay 10*s.* 6*d.* or so for a certain number of lessons from the makers or seller of the machines, or go to places where they have a great many machines at work, pay a small sum, and give their work for a time for nothing.

It is said that machine work is bad for them after some time. I have heard people say that no machinist can go on after seven years. I have heard it said by gentlemen coming into the work-room and talking about it. I cannot say that I have known, in my own experience, any have to give it up because of their health suffering, nor have I found that they sicken any sooner than the rest, who are employed at ordinary needlework. But they are not strong as a class, whether they work at machine or at the needle only.

Those who work over the river and in the neighbourhood of Hoxton and that way make for the wholesale City houses. They are quite a different class from ours. So is their work and I believe their pay.

155. *A machinist at Mr. Kent's.*—I have worked a machine for five years, and I don't think I show any symptoms of breaking-up yet. I expect to last a good deal more than two years longer at it. It just tires me, that is all. If we work longer than usual, I do get very tired and ache, as if I had been for a long walk. Sometimes I have gone on till 10 P.M., that is very fatiguing; I have observed, after that, my hands and arms in a tremble for some time, but never felt unable to lie on my side or go to sleep. But I never worked more than once in a week till 10 P.M., and that would only happen two or three times in a season. If it went on for several nights together like that, it would be very bad indeed.

[156. Another machinist here told me that she never felt better than when at machine work; she thought it suited her better than sitting still with her needle. She had used a sewing machine for four years. Three girls in the work-room stated to me that they preferred working on black to either white or scarlet, if the light was good, because it was much less dazzling. They said that none in the room had weak eyes; and when I mentioned the alleged effect of working "black on black" in the case of shoebinders, remarked at once that theirs was not "niggling work" as that was.—H.W.L.]

157. *Mrs. Kent* informed me that the machinists were paid 18*s.* a week; she thought that when they were "driven" to get through as much as could possibly be done in the day, even though the only "driving" might be the desire to earn as much as possible in the time, their healths would suffer from the constant application. Those in her own employ had from time to time to stop in order to wind their own shuttle wheels. In some places little girls were employed to do that for them, in which case, though they would get through more work, and so, being paid by the piece, earn more, they had not the advantage of the change of motion. She had a servant for the express purpose of keeping the workrooms clean, and seeing after the dinners, which were cooked or warmed for them in the kitchen. The rooms were swept every day, and "scrubbed" once a week.

[In the matter of cleanliness they certainly presented a great contrast to some, which an equally unexpected visit had brought under my notice in other districts.—H.W.L.]

158. Miss Spencer, Dean Street, Soho.

We take part of the outwork of two large firms in Regent Street; chiefly the cloaks, but some skirts also. All our hands are day-workers. The lowest wage we pay is 9*s.* a week; assistants have that; cutters out have from 14*s.* to 16*s.*, and machinists 16*s.* a week. They all have their tea found them. Their day is from 8 A.M. to 8 P.M., with an hour for dinner; they bring their dinner with them, and can have it warmed in the kitchen. If they work after 8 P.M., they are paid extra, 2*d.* an hour instead of 1½*d.*, which is the rate of the day's pay; and also have supper given them, if they work after 9 P.M. The machinist's day is from 9 A.M. to 7 P.M.

We have 20 or 30 who work for us all the year round, and in our times of pressure we have 15 or 20 more. Some have been 10 and 12 years with us; others come and go after a few weeks. Our regular staff consists of very respectable people, but we are

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obliged often to take on hands of whom we know nothing, and they are occasionally not what they should be. If we hear of anything wrong we do not allow them to stay. No doubt the indoor residents in houses of business are as a class socially and morally superior to the outdoor day-workers who find employment in places like ours.

Our times of pressure occur twice in the year, and last from two to three months each time; we are now (November) working 13 hours a day, from 8 A.M. to 9 P.M., that is to say; it is very rare for any to work longer than that. Perhaps five or six of them stop once a month in our season till 11 P.M. to finish some particular order.

Some of our work-rooms are unfortunately small and close; but, singularly enough, those who work in the worst of them, prefer them to the larger one, though that is far more wholesome. Most of them manage to get a little change of air at the end of the summer. They stay for a week or fortnight with friends in the country. Their health is generally good. If they get wet in coming here in the morning, they hang their things to dry in the kitchen; most have a change of boots here and if it is very wet, they bring a second pair of stockings with them. The hours of all businesses like ours have been less since the Early Closing movement.

159. *Miss Langhorne.*—I have always been a day-worker at mantle-making. I worked at two other places besides this; at one there were about 18 in the season. I was there for three years and a half; they kept on their old hands there out of the season, about six that would be. I was always kept on. Our usual day was from 8 A.M. to 8½ P.M. We used to leave off at 6 P.M. on Saturday, and worked the extra half hour on other days to make that up. Sometimes we had to begin at 6 A.M. or to go on till 11 P.M.; of course we had extra pay then. In one week we worked for three days from 6 A.M. to 11 P.M., but we did not do so again. We very seldom had more than two hours extra work; and even that was only in the seasons and not very often. My wages were raised twice there; I had 11*s.* a week when I left. That was West End work.

I have also worked at a similar place in the City, where they took in work for large houses. Our ordinary hours were the same; but we were not so comfortable. We were paid by the piece, and had to find our own tea and our cotton, so we did not earn very much more at that than at day-work, and had oftener to work over hours; sometimes we worked from 7 A.M. to 10 P.M. I prefer day-work to piece-work; there is a certain fixed sum then, which you are sure of. In piece-work the best work,—that which is paid highest I mean,—is given to some favourite and the others get jealous. There were 50 hands at this place in the season, and 15 or more were always there.

We never know much about what each other is earning. When my wages have been raised, I have been told to say nothing about it, for fear that the older hands might be aggrieved by a younger one having more than they.

At some places where they work by the piece, a charge is made for the use of the machine. The employer pays the machinist; but each worker pays so much for what she takes to be done by her; that goes into the employer's pocket. No doubt they could do it all by hand if they liked; but it is a great saving of time to have certain parts done by machine.

160. Mrs. Mooney, Great Pulteney Street.

For the last six weeks I have had 22 employed here, but work has fallen off all of a sudden, and to-day I have none. It always begins to be dull at the beginning of December, but this is worse than usual. I only employ day-workers, and never pay them less than 12*s.* a week, nor work longer than from 8 A.M. to 8 P.M. What I can't get done in that time I give out. I do not recollect ever working more than an hour after our usual time, and that is very rare. But I know, as you say, that many in our business go on often till 10 P.M. from 8 A.M., and no doubt 9*s.* is much more general than 12*s.* in the skirt and mantle-making. However, mantle-makers' hours are nothing to what my girls tells me of dress-makers where they have been. It seems no unusual thing to work till 1 and 2 A.M. for several nights together. I have a great friend now at Madame Elise's; they are much better there than in many places, indeed they very rarely work after 11 P.M., and she thinks that none could be kinder and better than they are.

161. Mr. Evans, Old Change.

A large number of young women, nearly, if not quite, 300 in the season, and about half that number now, are employed upon my premises in mantle-making. I do not, however, employ them myself directly; the whole of the three upper floors of this building is let to two men, who make for me exclusively; they hire and pay the work-people, and I pay them for what they produce, not a salary, nor a per-centage, but deal with them simply as middlemen; with this difference, that the work is done on my own premises, which I have had arranged expressly for the convenience of business, and the comfort of the hands.

The rooms are large, airy, and clean; waterclosets are attached on each floor; they have an American stove for ordinary purposes; each pays the attendant 1*d.* a week for looking after their tea, and so on.

The great evil of the mantle trade is that employment is not constant; with us it is more so perhaps than in many places, for we do a very large business, employing on and off the premises more than 1,000 hands; indeed we make over half a million mantles in the course of the year. Those who work here have full employment for about 9 months in the 12; the months of December and January, and from the 10th of June to the 20th of July, are always very dull.

We do much more of our work by machine than most do; so much so, that very nearly one half of those employed here are machine hands; one consequence is that they become very expert, and earn very good wages. All are paid by the piece. In this wage book, you see, good machinists are earning their 23*s.*, 29*s.*, and some even 33*s.** a week, and middling hands 14*s.* to 20*s.* A few, who make trimmings, are paid by the week; they have 20*s.* a week, while they are employed; they would not stop on lower terms. There are, however, lots of loose girls constantly offering themselves for employment, who have been so badly taught that they are useless and can earn nothing. These wages are earned between 9 A.M. and 8 P.M.; that is the latest hour they are ever allowed to stay; in fact it does no good to keep them later; they leave earlier when we are not busy. On Saturday they leave at 2 P.M.

There is no need for long hours with us; we can turn out more than 1,000 mantles in the day, taking one kind with another, without any special pressure. We have, I should say, very few under 18 years old, for we require experienced hands.

[162. Mr. Grocott, the holder of two of the three rooms referred to, stated to me that no good hands who had been a month there ever left, except to get married. He also informed me that he found it easier to teach the use of a machine to a girl who was quite ignorant of sewing, than one who had the little knowledge generally possessed by persons in their class of life, who tendered themselves as competent seamstresses.

The rooms seemed fully to justify Mr. Evans' account of them. That gentleman after-

* These statements were verified by reference to the rough wage book.—H.W.L.

wards took me to the work-room of a person in a neighbouring street, who took outwork from him; this he stated to be a very fair sample of such places. It was a long, narrow, low-pitched room, not over clean, with seven or eight machines ranged along the front wall under three windows, tables for the hand workers being on the other side; at the further end there was a small fire-place and there were several gas jets. The proprietor, a very civil respectable woman, told me that 35 persons worked there in the season. I could reach within three inches of the ceiling, as I stood upright; the width was 12 feet, and the length, as stepped by Mr. Evans, 30 ft.; this, on a liberal measurement, would give under 80 cubic feet per head. The hours here were said to be from 9 A.M. to 8 P.M., or 9 P.M. at latest; good machinists earned 25*s.* and 27*s.*, and one or two hand braiders as much; 12*s.* was the ordinary earning for an "average hand worker."—H.W.L.]

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163. *Mrs. B——n*, Tottenham Court Road.—I have had some experience of the work of mantle-makers in City houses; for some years I was forewoman to Mr. M., and afterwards to Mr. D. of Wood Street. Girls are not usually apprenticed to mantle-making as a special business; anyone who has learnt dress-making can be taught enough for mantle-making in a short time. It is not unusual for those who have worked as dress-makers in the season to turn to mantle-making for the rest of the year.

At the West End mantle-makers are day-workers, and earn from 9*s.* to 12*s.* a week; they always have their tea given them besides. In the City they are generally paid by the piece; they earn more at that, from 15*s.* to 18*s.*

Mantle-makers do not make much overtime; I should say that they never work after 10 P.M.: their usual hours are from 8 A.M. to 8 P.M. Even piece-workers do not work after 10 P.M., and day-workers would not, if they were wanted to, except perhaps now and then for a short time. Day-workers always have their hour for dinner and half hour for tea, the piece workers having theirs over as fast as they can.

We had about 40 girls, where I was last; there were seven sewing machines, we used them for cloth mantles; they were Thomas's, which are very heavy. Machines are now very generally used for all but the finishing, that is to say, all but putting the collar on, and making button holes, and putting sleeves in. This has both diminished the number of mantle-makers, and caused the season for their work to last a shorter time. Machine workers are paid by the piece, and earn 1*l.* or 30*s.* a week. The finisher gets 2½*d.* on every mantle she finishes. Sometimes that is easily earned, but often there is a great deal of work for it.

I think that the health of the girls who work the sewing machines is seriously affected by their employment; certainly that is so not only with girls of a delicate constitution, but with all of the kind which we have in good houses, who are not strong rough girls, like factory or St. Giles's girls, for instance. They are never able to go on long, not for several days together, without feeling ill; they often have to be absent, sometimes for a whole day. It is very fatiguing,—the position is so constrained,—when they work all day; for they sit with their back bent and head leaning close over their work, and their arms and fingers and legs all work at once. I have known girls, after working hard for the day at sewing machines, have all their limbs in motion,—in a tremble, as it were,—at night. It may be that their ill health may be partly attributable to the state of the work-places. Ours was not at all good; it was underground, and we had to burn gas, which made it very hot and unwholesome. Still, I am sure that any one, who has had experience in machine working, can see these effects every day. In some cases the noise makes them deaf beyond recovery.

[I have met with no instance of this deafness, nor has any other person whom I have asked about it.—H. W. L.]

164. *Miss Manford*, Spital Square.—I don't think the hours in the work-rooms of those who take out mantles from the wholesale houses are bad. The rooms themselves are, and the pay is miserable. I have worked, and also been forewoman for one of those mantle men, and not by any means one of the worst; he had work from very good houses in Wood Street and Cheapside. He said other men went and underbid him, so he was obliged to take the work for less, and give us all less. I believe that was true.

For light cloth mantles the machinist was paid 6*d.* a dozen, and the finishers from 1½*d.* to 6*d.* a dozen, according to the class. There is always quite as much to be got out of the low priced as out of the higher ones; I mean that a woman can earn as much out of mantles at 1½*d.* a dozen as at 6*d.* a dozen, because she can run up four of the cheap ones in the time it takes her to do one of the others. For one of those 12 yards round circular cloaks the machinist gets 9*d.* a dozen. The worst is that you have so often to wait for your work, particularly if you are a finisher, and depend on the machining.

It comes to this, that you may work hard from 9 A.M. to 8½ P.M., allowing for meal times, and get 5*s.* 6*d.* at the week's end. I know places where even the machinists earn only from 5*s.* to 9*s.* a week. Where I have been forewoman, I have had women work from 9 A.M. to 10 P.M., and then take work home, which I know would keep them up more than half the night, and be glad to be able by that means to get a shilling from me for the whole that they did at home.

Those rooms are very dirty and crowded. There were 30 women of all ages, from 15 and 16 up to 50 and 60, where I was last. It was a low room, and so filthy that the walls absolutely shone with grease; I should not think it could ever have been cleaned. There were several gas burners; that made it very hot.

Those who work at their own homes are often very wretched. One widow, who took work from us, had no furniture beyond her bed, a chair, and table, and she, I know, used to work so hard that she had only her Sunday mornings for scrubbing and cleaning, and used to work again on Sunday evening.

Stay-makers, too, are often very badly paid, and it is very hard work. This girl is a finisher of stays; I know her to be a tolerably quick and good workwoman, and she can do three a day, or a little over, of this kind, for which she has 3¾*d.* each.

Girls are very often taught machining by the machine makers. They pay a shilling a lesson for six lessons, and then think they know all about it. What they are really taught is all very necessary, how to take it to pieces, and put it together, and how to thread the needle, and wind the shuttle, and so on; but it takes a great deal of practice after that before one becomes a good machinist. That is no doubt one reason why even machinists earn so little; they are not expert. They often also give their time for a few months for the sake of practice, and then get a small weekly sum for a further time.

165. *Z. Y.*, at the Field Lane Refuge.—I make mantles as long as I can; that is from May to July, and from October to Christmas, and fill the slack time with shirts. Mantle-makers' hours are from 8 A.M. to 9 P.M. I earn 5*s.* and 6*s.* a week by the piece in that time, that is about the same in the City and the West End; 10 years ago I used to have 1*s.* 6*d.* a day and my tea at a mantle-maker's near Regent Street; there were no machines then, and we made the mantles by hand all through. Now all the seaming, and binding, and straight trimming is done by machine, and we finish; the youngest are basters, but none are under 14.

I worked also a short time back at a mantle-maker's in the City: we earned more there, but were much later, for they were pressed by shipping orders, and

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often worked from 8, and even 7 A.M., to 10 P.M., sometimes till 12; once in every fortnight or three weeks we worked all the night; my side used to pain me with the long sitting, and my head ached often. I fainted sometimes; a great many used to; there were 60 there. It was a kind of loft without any fireplace or stove, very cold on some days, and very close on others. At shirt making I sometimes make only 2*s.* 6*d.*, but 3*s.* more commonly and 4*s.* a week.

166. *Mrs.* ——, a mantle maker (Hoxton).—Fetches work from the City every day, has a machine, and a girl of 14 or so to help; doesn't work much over the 12 hours, but has to go on till 1 and 2 A.M. often, because she doesn't get her work till 12 or 1 P.M. and then has to go home and get her dinner; often earns 16*s.* or 18*s.* a week.

[The above statement was furnished to me by a clergyman, to whom it was made.]

167. Mrs. Ladd, Earl Street, Blackfriars.

I employ about 30 mantle-makers, none are under 16; we make for one house only, and the best work. Our season is from March to May, and again from September to November. Our usual hours are from 9 A.M. to 8 P.M., and the extreme is from 8 A.M. to 9 P.M. We sometimes stay till 6 P.M. on Saturdays, but usually give over at 2. We employ only one machine; our work is not of the kind that can be so well done by machines as by hand. I have had as many as 10 machines, and have worked one myself. I think that no girl under 15 years of age should be a machinist. I have found that 8 hours of machine work is quite enough for any one; when mine have had to work from 9 A.M. to 9 P.M., I have always given them porter or some such thing to keep them up, for they required extra support.

I do not think that the machines have diminished the number of hand workers. I used to have five hand workers to two machinists, when I did more machine work. I always require a reference with a fresh hand, and the consequence is that out of 20, who apply to me, not more than two are ever engaged. Some employ more than I do; on the premises of the firm, for which I work, there are about 100 mantle-makers. Our work is not for shipping orders. Our hand workers earn good wages, 18*s.* a week on the average, some even 30*s.*

168. Miss Woodbridge, 175, Blackfriars Road.

I make mantles for one house, and employ from 40 to 50 persons in the busy season, from February to May and from August to November. In the slack time I have enough for 18 or 20, the rest go to the West End houses. A good worker can earn her 14*s.* and 15*s.*, and an inferior hand 9*s.* and 12*s.* a week, that is in the busy time, working from about 9 A.M. to 10 P.M., with half an hour for dinner, and half an hour for tea.

I have three machinists; they earn 23*s.* a week, and with overtime they have made as much as 35*s.*; that would be with working for perhaps three times in the week from 8 A.M. to 11 P.M. Probably for about five weeks in each season, work would go on for three nights each week till 11 P.M. from 8 A.M., but not for three successive nights; the pressure is occasioned by the shipping orders. I have been, and indeed am still, very often much longer at my work than that. A few years ago I was forewoman in an establishment similar to my own. About the same number were employed, and the hours were much the same; the forewomen must always be later than the rest.

When we are late, they always have an extra meal after tea; they call it lunch; that is taken at about 7 P.M. They dine in three parties, between 12 and 2.30 P.M.; there is a room set apart for their meals.

I do not allow a fire in the work-room for fear of accidents, so they light the gas for about two hours in the morning to warm the room.

169. Mrs. Harris, River Terrace, Islington.

From February to June, and from September to November are our busy times; we make mantles for retail and for wholesale houses, but not for shipping orders, so that even in the season we rarely work longer than from 9 A.M. to 8 P.M.; we have been as late as 10 P.M. only once in the last four years. After City work is over, we have West End work, and even in the dull time we have quite a dozen working for five or six hours perhaps in the day.

We have seven machines; we use them often to quilt skirts in winter; machinists work an hour less than the rest, leaving at 7 P.M.; all give over on Saturdays at 3 P.M. Both hand-workers and machinists are paid by the piece; 5 years ago it was usual to pay them 1*s.* 6*d.* a day for work from 9 A.M. to 8 P.M.; but we now have much more work done in the same hours, and they earn much more than 9*s.* a week. I have a woman here who is nearly 60 years old; she earns her 12*s.*, and sometimes 13*s.* a week. One person makes the whole mantle throughout, so all must be experienced workwomen.

170. Mrs. Hill, Suffolk Street, Rotherfield Street.

Informed me that she employed from 30 to 40 persons in the busy seasons, for about 9 months altogether in the year. She had four or five machinists, whose hours were from 9 A.M. to 8 P.M., leaving at 7 P.M. on Saturday, and often at 5 P.M. on Monday; the hand workers were usually an hour or two later. These hours were from time to time exceeded under pressure of the season, but not for more than three nights in a week.

[171. I inquired of these girls, and particularly the machinists, as to the effect of the work on the health, but although one had worked five years, and two more than two years at machines, they had not found their health injured. One told me that she was more free from headache than she had been when she had worked with her needle in the room above, and all stated that, apart from the question of earnings, they preferred machine work to hand work. These girls had often worked from 7 A.M. to 8.30 P.M., and occasionally from 6 A.M. to 9 P.M. for several nights, but never for every night in a week. The longest hours that any recollected were during a Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday two years ago, when an order was required to be finished by 5 P.M. on the Tuesday; they had come then at a quarter past 5 A.M. and stayed till 9 P.M. The order was finished by 4.30 P.M., and as a reward Mr. Hill had taken them to the theatre on that evening; they were so far from being knocked up, they said, on that occasion as to have amused themselves with dancing after their return. The eldest of these was 24, and the other two over 18. A fourth, who was younger, had not been there at that time. All seemed very cheerful and contented.—H.W.L.]

172. Mr. Haselwood, 2, Hale Street, New North Road.

We make children's mantles for City houses; that is not much of a shipping trade; so we very rarely work longer than from 9 A.M. to 9 P.M., and often leave off at 7 P.M. We used some years ago to be much later, but we found that it really did us no good; for if those who did the work were very late one day, they were fit for nothing on the next, and therefore we do not take orders now that require to be done in

a great hurry. Probably other people, who cannot afford to be so independent, have still to work and to keep their hands working very late. An order is not unfrequently given out at 4 P.M., and required in at the same time on the following day; they must work half the night to get that done.

Ours is chiefly hand work; but that depends a great deal on the fashion of the day; a year or two ago we used the machines more than we do now. It is not bad for the girls' health, if they don't work too long, and are not crowded together. I think seven hours of machine work in the day quite enough; but there is a great difference in the kind of machine, some are so much lighter than others; having to watch the needle point so intently seems to hurt the eye. We have two intervals of slackness in the year, each for about two months. I have had nearly 30 here; there are not so many here now; girls under 13 would be of little use in our business; we took one who was not quite 12, because she wished it very much, and she has turned out very clever; but that is quite an exception.

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[172A. The girl referred to was a peculiarly bright and healthy looking child; an older one told me that she herself had worked all night, but only once or twice, and that they were very seldom after 9 P.M.]

173. Mr. Collett, 1, Vere Street, Oxford Street.

Mine is a peculiar business. I manufacture solely skirts of light materials, for summer and evening wear. I employ from 60 to 80 persons, most of them young women, but none are apprentices. It is light work, and consists chiefly in making the fancy trimmings and fastening them on; the latter work is done standing, but that is only necessary when they have to reach far over the board; they can sit to do all that has to be done to the bottom of the skirt. All are day-workers: their wages average 10*s.* a week; the usual hours are from 8 to 8 or from 8.30 to 8.30; occasionally they will go on till 10; on such occasions they have supper given them; they are paid double for all overtime. Tea is always allowed. They have an hour for dinner. Some go home; most take it here; they have a room for the purpose.

Tulle Skirts, &c.

Some stay a long time with me; I have employment for most all the year round. All that I complain of in them is that so few take any real interest in their work; after being two or three years here they expect an increase of pay, but take no pains to make themselves of especial value to me. Not 5 in 50 are good clever workers. They are quite independent enough. On Lord Mayor's Day, for example, though I particularly wanted some work finished, they must needs go off after dinner to see the show, and did not return that day. We have to teach them their business entirely; but three parts of these day-workers ought really to be domestic servants, and are attracted to business, not from any aptitude for it, but merely for the greater independence. The nature of most of our work makes ample space a necessity for us.

Mr. Tawell, St. Paul's Churchyard.

174. *Mrs. Cotton*, forewoman.—We make tulle ball-dresses; we employ two classes of hands, trimmers and trimming makers; the latter are called junior hands, but some are 25 years old; the youngest, however, have to do that, as a rule; we have none under 15. There are four of them to each trimmer; they have from 5*s.* to 10*s.* a week; the trimmers have 14*s.* and more, with overtime as well. We expect to have employment for most of them all the year round; but we have only been at work for two months.

Our hours are from 9 A.M. to 7.30 P.M.; we are an hour or an hour and a half later sometimes; they do not all stay then, but only those who have something particular to finish. They are very glad to have the chance, for they are paid extra for all their time after 7.30. The latest hour is 10 P.M.; some have stayed on a Tuesday as late as that; they are paid on the Tuesday. It is light and pleasant work.

I have been at the same kind of work elsewhere; our hours there were from 8 to 8, but the numbers varied very much. I have found my feet swell sometimes, but the trimmers, who are the only ones obliged to stand, do not usually complain of that. They generally put on slippers when they come; I do not change my boots; that may make a difference. I have known girls' feet swell with constant sitting. Two of ours here never sit, even to their tea. I really do not think it more tiring than sitting for a long time; you don't get so cramped.

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175. *Mrs. B.*—I am sure from 9 to 7 is as long as any one should be allowed to work at a sewing machine. Mine is one of Wheeler and Wilson's, which are easier than Thomas's; but I know that I felt quite ill every morning last season after working from 9 A.M. to 8 P.M. My back hurt me so much, I could have sat down and cried with the pain. Perhaps I did work harder than I should have done, if I had been a day-worker for some other person instead of working for myself, and to keep my day-workers employed. I have 11 in my employ in the season; that lasts for two or three months. Now I have none but this apprentice, who is a relation and lives with me. From December to March we never have much to do, and again from June to September. We are slack for quite five months of the year. Most of my girls have homes to go to.

I don't think the machines have at all reduced the number of people employed in our line of business. I made, at the time I was just now speaking of, 26 mantles a week, each with 19 yards of trimming stitched twice; and for the preparing and finishing of these I kept six other persons employed. I was paid 5*s.* a mantle. Now on this braided mantle, which is all hand-work, I get only 12*s.* 6*d.*, and it takes one person four whole days to do, and there is something to pay for tracing the pattern besides.

I am not strong myself; I could not stand the cutting out where I was employed, so I had to give it up, and take work out instead. Perhaps I am more likely to suffer from machine work than others, but all who work long hours do suffer. I think the day of 12 hours too much for any machinist.

Mantle Makers Brighton.

176. *Mrs. Cowley.*—I prefer mantles to skirts, because there is less pressure. We work from 8 A.M. to 8.30 P.M. in the season, for four or five months perhaps in the year. Once a week we may begin at 7 A.M. Last season we began on one Monday at 6.30 A.M.; on the Saturday before we had worked till 10 P.M. Saturday is always our latest night, because of having to send things home for the Sunday; but we don't work every Saturday in the season until 10 P.M. The hours in Brighton for mantle makers and skirt makers too, in fact for all who take out work from the shops, are much about the same.

Some of us have as many as 10 or 12 persons in the season, none I think so many as 20; I have seven or eight. Every one must have a machine now; I don't think it saves any work; there is so much preparing and finishing for it, fixing and tacking and taking ends off, and so on. Of course we could not do by hand the work it does, seaming, hemming, and so on in the time, but there is much it doesn't do.

177. *H. L——.*—Before I came here, I worked in London for a wholesale City house. The hours were well enough, but the room was very overcrowded; I have seen the steam running in water down the walls, when the gas was lit in the evening. They had some of them to sit on the stairs and work, because the room could not hold all. They used often to take work home after the day's work was over.

Mantle Makers.

Brighton.

Mr. H.W.Lord.

Continual working at black, whether it is mourning or only cloth, does try the eyes very much, whatever they may say. I know for myself I cannot work at it except by daylight. Machine work, too, tries the eyes, unless the light is close and strong; but I think the eye getting dizzy with the flash of the needle moving up and down is mere biliousness. Sometimes I cannot bear to work on those small striped petticoats, they seem to dazzle so, that is all biliousness.

C.
Wholesale Milliners.

London.

WHOLESALE MILLINERS, LONDON.

Messrs. Irving, Keeling, and Lockyer, Gresham Street West.

178. *Mr. Keeling.*—We only manufacture the best class of millinery; there are five or six leading houses in the city which do business in the same kind of goods as we; and, so far as we can tell, the hours and other conditions of employment are much the same in all. Probably we employ more milliners than they, because millinery is with them only one branch of business, we do nothing else.

Our business is chiefly with the country houses and shippers for export; we have two seasons in the year, one from February to May, the other from August to November. In those times we employ as many as 120 girls, who come for the day. Besides them 18 or 20 superior hands live on the premises; of those some are saleswomen, but others are employed to put the finishing touches to the work of the rest, which may be called more mechanical. In the slack times we have very few day-workers. The residents are paid salaries varying from 40*l.* to 100*l.* a year; we have paid for real talent as much as 20*l.* a month in the season, for some have only season engagements.

The day-workers are paid by the piece, so that their earnings vary considerably; the average will be quite 1*l.* a week, some quick and clever ones may earn 50*s.* We have girls who can make their four bonnets a day between 9½ A.M. and 6½ P.M., that will be 8*s.* a day.

Our hours in the season are as a rule from 9 A.M. to 8 P.M. We may work four nights a week for three weeks in each season until 9 P.M., but very rarely till half-past 9. In saying that, we are giving you the utmost, and probably we are, if anything, more pressed than the others whom I have mentioned. What late hours are to be found, will be with those who work to supply the manufactured article to the wholesale houses. Those who live on the premises are no later than the rest. They are very independent, and a good hand is very difficult to get; this letter has been just received, from one whom we had actually engaged at a salary of 50 guineas a year, to tell us that she does not intend to come; in fact, since agreeing with us she has had a better offer. That is not at all an unfrequent occurrence.

Some 8 or 10 are allowed to have each a girl of about 14 to assist them, they are generally children of their friends or relations; they are paid 4*s.* or 5*s.* a week, and taught the business; we have nothing to do with them, beyond permitting it as a sort of favour; there is no apprenticing between them.

Our out-door hands have a mess-room to themselves, they bring their dinner, and we pay a cook for them. They pay 2½*d.* for their tea, which we provide, so that they may not have to leave the premises at all. Our residents can always go out till 11 P.M., and may stay later for any special reason, if they tell the housekeeper; they are all over 18 years of age, and are highly respectable. We have no fear whatever about trusting them to go out in the evening; their own self-respect is sufficient safeguard.

179. *Miss J.*—I have been five years here; before that I was at a fashionable West End house; those who live there are comfortable, when they get into their ways; we frequently worked from 7 A.M. to 12 P.M.; the milliners had to help the dress-makers, and so were later than they need have been, not only in the drawing-room weeks, but all through the season. I believe the hours are not much better now, but I only know it from friends who are still there; they always speak well of the house. I am quite sure that we get through quite as much work in our day here, from 9 A.M. to 8 or perhaps 9 P.M., as we ever did in those long hours there. Throughout the West End want of management is the great cause of long hours, that and the short notice ladies give, but chiefly the former. Our mornings there were often quite wasted; here, while we are in the work-room, we work. It is true I was a milliner there as I am still, but with the dress-makers it was always just the same. I am quite sure that all the West End houses could do their dress-making work in 12 hours a day, if they had a right system; I know I would not go back there, if I could.

180. Messrs. Stuart, Taylor, and Co., Old Change.

A large number of hands are employed on the premises of Messrs. Stuart, Taylor, and Co. in the manufacture of millinery bonnets, ladies' dress and half-caps, chenille nets and head dresses, and mantles, the total being from 250 to 300. The youngest were to be found in the half-cap department, where some were as young as 15, but as a rule, none were under 17 or 18; proficient persons who had learned the business elsewhere being required for the class of articles, which were manufactured by the firm. A room was set apart for dinner and tea, half an hour being allowed for the former meal. The usual hours for all were from 9 A.M. to 6 P.M., and at the latest 8 P.M. in the height of the busy time, for about 10 weeks from the middle of March; at that time they closed on Saturdays at 5 P.M., at other times at 2 P.M.

Only four or five out of about 80 mantle makers were machinists, the machine being used here only for the "straightforward part," such as running the seams. Mr. Stuart and the forewoman of the mantle department concurred in considering that one machine employed for such a purpose as running the seams of skirts or mantles in any establishment, where such things were being constantly made, would supply the place of at least five or six hand-workers, so that the introduction of sewing machines in such a case would cause either a diminution of the number of hands employed, or of the hours of work, or a proportional increase in the amount of work turned out. Speaking generally, they thought that a person, who had before employed 40 persons in making skirts and mantles, might now do the same amount of work in the same time with two machines and half the number of hands.—H.W.L.

181. Mr. Goodyear, St. Paul's Churchyard.

We make no straw hats or bonnets on the premises here. All whom we have on the premises are milliners; there are never more than 24; they are seldom late; for two or three days at the beginning of March, April, and May, they work, perhaps, from 9 A.M. to 10 P.M., and very rarely later; the pressure at that time arises from the custom of London houses to date from the first of the month for all orders received during the month, so that every one comes as early as they can, to get as long credit as they can; that is so with many trades besides our own; if that system were altered, there would be even less of late hours than there is.

Scarcely any under 15 or 16 are employed in city warehouses; the few that are, are merely ticketing.

In my opinion the country trade of straw hat and

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bonnet making wants much looking into; it is much worse in Bedfordshire, in all respects, than anywhere in London, both as regards age and hours of work, and also morals. I have known myself of cases of girls of only 14 years old being with child; I think that none should be allowed to work at all before they are 10 years old at least.

Our milliners all dine here; we give them two kinds of vegetables and fresh meat, that is very much better than salt meat. If they stay late, we give them fruit in the hot weather now and then, and they have supper at half-past 8, when they stay later than that; tea, coffee, or ale, and cold meat. We have the rooms, in which they work, whitewashed and cleaned thoroughly every year, and the walls painted every three years; there are waterclosets and a good supply of water for washing. None of those things ought to be neglected, especially where young women are working.

The rooms, though small, narrow, and low, are, you perceive, quite pure.* I have placed perforated ventilators all along the ceiling over their heads; above them is the space under the rafters; there is no draught.

182. Mr. Messent, Bouverie Street, Fleet Street.

Our full season lasts for about six weeks twice in the year. We make for the large wholesale houses, who supply the country trade and shippers. Ours is a very uncertain trade, depending entirely on fashion and weather, and other changeable things. If even we venture to make stock, the chances are that we have to sell off a great portion of it at a very great loss.

Good milliners have no difficulty in finding employment; they are very independent; as soon as our season is over, they go to the retail shops. We give out a good deal; but in our busy time we have about 20 working here. None live here; they are paid by the piece, and earn as much as 15*s.* a week on an average. Even the apprentices are out-door; we have three or four of them; they are usually bound at about 15 years old. If they are bound for two years, they do not pay a premium, but if for less, they pay a small sum; for they spoil more work than they are worth for the first year. After their term is out, we sometimes pay them 5*s.* or 6*s.* a week for a short time, until they are fit for piece work. If the apprentices work after 8 P.M., as they sometimes do in the season, we pay them something for pocket money.

Our hours are from 9 A.M. to 8 P.M.; but in the season we always go on till 9, and for, perhaps, half of it till 10. Our latest hour is 11 P.M., and that is very rare. Our late hours generally come through the wholesale city houses, who don't choose to keep their own people beyond their regular times, and so give to us so much of their orders as they cannot get done in time themselves.

There is no hard work in millinery; it all lies in taste and touch. What we make is bonnets, caps, hair-nets, and head-dresses. Each milliner will make her own pattern, and will not on any consideration make from any body else's, or let another make from hers. In the City, however, they often copy a French pattern. Their earnings vary; some bonnets are paid for at 1*s.* 6*d.*, some 9*d.*, and some 6*d.*; they can make two or three of the last two kinds in a day.

We frequently have the same hands season after season, for we know where to send to for them when we want them; but we generally have also to advertize for hands as the season comes round. Our outside workers are for the most part married, and get two or three girls to help them. I should say that none who work for us on the premises, except one or two forewomen, are over 30 years of age. What I have told you is for the most part applicable to the trade generally, not peculiar to myself.

Mr. Goodwin, Hoxton.

183. *Mrs. Goodwin.*—Ours is a wholesale millinery business for the country trade, so we are not pressed, as those are who work for City warehouses, by shipping orders. For about two or three weeks before Christmas is our very busy time; but even then we very rarely work after 10 P.M. We begin at 9 A.M., and sometimes work till 11 P.M.; we have worked all night, but not for a long time; it is in fact so rare that, when it does happen, the girls quite enjoy it, as a novelty and a piece of fun. We usually leave off at 9 P.M., and often earlier than that, when we are not busy. We employ about 30 on the premises, and give out work also. With the exception of two or three little helpers, all are over 14, and most between that age and 21. They are apprenticed for three months, and taught all the branches of the business; they soon earn 6*s.* a week, and a fair average hand will get 12*s.* to 15*s.*; many earn more than that.

Plain work, which is done at home, is generally poorly paid; it often passes through more hands than one, before it reaches the workwoman. I know that married women have been employed on ladies' night-caps for us, who have not earned more than 5*s.* a week, and must have worked from 9 A.M. to 9 P.M. for it. We did not pay them; they were employed by others who worked for us, to whom we paid a very good price.

[The girls here seemed particularly comfortable, cheerful, and respectable; their work-room, a large outbuilding open to the rafters, was well warmed, and at the same time well ventilated without being draughty.]

184. *Miss G.*—Six years ago I took out work for a wholesale millinery house; the work then at all events was quite as bad for milliners in the City as at the West End; not at the warehouses, but with those like myself to whom they gave work out. I used to employ several girls then; we often worked very late, for three nights continuously in a week sometimes; they didn't know and didn't care how long we worked; they used to say, "Here is so much to be done, and you must get it done by such a time." No doubt the health suffered; I myself went nearly blind; the doctor said it was from stooping over the work so much; I have never recovered the effects, though perhaps I look healthy now. We were doing ladies' caps then; they have gone out of fashion, and I believe work is not so late now.

Messrs. Greaves and Lyall, 52, Stamford Street.

185. *Mr. Wilson.*—Our regular hours are from 9 A.M. to 7 P.M., but in this slack time they leave at 6 P.M.; in the busiest time 9 P.M. is the latest. We are not as late as 10 P.M. half a dozen times a year. We have constant employment for about 35, and in the season we employ perhaps 20 more; they do not live here. We also give work out; that is taken home, not farmed by middlemen. One man who takes our work, employs more than a dozen on his own premises; he lives out Islington way. I expect those people are late at times; I know he often brings work in here very late; he has been as late as 1 A.M.

About one-third of ours are under 18, and one-tenth under 14. Some of the young ones are apprenticed at about 13 for two or three years, not to the work-people, but to the firm; no premium is ever paid, and they always have a small weekly wage, 1*s.* 6*d.* or 2*s.*; they are paid still by the week for a time after they are out of their time, 7*s.* or 8*s.* perhaps for a while, but most of the older ones are on piece-work; they

* In the smallest room, although the gas was lit to warm it (there being no fireplace), the air was free from all impurities.—H.W.L.

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will average 12*s.* a week, some 14*s.*, 17*s.*, and 20*s.* even ;* those older ones, who are paid by the week, have 12*s.* and dinner and tea were found for them.

There are one or two as young as 11 or so, little helpers, who wind, or run on errands for the rest ; they also are paid by the firm, about 1*s.* 6*d.* or 2*s.* at first.

Those who live a long way off bring their dinner ; some are as far as 2 miles from home ; others who live near go home. They are expected to be back in an hour.

186. *Esther* ———.—This joining machine is nice work, not hot nor tiring. I used to be at a place in the City Road, where the hours were longer than ours here are, and the rooms much hotter ; it was the gas under the banding machines that was bad there. We used to work two or three times a week there from 8 A.M. to 10 P.M. in the season ; I was there for a twelvemonth ; I was 13 when I left; some were younger ; the youngest was 10. We never went away before the older ones. The banding machines were larger than those upstairs ; they were for double fronts, so they required more gas.

187. *Charlotte* ———.—I worked a short time ago for a large City house in a factory near Smithfield. We were never very late; the usual hours in the season were from 9 to 9 ; perhaps for one busy week we might stay till 10, and once or twice a season till 11 P.M. But the work-room was quite dreadful ; it was very low and very crowded, and when the gas was lit it was scarcely bearable. A few used to faint, but not often ; I wonder more did not.

[188. Another girl here, a bonnet-maker, told me that the longest she had ever worked was from 9 A.M. to 10 P.M., that was in a City house, and happened only now and then for a night or two in a week ; "but," she said, "we worked very hard while we "were at it." Another, who had been at a wholesale milliner's in Old Change, said that they thought there working from 9 A.M. to 9 P.M. was very late work, and scarcely ever occurred. I asked two or three, who were at the banding tables, if they did not find the continuous standing very tiring, but they said that they soon became used to it, and that it was only tiring, when they were working the season hours from 9 to 9. In those times they worked as hard as they could, and were only a short time—half an hour at most—over their dinner; these were on piece-work.—H. W. L.]

Messrs. Vyse and Sons, Wood Street.

189. *Mr. Hubbard.*—I have charge of the cap-front department. There are 30 young women in the room ; the youngest is 15 ; she is the only one, who cannot read. Our machines here are all single ones ; the double ones turn out much more in the time—50 doz. to 7 or 8 doz. of the single—but the work is of a commoner kind. Our machines are all heated by gas. No doubt that is very bad, where there is no proper contrivance for ventilation. Here we have two shafts in the ceiling passing through the roof, which they cannot close if they wish. I know from my own experience that air is very necessary where this business is carried on, for I had myself a work-room in Red Cross Street a few years ago, which was in reality no more than an ordinary dwelling-room, and lots of the girls used to faint there, but they don't here, though several of them are still with me. There are few rooms like that now used in the City for this purpose ; I only know of one or two, but out Hoxton way, and in Clerkenwell, there are many such.

Our busy season lasts for about three months—April, May, and June ; then we frequently work, perhaps generally, from 9 A.M. to 10 P.M., and once or twice a month it may be till 11 P.M. From July to January our hours are from 9 A.M. to 6 P.M. When I first came here at the beginning of last spring season, there were large arrears of back orders which we had to work up ; I shall not let that occur again. I don't intend ever to work next season after 10 P.M. There is less need than there was three or four years ago for late work in our trade. When plain fronts were worn, we had to make all our own, but now so much more fancy work is required, that it is impossible for us to make to please all tastes, so we make from our own designs in some cases, and buy much more of others. The milliners' hours here are much the same as ours. On Saturday all leave at 1 P.M.

Their earnings average 13*s.* a week for the year, but they vary very much. You see, these 28 have had in one week as little as 7*l.*, and in another as much as 19*l.* among them ; that variation has occurred within the last six months, which is the dullest half of the year.

When you were here before Christmas, and saw gas lit in one room to warm it, alterations were going on, which prevented us from using the hot water pipes ; we have them in every room, and now they are in working order.

190. *Miss Beesly.*—I have worked at a bonnet-front maker's in Hoxton ; that was two years ago. There were a good many there ; some were as young as 12. In the season for more than two months we used to go on from 8.30 A.M. to 11 P.M., that was the most frequent time, but sometimes we were there till 2 A.M. The younger ones were tackers ; they stopped as long as the rest.

191. *Miss Dyke.*—I was at another place in Hoxton. There were about 20 there ; the youngest was 10 years old, I think. We were seldom later than 11, but from 8.30 A.M. to 10 and 11 P.M. was general. The room was airy enough, for the rain came through the rafters.

192. *X.Y.*—I was in a house near Cripplegate. There were a great many girls there ; about the same age as here. In the season we might work three times a week from 8 A.M. to 10 P.M., not ever later. The machines there were heated by steam, not as these are, by gas. I think the steam made it worse ; at all events the room was hotter and closer than this by a good deal.

193. *V.W.*—I worked in Aldersgate Street before last year. There were about a dozen cap-front makers. Bonnet shapes were also made there by girls. We used all of us to work till 11 and 12 at night often enough. I was with Mr. Hubbard before that ; his room was hot at times ; some of the girls used to faint ; I never did. Work never hurt me. I am 15 years old now.

194. *Miss Jones.*—I have been in this cap-front trade almost from its beginning ; for five years, that is to say. No doubt very many suffer in health from the heat and long hours combined in some places. I used myself to work at the machines in the next room with the rest, but I have certainly been far better in health, since I have been here away from it, and yet that is a very good room, one of the best in London, I should say. I must, however, tell you that my sister has been in that room for some time, and her health does not suffer ; still I do think that cap and bonnet front makers, as a rule, are not a healthy class ; I should call them unhealthy.

[195. The sister of the last witness, whose appearance corroborated the foregoing statement as to her health not having suffered, told me that she generally had a strong taste of gas in her mouth when she first went from the room into the fresh air, but felt no other inconvenience whatever.]

* This was confirmed by the wage book for May and Nov., which I examined.—H.W.L.

Wholesale Milliners, London.

Mr. H.W. Lord, c.

196. *Mr. Hughes*, of Eagle Wharf Road, on whose premises 35 or 40 young women were employed in making cap and bonnet fronts, mentioned to me the great importance of taking care that the flame of the gas jets used for heating the goffering and other machines should not be allowed to touch any flat surface, and should be left quite open; and said that the girls required constant looking after to prevent their turning on too great an amount, so as both to waste the gas, injure the fabric, and pollute the air. He spoke of the "stink" being in some places positively unbearable, where these precautions were not taken.

197. *Mary* ——, works at a bonnet-front maker's in Hoxton; 8 A.M. to 8 P.M. the usual hours, but has often stopped till 11 P.M. Others have been later; perhaps, twice a week as late as 11, and for the other nights 8 and 9 P.M.; there are some little ones, who can't be much more than 8 or 9 years old at the steam goffering machine; that is in a very hot place; they don't stay so late, not after 8. Every one is pale there.

198. *P. B.*, Spital Square.—I have worked at capfront makers' and wholesale milliners' both in the City and at Hoxton. The hours and everything else are much worse in the suburbs, such as Islington and Hoxton. There are some places in the City where the hours are very long; I know one or two about Aldermanbury, for instance, where they frequently stay after 11 P.M. in the season; still, as I say, it is not the rule; I have been in the Churchyard (St. Paul's) and Aldersgate Street, and we never stayed longer than from 9 A.M. to 9 P.M., except it may be three or four times till 10 P.M.

I consider the season to be from April to June, and for two months more before Christmas. In those times we used to work, when I was in Hoxton, usually from 9 A.M. to 10 P.M., and very often till midnight. I was obliged to be at home here by 11 P.M. or very soon after, so I used always to leave earlier, but I have continually left the rest working, and they have told me next day how long they went on. At other times the hours were 9 A.M to 7 P.M.

The great pressure there was for about three weeks before Christmas; all the hands then worked from 8.30 A.M., to 12 P.M., Saturdays as well as other nights; that may not have been for quite three whole weeks; it certainly was for more than a fortnight, and every night the same. There were some there as young as 14; but they always went away at 11. A great deal of those late hours might have been avoided, if we had been kept supplied with work to go on with, but some of us would often wait half the day,—till dinner time, 12 or 1 P.M.—before they gave us anything to do. We were on piece-work.

The rooms were very close and hot; I had to leave because of my health suffering so; I was never free from headache; I have been away now for five weeks; I am well enough now They all suffer, not only the delicate ones, except that it makes all delicate; they never look well, any of them.

I worked with another young lady and two little girls of about 14 to help us, in a little slice of a room, which could only just hold us. We each had a "double" making-up machine; they are worse than the single machines, because they have so much more gas; each of ours had two rows of 30 jets. It is being where so much gas is used, and particularly having to bend so much over it, as you must do in "making up," that is so bad.

In the other room there were about 40 girls; the room was big enough for them, if it had not been for the gas; so, indeed, might ours have been for us four; they had gauffering machines and single "making-up" machines. I think after all they were worse off than we; for we used to sit with the windows and door open when we liked, but there were too many of them for that: I mean some wouldn't like it, would have colds, and face-ache or tooth-ache.

Girls sometimes begin as young as 12; they separate the work and get it ready for us at the double machine; those at the single machine open for themselves.

I was at Nottingham before I came to London, that is four or five years ago; when I was there, the hours were less, and the heat less, than what I have been telling you of; the machines then were not nearly so large; I think they were all single. I call the hours I worked in the City, Nottingham hours,—factory hours, that is to say,—12, with meal times included; they ought never to be more.

Messrs. Harrison and Smith, Angel Street, St. Martin's-le-Grand, Manufacturers of Gauffered Ruches, Lace Falls, &c.

199. *Mr. Harrison.*—Our busy time is from March to September. In a month's time we shall be in full work; we have now nearly 200, then we shall have nearly 300 at work on the premises. I believe we employ more on the spot than any of those in our own line. Others give out more than we do to be done at home, but we prefer to have all that we have room for under our own eyes. When the work is given out you can never be sure of its being brought back at the proper time; here we can take a pressing order, know how long it will be about, and have no fear of disappointing our customer.

Our hours are very easy indeed; there is no fixed time for coming, nor for meals. All are paid by the piece; they come at their own time, not before 9 A.M., and they can come in up to half-past 10; many are never here till nearly 10 A.M., then, of course, they often want to stay late, but we won't have it; they are all out of the place, and the gas turned off at 8 P.M.; that is so even in our busy times, from March to October; they come then earlier, at 9 A.M. or soon after, but even then eight hours work is very rarely exceeded. On Saturdays they begin to leave at 3 P.M., and all are away before 5. I should say we are as late as any in the trade.

Their employment varies with the change in fashion; 30 or 40 just now are making ruches for the trimmings of ladies' dresses; they are made by a gauffering machine, which is on exactly the same principle as that used for bonnet fronts, only smaller.*

Most of them make nets for the hair, chiefly of chenille; others sew lace edgings on to net for falls; that is all pure hand work. There are several little helpers about the place, going errands and generally assisting. They are in most cases relatives of older ones in our employment; we pay them a small sum by the week; the rest are all able to earn from 12*s.* to 15*s.* if they please; some earn 25*s.* a week.

It is most essential for the health of the workpeople in our business to have large rooms and plenty of air. You see, a great many gas stoves are always in use for the gauffering machines, and for heating the creasing irons; there would be no existing in a confined gauffering room. All our windows open, and the girls are not afraid of having them open; the rooms are swept out every night. There is abundant supply of water both for washing and for closets; that is very important too; we have to thank our predecessors for that; they were printers, so that we have large tanks with much more than we can require.

We are quite convinced that both the girls themselves and their employers are actually out of pocket by working late, even though they are paid, as ours are, by piece work. Last spring, when we were very

* The piece of silk is cut into strips with scalloped edges by means of a machine similar to the paper-cutting machine; after the strips are gauffered, they are creased in the middle with a thin hot iron, and then two of them passed through a sewing machine for the double ruche, or are wound round an iron drum, and fastened two together by a gummed thread.

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much pressed for a short time, they stayed till 11 P.M. for four or five niights in succession; but the girls could not stand it; many didn't come in till about 12 in the morning, and we found that they earned more by the work they did in the regular hours than when they were kept later; in other words, that they did a greater amount of remunerative work for us and for themselves between 9 A.M. and 8 P.M., than if they worked three hours later.

200. *Miss H.*—I was for a short time in a horrid place in —— Street, where they made ruches and braids; the women had to go up a ladder to their room, from a room where a lot of men were; when we did get up, there were 30 or 40 there; we machinists, there were 12 of us, were sewing goffered braid; we were within a partition, beyond which there were girls winding silk, and men weaving fringe, and goffering machines with a quantity of steam, two or three stoves for heating the irons and for cooking; everybody looking pale and ill and dirty.

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Mr. T. Railton, 57, Piccadilly.

201. *Mr. Railton.*—We are outfitters and milliners; there are now 117 persons in our employment on these premises, only seven of those are males; nine girls are under 13, of whom only two are under 12; and 47 between 13 and 18.

We ordinarily begin at 9 A.M., and close at 7 P.M.; for perhaps four months in the year we work until 9 P.M.; the younger ones are never later than that. Once or twice last season we were working the sewing machines all night; that is quite exceptional; they are all 16 years old or more, that work on sewing machines.

The youngest will be doing some sort of light easy work to help the older hands who teach them. They may earn 3*s.* a week to begin with; but we don't pay the apprentices; we pay their teacher by the piece, and she gets the advantage of their labour; that only lasts for a year or two.

A premium of a guinea is paid by all that learn to use the sewing machine; after the first or second month they can earn 5*s.* or 6*s.* a week; when they have been some time at it they will get 15*s.* or 1*l.*; that will be between 9 A.M. and 9 P.M. in each day.

They all have an hour for dinner and half an hour for tea; they go home for the former meal.

I consider my hands are all superior to the ordinary mill hands; they are better educated and better mannered, and come of more respectable parents; but even with us there are social distinctions; the milliner is superior to the sewing machine girl, for example.

I think that the prohibition of night-work would not be at all injurious to us, and indeed in establishments where they work late, especially in millinery and dress-making, it would be very beneficial, for such work materially affects the health of the work-people.

[I examined nearly all the girls up to about 14 years of age in Mr. Railton's employment; all could read and most write; they seemed cheerful and well-behaved, and confirmed the foregoing statement as to the hours of work.]

202. Mr. Robert Roberts, 20, High Street.

I am a mantle and millinery manufacturer. All those who work for me are females; they are 27 in number now; 19 of them are over 18 years of age, and only one so young as 12.

I fear that in season trades like ours legal restrictions are impracticable. Great evils might arise in this way. The pressure of business during our season, which is from two to three months twice a year, would, if the hours of labour were limited, induce a large number of young females to take to the trade, who would be thrown out of work in slack times without having been able to earn extra wage in the season. Still I think the fancy trade requires regulation; for my own part I should have no objection to have terms dictated to me, and am sure that some general legislation for all of us would lead to good. As it is, however much individuals may regret the long hours of labour, to which young women and girls are subject in such businesses as ours, they can by themselves do very little to prevent it, but are obliged in self-defence to work as long as their competitors.

One of the worst things about it is the closeness of the rooms in which they frequently have to work, and yet that is to a great extent their own fault. Look at this, for instance, on my own premises: there is only one girl there now; she is using a sewing-machine; but in busy times six or seven others will be there too, though there seems scarcely room for half as many; and yet they will not have that window open, and will have a fire too, very, often. I frequently remonstrate with them and say that it cannot be healthy, but it is to no purpose.

They have a watercloset for themselves, you observe, and are quite apart from the men we employ in the warehouse. They can have their dinner here, but we prefer their not doing so; and, unless they live at a distance, they generally go away for dinner. When they are working overtime we give them their tea besides extra wage.

The commercial seasons in our trade are from March to May, and from September to November inclusive. In those times we always work from 9 A.M. as late as 9 P.M. and sometimes till 10; but we do not keep the younger ones so late. They will at no time work longer in the day than from 9 A.M. to 7 P.M.; when they are 14 or 15, they will stop later. Up to 16 or so they are employed in lappet making for cap fronts, but it is at the sewing-machines that the longest hours are worked; no girl under 16 or 17 will be working one of them.

203. *Eleanor* ——.—Am 17 years old; began to learn this work, lappet-making, at 13. Worked later where I was then, than I have ever done here. We used to begin at 9 A.M. and work generally till 9 or 10 P.M. About five or six times in every season we worked till 11 P.M.; that would be a dozen times in the year. In many places I have heard of their working longer than that at work of this kind; but I never was anywhere else but at these two. The skirt-makers have to work longer than we ever did, and that is very tiring, standing and driving the wheel with the foot all day.

204. From *Mr. Bannister*, to whom Mr. Roberts referred me for any special information, and from the superintendent of the lappet-makers, I learned that the youngest two, both of whom were about 13, were paid by the week, 3*s.*; their occupation consisting chiefly in turning a light handle of a small frilling machine which stood upon the table, and drawing the frilled net from the machine; those above that age would be earning from 5*s.* to 12*s.* a week, being paid by the piece. In their opinion girls under 14 could not be usefully employed in lappet-making otherwise than as above stated; for the making up consists wholly in the art of skilful handling, which young children do not acquire readily. On the other hand they stated that there were more girls under 18 than over, engaged in this branch of the fancy trade. Mr. Bannister despaired of any regulations being practicable, by reason of the short duration of any one fashion, and the unsteadiness of demand for

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any particular article from month to month. This entails on the employer the necessity of either repeatedly changing his hands according as one or another class of work is fashionable for a short time, or keeping together through the slack times a large number of hands upon the faith of being allowed, by working long hours so long as the demand for their work lasted, to make up for the absence of work at other times. The latter practice is adopted by Mr. Roberts, the work in slack times being distributed among as many as possible, and those who are paid by the day being allowed half days for recreation from time to time, until the demand for their labour revives.

Letter from the Sub-Inspector of Factories.

Dear Sir, Manchester, 8th September 1863.

I have seen Mr. Webb, of Chancery Lane, and collected some evidence at his place which you may find useful. Mr. Webb gives you full authority to use his name.

Yours truly,

H. W. Lord, Esq. Robert W. Coles.

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205. *Mr. John Webb, junior.*—Am master of this establishment (lappet-making and millinery). Employ about 130 females from 9 years old to 30 and upwards. Our working hours are from 8 o'clock A.M. to 9 P.M.; very seldom, but sometimes later. Though I do not like it, I am obliged to work late; if I did not, others would get my orders. Should be glad to see an Act of Parliament passed to limit the hours of work in our and all trades, where young persons and females are employed, from 6 o'clock A.M. to 6 P.M. It would do a great deal of good.

206. *Miss Emma Henderson.*—Am managing superintendent of this establishment. I think the trade wants regulating very much. I have been in many of the principal houses from the commencement of this kind of work, and have known poor girls suffer much in health, and some die, from being worked excessively long hours in close ill ventilated rooms. Should be rejoiced if we had the benefit of factory hours.

207. *Kate Clarke* (a delicate-looking girl, evidently consumptive).—Have worked here about 12 months. I am 18 years old. I do not work such long hours here as I have done in some other places in the trade. At one place I worked on three or four occasions all night, and 30 hours together at a stretch. I am sure the late hours made me very ill.

208. *Harriett Chadwick.*—Am 16 years old. Have worked very long hours at some places. At one place like this, where I used to work, I was frequently kept all night. I once worked three nights in one week.

209. *Theresa Howarth* (a very delicate-looking girl).—Am 12 years old. I have worked here about three months. Work from 8 o'clock in the morning until 9 at night. I used formerly to work at an artificial flower maker's and was frequently kept at work there from 8 o'clock A.M to 11 P.M. Had always bad headaches there; am better now.

[This girl had a sister working in the same place who was about 9 years old.—R.W.C.]

210. Mr. W. S. Tracey, Temple Street.

I have 95 names now on my books, but they are not all working; they may, however, be doing so next week, for our business is very uncertain. All but 12 are females in the millinery department; 10 of them are under 13; none I think under 11; and 27 between 13 and 18 years of age.

We do not buy and sell, but make up materials furnished us by the fancy houses in the state in which they come from the manufacturer. We therefore find our trade fluctuate with the seasons of our employers; our busy time is from March to Midsummer, and again from August to October. To show you how our business rises and falls, here is our wage book. In one week in April last year we paid 39*l.*; in one in May 60*l.*; in the middle of July only 18*l.*; again, in one month (October) the wages earned by our hands varied from 17*l.* to 31*l.* for the week.

When they are working on new patterns, I can afford them higher wages; a good hand may earn 25*s.* in a week then without working more than from 8 A.M. to 7 P.M.; you see several have earned that much. In ordinary times a learner will get 2*s.* a week; as they get a little expert at the goffering, or the joining,* machine they get 3*s.* and 5*s.*; the banders and gatherers who are older, 20 years of age and more, with us are paid by the piece; they will earn from 6*s.* to 13*s.* and more.

This sort of thing is new in Manchester. I should say there are not more than 500 at it here altogether; we have 80 or 100 ourselves, when we are full. The usual hours are 8 A.M. with some, and 9 A.M. with others, to 7 P.M. Occasionally we begin at 6 A.M. or 6.30; those leave off at 7 P.M. During three or four months in the year we work as late as 8, 9, and 10 P.M., from 8 A.M. week after week.

The hands whom we employ would prefer to begin work later than 6 A.M.: 8 A.M. to 8 P.M. would suit us better than the factory hours.

Sometimes they all come as late as 9 A.M.: when things are slack I often let them go at 6 P.M., but always with the understanding that they must be prepared to work till 10 P.M., if I want them. On the whole, while of course I like liberty for myself, I think that the prohibition of night-work after 8 P.M., would not be injurious. The trade could do very well with the 10½ hours limitation, and, I think, with relays of those under 13; if only they would come for the half wage, that is.

From what I know of wholesale millinery workrooms in London, Manchester, and Nottingham, I think they want looking after, on the grounds of overcrowding and bad ventilation at all events.

The work is called lappet making, but "blonde borders" is more correct than lappet. I was the first to introduce into Manchester this mode of making them by the various apparatus of steam pipes and gas jets for heating the goffering machines and fixing the blonde, as also the joining and the doubling machines, and I am always devising some fresh contrivance for them, or for banding, gathering, and the like; all, however, is hard work.

I don't think it can be in itself an unhealthy trade; where they have to work long hours and in close rooms, no doubt, it becomes so; especially where gas is used, instead of steam to heat the drying plates. Many are more pressed for room than I am; but the hands have a strange dislike to fresh air. I have had a perforated metal ventilator, which they can't block up, put in the window, and have taken the door away from the staircase opening through the floor there, besides having holes knocked in the ceiling and side walls under the rafters and on the staircase; but still the steam and gas makes the place unwholesome.

They have an hour for dinner at 1 P.M., and 20 minutes for tea at 4 P.M.; besides that I let them get a run for 10 minutes in the yard behind at 11 A.M. Some stay for meals. We use the waste steam to boil water for them, so that they can always have it.

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* A kind of sewing machine for fastening the blonde quilling to the lace edge.

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They are a very respectable and well-behaved lot of girls; all have had some little education at all events. Mrs. Tracey takes pains to select the best that offer themselves; most come with their mothers, and we judge by them what their children are likely to be. It is more than a year since I have had any complaint of loose conversation, and I do not think any such goes on. Several of those, whose good manners you have noticed, are ladies, or nearly so, by birth. One is the daughter of a manufacturer, who was once in a fair business, but died in poverty: the father of another was a commercial traveller, who at one time was receiving a large salary.

[Mr. Tracey's estimate of his hands was fully confirmed by my investigation so far as it went. All could read and had intelligent and pleasant manners, even some little ones who had begun the work as young as 8 and 9 years old. The feeling which evidently subsisted between them and him was creditable to both.]

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211. While this evidence was in my hands for revision, I received from Mr. Coles the following anonymous letter, which had been sent to him on the day of its date. From my own knowledge of the trade and of the locality of the premises, which I have derived from several visits to similar places of work within a few doors of these, I consider that the statements as to the hours of work and condition of the work-rooms may be not much exaggerated.—H.W.L.

White Slavery in Manchester.

Sir, Manchester, June 10, 1864.

I respectfully beg to call your attention to the manufactory of Mr. ———. He is a manufacturing milliner, and employs a large number of children and young girls, some of whom are of different ages, varying from 10 upwards.

Those children and young girls are kept at work for unreasonably long hours in rooms, that are artificially heated by steam to a very high temperature, independent of a very large number of gas-lights, thus raising the temperature to almost a suffocating point. And so largely charged is it, and impregnated with gas, that most of the young creatures complain almost continually of sore throats, loathing of the stomach, dizziness or vertigo, and headaches, &c. This pernicious effect upon their young systems, and unformed constitutions, need not be wondered at, when it is remembered that they have to inhale, and breathe, and re-inhale times innumerable this pernicious atmosphere from 14 to 15 hours daily.

The place is opened at 6 a.m., and never closes before 8·30 p.m. and in very many instances 9 p.m. Several men assist in conducting the business, and they divide their time; part comes early to open the place, and part about 9 or 10 a.m.; those who come to the place early, go off early, and those who come late, stop late. By acting in this manner they squeeze the greatest possible amount of work out of those young creatures * * * * while they themselves, who are men, only remain about 10 hours.

For your guide and information as to any steps you may take, I beg to point out the following, viz.:

The house is comparatively small, with small rooms and low ceilings, and badly ventilated. On the top floor (or third floor) there are two lappet making rooms, in which there are upwards of 20 young girls from 16 years up; the machines are heated with steam, and when the gas is lighted, those rooms are unbearable.

On the same floor there is a goffering room, in which there are about six children varying from 13 to 16 years old; the machines in this room are heated by steam, and there are also upwards of 40 gas-lights burning all day long, and this in the middle of June! You, Sir, or any other humane man, may easily judge of the ruinous effects of such a poisonous atmosphere and temperature upon those young creatures.

And on the same floor there is a blond joining room, in which 10 or a dozen girls varying from 14 years old are at work, and on the second floor there is also a goffering room, machines also heated with steam, and about 40 gas-lights burning all day long, to enable the children to do their work, and also for the purpose of baking and broiling the youngsters in the middle of June. Two lappet rooms on the same floor with about 20 young people, these rooms are heated by steam and gas also as the others, to a very high and poisonous degree.

There is also a braid room, containing from 10 to 12 children, varying from 12 to 15 years; in this room there is from 80 to 90 gas-lights constantly burning to enable the youngsters to do their work. I am credibly informed the heat and smell in this room is most abominable, nay absolutely destructive, and the smell most heart-sickening. In the bonnet-room there are also several girls and children employed, some as young as 10 years; the hours the same in all parts of the concern.

I ask you, Sir, is it possible for either men or women, no matter how strong their constitutions may be, to withstand for any length of time the blighting effects of such a system of long hours, hard work, and poisonous atmosphere; both men and women would be broken down in a very few years, and how is it to be expected that such tender creatures can endure it.

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Under those circumstances, Sir, I hope you will endeavour to come to their relief and assistance, and try to strain a point to exact more lenient treatment (but I hope the law will enable you to do it without straining). The great object would be to shorten their hours to a reasonable extent, keeping in view the pernicious atmosphere they have to work in.

For instance, the children have to get up at 5 a.m. to be at work in time, 6 a.m., and work to 8·30 or 9 p.m., and by the time they reach their homes (some to my certain knowledge have near an hour's walk before reaching home), and by the time they get a little supper and get to bed it is 10.30 or 11 p.m.; thus, you see, there are 17½ or 18 hours the poor creatures are up and on their feet, and only six or 6½ at most out of the 24 hours for rest.

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Sir, you may implicitly rely upon the truth of the facts in this report, although I withhold my name for obvious reasons, being related to and with some of the children at ———'s.

I remain, &c.

W. R. Coles, Esq., Inspector of Factories. A Hater of Slavery.

PART 2.—ON SEAMSTRESSES, BOOTMAKERS, GLOVERS, &c.

TAILORS, &c.—London.

Tailors, &c.
London.
Mr. H. W. Lord.
c.

The Army Clothing Depôt, Pimlico.

Every facility was afforded me for visiting and obtaining information as to the practical working of this excellent institution; the arrangements adopted to secure the comfort and health of the workpeople seemed to have been very successful.

The manufactory consists of a very large and lofty hall, with an arched roof of glass, and having two galleries, an upper and a lower one, round its four sides. It is well warmed and ventilated; the weather on one of the days on which I visited it was very cold, and on the other close and rainy, but on neither occasion was the state of the air in any part of the hall other than wholesome and pleasant.

From Captain Taylor, who conducted me over the whole manufactory, and devoted a considerable portion of his time to explaining the details of the system, I received the materials from which the following statement is made up.

212. *Captain Taylor* had had considerable experience in the management of the government manufactory at Woolwich before he came up to Pimlico: that is conducted on similar principles to this, but on a smaller scale. On the occasion of my first visit there were present 724 women, 5 were absent from sickness, and 25 from other causes, in most cases from their having to go to receive pensions or half-pay on that day: so large a number of absentees is exceedingly rare.

Very few of them are under 18 years of age, the youngest of all is 14, she and some three or four from that age to 16 make up trimmings.

It is found that they must be first rate sewers, before they are taught the use of the machine, in order that they may understand, whether the work brought to their machine is properly prepared for it.

In the chaco department, some fasten on the leather bands and peaks to the cloth shapes, which come from the welters and machinists: that is really a kind of saddlers' or cobblers' work, and was always considered man's work; but the men in that branch were so disreputable and disorderly, that Captain Taylor determined to try what women could do, and the result has been most successful. Men still do the blocking, but they are picked workmen and respectable; the diagonal stitching, which serves both for ornament and to hold the cloth on the inner and outer sides together, is done by women at machines; and the welting of the crowns to the sides, the sewing of the water-proof covers, basting, and the like, which are all hand work, are also done by women. All work well together, and the peaks, &c. are stitched quite as well as when the men did them: this department occupies the floor of one gallery quite separate from the rest; and they are said to be the most contented and least quarrelsome in the whole place. The cap machines are 16 in number; they require only two basters for all of them: in the department altogether there are 70 women, 27 being welters, and 26 "peakers" or finishers. These machines are all worked by treadles, but the only reason for not using steam power here, as in the body of the building, is that they were not at first quite sure of being successful, and so did not incur the expense of extra shafting. They made 2,000 chacos a week last month (January).

The bulk of the work is carried on in the centre of the hall; there are 58 machines there, each having 8 persons, besides the machinist, preparing or finishing the garment. Nothing but great coats* are being made, and it is expected that they will be making them at the rate of 4,000 a week for the next three months. In the month of January last 28,578 new tunics, great-coats, jackets, and trousers were made on the premises.

All the sewing machines on the ground floor are moved by steam power, communicated by straps from horizontal shafting; the shafts pass along the floor, and are securely boxed; there was at first a difficulty in regulating the speed, but that is managed by a small wheel, which tightens or slackens the straps as required, and is applied by the pressure of the foot of the machinist on a pedal.

Each machinist has a gas standard on her right hand, and each table a gas jet in the centre of it. Machinists leave off 20 minutes before the rest, to clean the machines. The porter oils them every morning; only the practised hands can be trusted to oil, not for fear of accidents, but lest they should oil the wrong parts. The machines have not been damaged by the shaking, but they are heavier than those which would be used for shirt-making; and as steam is required for the cutting machines, and also for the pipes to warm the building, it is used for the sewing machines also.

Trousers and jackets require 12 persons for each machine, besides the machinist, and tunics 13 or 14: hitherto tunics have been given out to be finished; but the preparing, at which 6 or 7 hand-workers are employed for each machine, is done there. Nearly 450 persons are still directly employed out of doors; the names in the book of one viewer are 200, and in the other 230; some of these have one or two members of their family to help them, so that perhaps a thousand are employed altogether, but I was assured that the system of middlemen cannot exist under the precautions now taken, of entering the number of garments given out to each, and checking them off as they are returned, only a few being allowed to be at one time in the hands of each person.

Shirt-making has also been tried, but merely as an experiment to ascertain the real cost; and it is intended to give them out to charitable institutions, as has been before done. Various numbers of worker to a shirt were tried, 22, 16, 5, and 3, one in each set being the machinist; 16 in a set was the cheapest, but then, if 4 or 5 were absent, the whole set was upset. On the whole the smallest number was best. The machinist, besides the front, collar band, and wrist band, runs the side-seams and hems round; they were at first paid by the week 10*s.*, but since that time the price at which the work was given out, 7*d.* a shirt, has been adopted inside. This is distributed so as to give 1¾*d.* to the machinist, who at that rate earned 13*s.* to 15*s.* a week, and the rest to hand-workers, whose wages ranged from 7*s.* to 13*s.*, averaging 10*s.*†

The cap women earn most at their machines, they have had a longer experience, more than 12 months, and therefore work better and more rapidly; they have from 13*s.* to 19*s.* a week, machinists on great-coats earn 16*s.* and even 18*s.*, and on trousers 14*s.* and 16*s.* The "peakers" in the chaco department earn from 14*s.* to 20*s.*, some have earned 26*s.* a week. The average for the Michaelmas quarter gave 9*s.* 4½*d.* for the basters and fitters, they are the hand workers, but the wages also vary with the garment they are making, cap welters and great-coat hands earning 10*s.* and 12*s.*, while trousers hands have

* Feb. 2nd, 1864.

† I verified this account of the numbers employed and wages received by reference to the elaborate books, in which the whole proceedings, production, income, and expenditure of the establishment are recorded with great clearness week by week.

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c.

rather less, and tunic hands rather more. The average for the Christmas quarter gave 15*s.* 3*d.* a head in the chaco department; for the rest 15*s.* 2*d.* in one division, and 12*s.* 11*d.* in another, which consisted of the newest hands. Each person is paid so much for every garment passed by the viewer; for each great-coat, for instance, a proportionate sum is allotted to the machinist, and each of the eight others, who are engaged in making it, according to the work each does upon it. They name the sum due to them, and the books check it; that plan avoids all the disputes and mistakes which arise under the system of giving tickets. A strict account is also taken of the reels and needles given out.

The hours are from 7.30 A.M. to 6.15 P.M., they have an hour for dinner from 11.45 to 12.45; all leave the premises for that meal; on rainy days 20 or 30 of those who live at any distance usually ask and are allowed to stay, the rest manage to go with one of those who live near. They have about 15 minutes for tea, to which they go in between 3 and 5 p.m. in divisions; that is taken on the premises, they pay 1*d.* to an eating-house keeper, who is allowed the use of a room and range for preparing it.

It would, in Captain Taylor's judgment, be better for some reasons, if they had not tea there, as they would then have a motive for going straight home, and when once there they might not be so inclined or so able to go out again. He observed that it was becoming a habit with the younger ones to ask for permission to leave at 5 P.M., that is, directly after tea, on Thursdays, the day on which their wages are paid, and he had remarked that they brought more with them to eat on that day. On the day before my second visit as many as 43 had asked to go early, so that he had felt obliged to refuse all.

They never by any chance stay after 6.15 p.m.; once when pressed, some work had been allowed to be taken home; but they stopped away or came late next morning, so that no more was done after all. They are paid by the piece; many are comparatively independent of their work, that is to say, they live with their parents, who earn decent wages, and let their daughters pay something perhaps towards the household expense, and keep the rest for their dress and pocket-money. It was stated that there are many who do not care to earn more than 8*s.* and 9*s.* a week: some earn only 5*s.*, others 12*s.* and 14*s.* It is found necessary to be very strict in enforcing silence and order; they will make any excuse, it is said, to leave their seats, and so waste their time, and consequently require a great deal of looking after. Captain Taylor remarked that it would no doubt be much easier to give out material for 100 garments to a responsible piece-master, and look only to him to have them returned properly made; still he thought that "the workpeople are "much more ready to serve us now that we employ "them directly. They happen to be working hard "to-day, because it is the last day of our week; they "will get through as much to-day as they will all "to-morrow and the next day."

Captain Taylor was confident that there was a wonderful difference observable in the improved physical condition of the people, after they had been working for a month or two at the Depôt, and that the example set them there, contributed much to raise the tone of the whole neighbourhood. At first they were obliged to take in all the "riff-raff," who had been in the work before, and few respectable persons would come, but now it is very different. One capital thing he considered to be the rule that any one who has any complaint to make, or has committed any irregularity, must come before him at 9 o'clock, when he listens to anything, even the most trifling quarrel, and tries to set things straight: this has created the impression that the people are properly cared for.

It is found necessary to be very careful about the character of the women; every one fills up a form and brings a reference, signed by a clergyman and a householder. "I have always found" (said Captain Taylor) "that one bad girl will take away at least one "other with her; but with all our risks we have had "only five go wrong, so far as I am aware, and they are "very ready to tell of each other. My own ex-"perience has convinced me that in order to manage a "number of women you must treat them kindly and "firmly, give them work enough, but never have "even the appearance of making distinctions and "favourites."

Gas is used to heat the common irons; coal would be cheaper for some reasons, but the trouble of bringing fuel constantly up to the galleries makes gas preferable on the whole. The stoves are in compartments separate from the place in which the work goes on. In one room on the ground floor the irons or "geese" are slung on arms, which move on universal joints above the table; these are heated by gas jets inside them. They are certainly successful, but not completely so, for there is now and then an escape of gas; the board on which the garment is laid for pressing, is lifted up to meet the iron by a lever under the table; this the woman, who is using the machine, works with her foot. Each does her own pressing, but only one division has this machinery for pressing attached to their compartment as yet. It saves them much trouble, and is far lighter work than pressing with the ordinary iron, as those in the other divisions still have to do.

There are separate water-closets for the women; places for washing, and apparatus; and a room for their bonnets and cloaks: all the women are told off into divisions, each person has a number, and a peg with a corresponding number in the partitions appropriated to her division. All wear a "Garibaldi" uniform, the machinists red, and the others blue. They seem to like it very much, and I was informed that at first there was "quite a fuss," because all could not have it at once.

There seemed a general conviction that the workpeople are better off, both as regards their earnings and their habits and health, than when they worked for contractors, while at the same time the Government saves money; in one single article, the tunic, the contractor's price has been reduced from 18*s.* 6*d.* to 15*s.* 11*d.*

[I select from my notes the following evidence, given by two out of several persons whom I examined here.—H.W.L.]

212a. L. M.—I worked for an army contractor before I came here. There were above 50 there. I earned about 14*s.* a week there; here I have a little more, 15*s.*, but we are never after time here; we worked for a whole week sometimes there from 8.30 a.m. to 10 p.m., and once all night through. The work-room was very hot, for the pressing was done and the irons heated in the same room where all the people were; the machine-room had a very low ceiling.

212b. K. O.—I worked for another contractor; there were about as many there as —— —— (the last witness) says there were where she was, none under 15, and very few under 17; the room was cool enough, for it was in the rafters and very draughty; we used to suffer very much from tooth-ache and face-ache. Our hours were from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.; but I have stayed many a time till 11 p.m., several nights a week for months, and never had any meal after our tea at 5 p.m. We used to get very tired. That was a year or two ago.

Messrs. Cook & Son, St. Paul's Churchyard.

213. *Mr. Howes.*—The workpeople whom we have on our premises are engaged in making clothes for the export trade, but the greater portion of the work is given out. The material is cut out here and made up into bundles; this the out-worker takes away, and brings back completely sewn to have the buttons put on. Some of these out-workers employ only a few, perhaps only their own family; others take a

large building in a suburb where rent is low, or a little further out on some line of railway, and have 100 or more. Our system is that generally followed in the trade. We have from 40 to 50 here either sewing button-holes or machinists; they are paid by the piece, and often earn 15*s.* a week. About 10 more are ticketing or sewing buttons on. Our hours are from 8.30 to 6.30, with an hour for dinner and half an hour for tea. There is very little pressure in the City; they are, in fact, wholesale manufacturers, and not subject to the unexpected demands made on the retail trade.

214. At a large clothing establishment in London, the proprietors of which desired that their names should not be mentioned, I found more than 70 females employed, 40 of whom were machinists; none had begun to work there, even as basters, before they were 15. The usual hours were 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., or 9 to 8. Those, of whom I inquired, had felt no ill effects of any kind from the use of the sewing machine; most had been working for three or four years at it. One however, who was about 25, and had worked for 10 years at a sewing machine, said that she was certainly much weaker, and added that she could not now carry a pail of water as she used to do, and that she could never write after working: her hands were trembling as I spoke to her, though she was at rest. She did not otherwise appear nervous.

215. *Mr. Frees*, Spicer Street, Spitalfields, had at one time employed as many as 150 females in making men's garments on his own premises; his experience had convinced him that girls under 15 years of age were too young to work sewing machines, and that for machinists of any age the hours from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. with the usual meal times, 1½ or two hours, should never be exceeded; he considered that 9½ or 10 hours of such work in the day, was, for the health and strength of most women, quite long enough. He stated the proportion of workers to be usually one baster to prepare and four to finish for each machinist, the finishing being usually taken out, and done at home. He knew that the people in their own houses frequently worked 16 and 18 hours a day, and believed that the tendency was now for the work to be done at home, as so many had one or two machines of their own.

216. *Mr. Marks*, Newcastle Street, Whitechapel.—Besides 3 men and my own family, I have 10 or 12 women here; they are all unmarried, the youngest is 13. Ours is a summer trade chiefly. We remake old materials, cut up trousers into waistcoats for example. I give a good deal out also. We don't go on more than the 12 hours here, but they are often working for 15 hours and more, for they take work home. They earn 9*s.* and 10*s.*, and in the long hours 18*s.* a week, some of them.

217. *Mr. L. London*, Commercial Street, Whitechapel, stated to me that he employed sometimes as many as 25 or 30 females on his premises to do the "machining" for clothes, which were given out to be finished; the spring and summer are the busy season, but the hours then are from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., or at the latest 9 p.m. He said that, as a rule, all workpeople of the class employed in the slop trade in that district, being for the most part married women, so much preferred to work in their own wretched rooms to coming to a regular work-room, as to make it impossible to employ any number on the premises, except machine hands; the usual practice therefore was, and always would be, to give out the work to be finished, after it had been machined. The people, he said, were so accustomed to dirt at their own homes, that even the machinists, whom he employed, made his room in such a mess, that he was ashamed to let any one see it, although it was cleaned only a week ago. One of his men said, "They go slobbering about with their "basins and messes, talking until the last moment, "and then shove their things away anywhere and "begin work again."

218. [I asked a young woman, who was waiting here to take out some trousers to be finished, whether she preferred to do that part of the work only, or, as she had previously done, to make the whole article from first to last herself. She stated at once that she very much preferred the present plan, for she could earn more money, and had the heavy part of the work, the seaming, &c., done for her by the machine. This was said without any pressure on the part of her employer, of whom indeed, so far as I could judge from her demeanour, she did not appear to stand in any special awe.—H.W.L.]

219. A large employer of labour in that neighbourhood, and in other parts of the country, who had 16 women working on his own premises, all over 18 years old, stated their hours to be from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., when the room was always locked up; with him good machinists frequently earned from 15*s.* to 18*s.*, and hand-workers 10*s.* and 12*s.* a week without overtime. He said that he could never trust any of them with the work to take home at night, partly because it might not be returned at all, partly because, if it were, it was as likely as not to have become infested with vermin in the night. Those who did take the work out found security.

220. *A. Hagley*, Commercial Street.—I work this machine for mother; we make up trousers. I learnt it in Church Lane, Whitechapel; there are a lot more there now, than when I learned five years ago; I dare say half a dozen were there then. I was 13 when I went; I gave my time for 6 months for nothing. He got a good deal out of us for the teaching, but he used to give us a shilling now and then, if we did more than 70 pairs of trousers a week. Our hours were from 8 a.m to 8 p.m., not later. I have earned 15*s.* a week at stays since that; so I think I have got good by it.

I reckon that, with three finishers to help, we can make 12 pairs of trousers a day; that is, with my mother and sister and Mrs. ——, they do the handwork. We get 10*d.* a pair, and find thread. We do all our pressing at home.

When I say a day, I mean from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. or thereabouts. We don't allow much time for meals at home, but generally take them as we work. At places where people go to work for the day, they have an hour for their dinner, and some time for tea. Sometimes we don't take three hours in all the week for meals away from work.

The machine is a great comfort; we want another; but this cost 11*l.*, and isn't all paid for yet. I wish mother could get a Lancashire, Thomas' is too light for our work; still we couldn't do anything like the number we do, if we hadn't this.

If we gave any work out, we should pay 8*d.* for making. Mother is responsible; she gives security for 20*l.* It is always better to have it done under your own eyes, if you have room; here is two hours' work to unpick and restitch this band of a pair of trousers, which we have had just now brought in; of course we must deduct from the pay of that woman; but if she had been here we could have seen at once that she was doing it wrong, so it would have been better for both. We could get work enough for 20, if we had room for them here, but we can't trust so many to take work ome.

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We often work later than 10, sometimes 12 or 1, especially on Thursday night, for Friday is taking-in day; sometimes we go on all night, not every Thursday, but pretty often.

[The room, in which this witness was working, served as the living and sleeping room for her mother, herself, and two younger sisters. Everything was very dirty and wretched, and the dress of the witness and the rest was scanty, soiled, and torn. There was, however, nothing especially offensive to sight or smell; the window looked on the wide part of Commercial Street; the room itself being on the third floor. The people had a cheerful tone about them, and were fully alive to the great advantage, which the possession of a machine, and the power of using it properly, gave them over their competitors in the trade.—H.W.L.]

221. Mr. Trelawney, Marlborough Mews, Oxford Street.

I have the entire management of this workroom for Mr. Nicoll (of Regent Street). You must not, however, take us here, nor the system which we pursue, as fair average specimens of the trade, for, in the first place, there is not another room like it—so good, I mean—in the whole of London; and, in the next place, we work on a different plan to most. Still I can tell you quite as much about the trade generally as about ourselves; for I have had experience in Liverpool, Dublin, and Glasgow, as well as London, and the same course is adopted in all.

The usual way of business is to have the work done on the premises where the shop is, or else taken home by the men to their own home; there is no middleman in any West End business, who takes the work out and distributes it to others, who in their turn provide workpeople on their own premises.

Females are never employed on the premises of the master tailor; where they are to be found is in the rooms of the men, who take the work out. They always make the waistcoats, and often the trousers; the coats are made by men: women also do the felling and other minor details.

Frequently as many as 5 or 6 persons will be employed by one man in one room, which serves for the sleeping room of the family, as well as the general workroom; others no doubt have two rooms, and use one of them only for the work; some have the whole house, and may have a lease of it, but the majority of journeyman tailor's work is done in one or at most two rooms, both sexes working together. In fact, two out of three work-places at the West End, even when they are on the premises of the master, are simply wretched.

The sewing machines are gradually getting into general use; none but females are employed on them. They give a great relief, and do all the heavy work; yet there was for a long time the greatest difficulty in overcoming the prejudice against them. Now there are hundreds of men in this neighbourhood, who have perhaps 3 or 4 hands and one machine, doing the work in their own dwellings for the shops.

When a machine is used, there will be usually 3 other persons employed, one to prepare the work for the machinist, one to press it after machining, and a third to put on buttons and to make the button-holes: the pressing is the man's work, the rest is usually done by women. The material is cut before it is given out.

There is no regular system of apprenticing the girls; the ordinary sewing, the felling that is, putting in the pockets and the lining, they pick up from their mothers or sisters at home. If a man has no family of his own, he will often hire a girl or two, who knows a little about the work, to do that part for him. The machinists generally come saying that they have been taught at a place, where the machines are made, and they have often paid a premium for it; but in most cases they are quite unqualified; we have to teach them over again. I have tried 10 in a day and had to send them all away. I have lately taken one or two for a year, giving them 6*s*. a week for the first six months, 9*s*. for the next three, and 12*s*. for the last three. The fact is, that everything is still in a transition state in the trades into which these machines have been introduced. They have revolutionized our trade, and so they have the shoe trade, I believe.

One effect is a growing tendency to collect a number of machines in one building; they in turn collect a number of hand-workers to prepare and to finish, so that a factory springs up in time. I do not say that has yet become general in our trade; the development of the sewing machine is in its infancy. It is, however, what you see working here with us, but, as I said before, at present we are exceptional.

Another effect is, that the labour is so divided, and the machine work so good and so rapidly done, as to do away with much of the long hours of work that were frequent in former days. Our hours here are, for the six winter months, from 8.30 or 9.30 a.m. to 7 or 7.30 p.m.; in the summer six, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.: our chief pressure is in May and June, but our latest hour has been 11 p.m. in the two years during which we have had this place. We have never worked here three times in any one week as late as 11 p.m.; they never come before 8 a.m. On Saturday they leave at 6 all the year round, unless there is anything very special to prevent it. They take about an hour and a quarter for dinner, and half an hour for tea. Some go home; others live at too great a distance, so they dine here.

There are 8 men and 15 women here now: in the season there will be 35 or 40; at least two-thirds of them will be females; they are most of them young women from 16 to 28 or so. Some are paid by the day; we give none less than 12*s*. a week; the machinists have from 15*s*. to 18*s*. About one-third are piece-workers; their earnings vary from 14*s*. to 18*s*.; they are the smarter ones generally. I do not pay the day-workers extra for overtime; we generally arrange it as a sort of set-off against the half-holidays, which they are rather fond of taking.

I think tailors of both sexes have improved in moral character. There is not the drunkenness there was among them. The Monday and Tuesday used to be always spent on the "spree." Still I have had even here some of my best workwomen, fine handsome girls, and decently educated, bring bottles full of drink in their pockets, and chuck them over the roof when they had emptied them. Others, however, are respectable, who work well and behave well too. The younger ones, at least those above 20, don't live with their parents; they generally have lodgings of their own.

I spoke before of the badness of work-rooms generally: even in coming here from Regent Street the difference is extraordinary, and yet we had rooms there in the front looking into the street. The health of our people is certainly better, my own niece among the number. There was a flower which, from it having belonged to one who died, we took especial pains to rear, but we had always to keep it outside the window, and it seemed to dwindle away; but it has been in this room ever since we have, and has shot up more than a foot quite vigorously here at the back of Great Marlborough Street. The great thing is, that we have a lofty room and good ventilation. There are also water-closets, washing apparatus, and a small place with a stove for tea and for cooking their dinners, if they like, not on a large scale, but a great comfort. There is nothing of that kind in the private rooms, where they usually work, seldom even pure water.

Mr. Robert Whitham, 73, Cannon Street, Manchester. (Jan. 1863.)

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222. *Mr. R. Whitham.*—I am a manufacturer of clothing and shirts; a great deal of my work is done by "outsiders," persons who take it home to their own houses, that is; I have, however, 78 working for me on these premises now; 65 of them are females; only two girls and one boy are under 13, and they are all over 12; there are 25 girls between 13 and 18.

The younger ones are chiefly employed in winding silk on the reels for the sewing machines, or in stitching lightly together the pieces of stuff, which are afterwards finished by the machine; others are making nets for the head. They are most of them the children of "outsiders."

Our usual hours are from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., and 1 p.m. on Saturday; the latest we ever work is till 9 p.m., and that not more than two months in the year on an average, but that is uncertain; during one year we may not do so for more than a fortnight, and in the next we may be working for three months until 9 p.m., Our's is to a very great extent a shipping trade; I should say our hours are as long as any in the trade in Manchester.

They have an hour for dinner, which they take here; and half an hour for tea when they stay after 7 p.m.; there is a kettle for them and a fire.

If the trade could not meet the sudden demands of shipping orders in consequence of a limitation of the hours of labour of those under 18, I think that adults would be most probably substituted for young persons.

223. *Mary Ann Madan.*—Am a little over 13; have been here working for Mr. Whitham near 12 months; never worked anywhere before. Can't read or write; never went to any day school; go to St. Joseph's (Roman Catholic) Sunday school, but not regularly. Don't know what geography means; never learnt anything about different countries of the world. Come to work at 8 a.m.; have often stayed till 9 p.m.

224. *Ellen Kearnes.*—Am 13; have been here a few months; was winder at a silk mill before that; didn't go there till I was past 11; so worked as full timer. Only went for a very short time to day school; go to Sunday school now, sometimes, but can't read; only learn spelling there; can't write or do sums. London is in this country, England; Liverpool is not so far from here, I dont know whether it is on the sea or not. Can't tell you how to spell my name.

[I asked the two elder sisters of the last witness, one of whom was more than 17 years old, how they spelt their names, but neither could tell me; neither of them could read or write. A young woman of about 20, whose name I omitted to ascertain, told me that many of the girls there could not read or write; most, however, of those of 16 years old and upwards to whom I spoke could read, and several appeared to be fair scholars.]

225. Mr. and Mrs. Black, Rochester.

Rochester.

We manufacture trousers for one wholesale London house, and employ nearly a hundred females on our premises, besides those to whom we give them out to be finished; they are three or four times as many; they work the button-holes, put on the buttons and waist bands, and hem the bottoms of the legs.

Our hours now are from 9 a.m to 6 p.m. only, but usually they are from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., with an hour and a half for dinner and tea; sometimes they stay half an hour or so later; on Saturday they usually leave at 12, but now they do not come at all on that day.

In this room* we have about 60, two-thirds of them are machinists; our youngest are the basters, four of them are 12 years old; they are paid by the machinist, whom they help; some of the older ones can baste fast enough for two machines: a machinist pays 2*s.* 6*d.* to her baster usually, so that one who works for two earns 5*s.* a week; the machinist has quite 15*s.* left on an average after paying her basters; the younger ones also press the seams.

The machinists are all 14 or 15 years old at least; you will find the most intelligent faces among them as a rule. We had stools made for them, but they prefer to stand to the Lancashire machine. Most get married after a time, and then leave us and take needlework home. We do not think that they are fit for the machine work after they are married, that is for physical reasons.

We have had this business for four years. At first there used to be very bad language used, but by suspending some, and discharging them on a repetition, we have put a stop to that. Nearly all come a distance of a mile, and many two miles, to work, so that they bring their dinners with them.

They have very little illness: we have no sick fund; but if any one of them is ill they generally contribute something for her. I found that they were suspicious of the fund not being properly appropriated, when a sum was deducted weekly for that purpose. They seem to have reason to be suspicious of employers, if what they tell us is true. I saw in the books of one that she had been charged 1*s.* a week for the use of scissors for 6 weeks, and then 3*s.* for the purchase of them at the end.

The ironers seem as strong as the rest, but we always have the older ones and those who are naturally stronger for that work. The heat of the stove makes it necessary to have good ventilation in the ironing room. We have had bricks taken out in different parts of the wall, and gratings put in; the irons are 8 lbs. in weight; the hardest work is turning the trousers inside out. That makes the arms ache. In the common material there is a great deal of lime dust. The tables and their dresses, are, you see, covered with it; that makes them very thirsty, but has no further effect on their health.

[I examined about a dozen of the younger ones here; most could read, but very few could write. Two, however, who were 12 years old, could not read, nor could one of 14; she had begun work at 11, had been "to service" before that, and had never been to school. Another of 14 had begun at 8 years old to tack at a similar place in Chatham. One girl of 16 told me she was earning often 23*s.* a week; she had worked a machine from 13 years old, and had been a tacker at 10. All whom I asked spoke of their health as good, and looked very clean and cheerful.—H.W.L.]

226. Mr. Johnson, The Brook, Chatham.

Chatham.

I have sometimes 30 young women here; the habit has been to employ children to help the machinist by tacking, but I find that a grown woman can do enough to keep three machines supplied; so that, if three machinists pay her 2*s.* 6*d.* each, she gets as much as she would by her needlework at home probably, and they are as well served, and pay no more, each of them, than they would to a child, while the child is free to

* In another room, where the best kind of work was done, there were 12 machinists and 7 helpers.—H.W.L.

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c.

go to school, where it ought to be, instead of working all day here, which is a great evil. They used to be paid only 1*s.* 3*d.* a week. I have observed that those machinists who stand to their work are more healthy than those who sit. I do not mean that either are unhealthy, but the balance is in favour of those who stand.

227. *Emma*——.—Am 13, have worked a machine for nine months; and have been three years here; can read and write; can earn 10*s.* a week between our regular hours of 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. We leave at 4.30 p.m. on Saturdays. I have always been very well; the machine does not tire me.

[This witness was slight and almost delicate looking, of particularly pleasant manners and appearance.]

228. At another factory in Chatham, a young woman, who had worked a machine from 11 years of age, told me that she had worked from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. for three nights in the week before my visit. The employer had stated the hours to be from 8 a.m. to 8.30 p.m., and on Saturday 5 p.m.; but had afterwards complained of the inconvenience of pressure arising from orders of several houses requiring instant execution, as the frequent cause of great irregularity, and alternations of excessive work and slackness. From the manner of those concerned I was led to believe that I was not intended to hear about the "last week's "work;" the machinist who "let out" about it, was so evidently put forward to answer me that my suspicions were aroused, and from inquiries made elsewhere I found that that place had the reputation of being very late, when they had work to do.—H.W.L.

229. I also went over the Axe Brand factory (Messrs. Flavell and Bousefield) with Mr. Sharp, the occupier of those premises, who informed me that the hours from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. were very rarely exceeded, and that 9 p.m. and sometimes 10 p.m. were the extreme limits. More than 100 machinists besides hand-workers are employed here. Ventilation was obtained by means of openings, in the nature of shafts, in each of the long work-rooms, having a ventilating "hop-"per" at the top; there were also wire gratings in several parts of the ceiling. The warmth and comparative closeness of the upper room, even with all these precautions, showed how necessary it is that some such system should be generally adopted, when many work together.

I learned that a school for the younger ones was tried here on two nights in the week during the winter months. About 30 attended on an average; there were various degrees of education among them; several could not read and more could not write. The clergyman of the district had also held an evening service in one of the rooms on one evening in the week.

Stroud.

230. Messrs. Holloway, Brothers, Stroud, Gloucestershire.

I went over the premises of these gentlemen with their manager of the work-rooms, Mr. Gardiner, from whom and from Mr. Copeland, the general superintendent, I received the following information.

The works have been established for about 12 years. Nearly 150 females, of ages varying from 12 to 50, were employed on the premises; and the work given out afforded employment to several hundred more. Only trowsers were made upon the premises, except in the case of a few who were making coats; nearly 40 machines were in use there, and some 20 more were in the hands of as many out-workers, who paid a rent for them. The hours were from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., with an hour for dinner, and half an hour for tea; no overtime was ever made. Mr. Copeland stated that they could employ one or two hundred more, if they had them; as it was, they had to send material to Bristol and London to be made up. Very few were under 13 years old; they were helping the hand-workers; the youngest machinist was about 15. The helpers were usually brought by their own relations; in other cases they would be paid by those whom they helped, the youngest about 1*s.* 6*d.* a week; machinists earn about 12*s.*, finishers 8*s.* a week, needles and thread being found for those who worked on the premises. Nearly all had been trained to the work in the factory. Each pair of trowsers would pass through five or six hands besides the machinist's, the lining being made and put in, the button-holes stitched, and the buttons put on by different persons. Steam had been used to move the sewing machines, but was discontinued, as it was found that stitches often slipped without being noticed when the movement was so rapid.

Gosport, Devonport.

Gosport, Devonport.

231. *Mr. Woodrow, Gosport.*—I have had considerable experience of Government contract work and outfitting generally, both here and in other places, Chatham, Sheerness, and Plymouth. There is no system of sweating or middlemen in any of them, and the employment in all is much alike; in all the work is almost universally given out; probably more is done here than at any other place. A few have some machinists on their premises; when they are paid by the week, they have 7*s.* 6*d.* or 8*s.* 6*d.*; when they work by the piece, the work is often more scamped, and too hastily run up.

Work is often given out by an agent from a country town to labourers' wives, who live in the neighbouring villages. Near Poole, for instance, where I had at one time a place for the distribution of work, they would bring their work in once a fortnight, earning about 5*s.* in that time. Women usually make the serge frocks, and the duck and drill waistcoats and trousers.

We should know if other persons were employed on the work than those to whom we give it out. A person familiar with the look of work can pick the worker's name out as easily, as if it were writing, instead of sewing, to judge from.

232. *Mr. Mackay*, Catherine Street, Devonport.—I believe that it is an almost universal practice to give work out, both shirts and clothes. Among tailors and outfitters it is not unusual for a man to take out work, and to employ perhaps one journeywoman and two or three apprentices. He may get from 3*l.* to 4*l.* a week, and pay them 1*l.* A waistcoat-maker can earn 1*s.* 6*d.* or 1*s.* 9*d.* a day with some help. Those who make flannel shirts can earn 6*s.* a week without difficulty, that is reckoning a shirt a day, for which 1*s.* is paid. Shirt-makers also employ sometimes four or five persons to help them, but very rarely, if ever, so many as nine or 10. Many will take an apprentice or two; they are girls of about 14 years old, and are paid 1*s.* a week for the first year, 2*s.* for the second, and 3*s.* for the third; after the third year they will earn from 5*s.* to 8*s.* a week according to their capacity and application.

[I obtained information from a variety of sources in Gosport and Devonport to the same effect as the above.—H.W.L.]

SHIRT MAKERS, LONDON.

Messrs. Foster, Porter, and Co., Wood Street.

233. *Mr. Beale* (manager of work-rooms).—Our season is from July to October, and in the early spring for three months. We are now working only from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m; in the season we work from 8.30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Perhaps now and then they go on as late as 10 p.m. for two days in a week; they certainly do not work altogether for more than one whole month out of the 12 until 10. Very few houses in the City exceed from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., except on rare occasions.

We keep a staff of hands on all the year; now we have about 70; in the season we have as many as 150 or 200 here; and if we are pushed, as we are at times by shipping orders, then we employ out-door workers. All are paid by the piece; none reside on the premises.

Flannel shirt makers may earn 15*s.* a week in our hours, if they please; some earn 25*s.* The white shirt makers, who are frequently wives of labouring men, often take work home with them; their's is hand-work; they earn 9*s.* Necktie makers earn 10*s.* and 12*s.* a week. The machinists are generally as yet younger hands. They are often taught where there are a large number of sewing machines, where they pay 10*s.* as a kind of premium, and give a month's work without wages; the older ones cannot turn so easily to a new occupation. Indeed very few can change. A shirt-maker cannot make a collar, nor a collar-maker a necktie. Many would sooner sit still than attempt it. There is a certain class of work for each, and they cannot get their hands out of it. We tried for some time to get shirts made at Witney, in Oxfordshire, where a great many persons are employed by us in their own homes as glove-makers, but we could not succeed, and gave it up.

Some middlemen give out their work to be done in the homes of the workpeople, paying them, it may be, 2½*d.* out of the 4½*d.*, which we pay them. That price might be paid for one kind of flannel shirt. There are some shirts, this twilled regatta for example, for which the workwomen would receive only 1*s.* 6*d.* a dozen; but still nearly as much can be made out of shirts at that low price by a woman, who is accustomed to that work, as another will get out of shirts at 10*s.* a dozen; there is so much more work in the latter; the others can be run up in a very short time; and yet a good worker at the finer kind could not get the money out of the coarse sort.

We supply them with boiling water, but allow no cooking on the premises. The bell rings for dinner at 12, and for tea at 4; they have an hour at the one, and half an hour at the other.

I had a perforated ventilator put in all along the roof over the open space, which reaches from top to bottom of the building. That gives them air enough, but in cold weather they complain of the cold, as we have no means of warming the place. The needle-women complain much more than the machinists.

234. *A. B.*, machinist.—I have worked a machine for 7 years. Many can't stand it longer than that. I find it very tiring, even in our hours from 9 to 6. My eyes get dull after working long on dark work.

235. *C. D.*, machinist.—I have worked a machine for 4 years. It is Thomas's; that is a heavy one. It has made no difference in my health. Some are naturally delicate; their eyes suffer, and they get very tired.

236. *E. N.*, machinist.—I have worked a machine for 3 years, and am as strong now as when I first began. When we work till 10, I am very tired, but that is never for more than a day or two in a week, and then for only a few weeks in the season.

Messrs. Moses, Son, and Davis, Aldgate.

237. *Mr. Maskell*, book-keeper, had been 30 years with the firm, and was familiar with the details of the shirt trade. It was customary for women to take out the material after it had been cut out on the premises, and bring the shirt back complete. Frequently one person, who had a machine at her own home, would do the stitching for half a dozen or more of her neighbours, who took the work out, and themselves did all the hand-work; that is, the putting together, hemming, making the button-holes, and sewing the buttons on. This was the same, both with flannel and white shirts. The price they paid the machinist would vary between 14*d.* and 20*d.* a dozen, so far as he could learn, and the average prices they received varied from 4*s.* 6*d.* to 7*s.* 6*d.* a dozen flannel shirts. At one time persons had been employed upon the premises in Aldgate, but that was now given up. About 16 or 18 machines had been at the last there. None younger than 14 had worked them, nor had any under 12 been basters. Their hours had never been longer than from 8 a.m. to 7 or 8 p.m.; for though some stayed at times till 9 and 10 p.m., they had not come till 9 or 10 in the morning. He thought that none were ever employed in the shirt trade under 12 years of age, except at home.

He stated the great cause for the existence of the class called sweaters to be, that it was necessary to have some responsible person who could give security for the goods they took out. This the workpeople were frequently, either from their poverty or their intemperate or improvident habits, wholly unable to do; while the "sweater," who lived in the same district with the workpeople, could easily protect himself from loss by giving out only a few at a time, and paying once or even twice a day, as often as they were returned; so that many lived literally from hand to mouth, obtaining possibly at the end of their morning's work enough to pay for their dinner, and so on.

He believed that the export trade was still in its infancy. A great tendency was manifesting itself towards doing slopwork generally in large factories in country places and provincial towns. He found that in parts of Essex, with which he was well acquainted, the farmers complained that their labourers were becoming independent and overbearing, because their wives and daughters now could earn good wages at needle-work or the sewing machine.

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238. *X. W.*, at Field Lane Refuge.—I take out shirt work from a shop now, and do it in my lodgings. I have been in a factory where a number are together. My sister is now at one in Wood Street. Their hours are from 9 a.m. to 7 and 8 p.m. My sister is a machinist; she earns 7*s.* a week now, but the work is dull, and will be so till the middle of March. They never work later than about 8 p.m. in any shirt warehouse that I ever heard of in London; but they let us take it home, especially the button-holing. I have often worked from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the summer making shirts at home. I could make one and a half of the better kind throughout in that time, that would be all hand-work, fronts, and wrist and collar bands; for that work I should get 14*d.* a day, or thereabouts; that would be a superior kind of work, because there would be no machine work in it. I mean by superior a higher priced work and better material; for so far as work goes, the machine is as good as, or better than, hand-work, only many do not think so.

In the slop shirt work, where all the machinery is done for the shirt-maker, I have had as little as 1¼*d.* a shirt, that would be for putting together. I used to run them up very fast at that price, more than six a day certainly.

There are not any girls under 14 in the factories that I know of, but many begin about then. I don't think machine work suits all; my sister's health is cer-

Shirt-makers.
London.
Mr. H.W. Lord.
C.

tainly nothing near so good as it was; it is the working with the feet at particular times that is bad; I mean at the monthly times; my sister has told me so.

239. At the house of a person in Hoxton who takes out flannel shirts for a wholesale City house, I found 10 persons employed in one small room on the second floor. The husband was cutting out, the wife working with the needle, and two daughters using sewing machines. There were five hand-workers and one machinist, not members of the family. The youngest of these was a girl of 11, who helped her mother. They usually worked from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., and very seldom were after 9 p.m. The machinists all preferred their work to ordinary needlework. The number of cubic feet per head was rather under 90.—H.W.L.

Portsea, Plymouth.

Portsea, Plymouth.

Messrs. E. & H. Seagrove's, The Hard.

240. *Manager of the Shirt Department.*—The ordinary hours in the trade for the few who work on the premises are from 9 a.m. to 7.30 p.m. They are very seldom later. We employ from 15 to 20 here; perhaps three or four besides ourselves have four or five persons to do machine work on the premises, and give it out to be finished. The mothers who do the work at home are often helped by their children, boys and girls of 8 or 9 years old.

1*s.* a day is a fair average for hand-workers; machinists with us get 10*s.* a week; they are not paid by the piece. The linen part of the shirts, that is, the front, the collar-band, and wrist-band, is machined.

We leave off at 6 p.m. on Saturday; the drapers are always later on that night. My wife's sister works for a milliner; they work till midnight as a rule on Saturdays, and always later than usual on Fridays; from 9 a.m to 8 p.m. is usual; there are only three or four there. None live on the premises. Very few dress-makers or milliners have more.

241. *Mrs. Joseph*, Portsea.—We can tell you all you want to know about shirt-making here, for I suppose we get more made than any other person in the district. It is all for the wholesale London houses; we take the orders from them, and give the work out. It is all home work. We have just one or two besides my sister and myself here, but what we do ourselves is a mere nothing. We have had 250 dozen a week done out.

No doubt people must work hard to make a living at shirt-making, and these sewing machines have ruined the trade for many poor creatures. Some are, so to speak, independent, but there are many wives left by their husbands, or orphans, who would have starved, but for the work we have given them. Since the American war the trade has fallen off very much, and everything, cotton and thread, &c., has become much dearer. We give cotton and thread, they find the needles. We have just paid 31*s.* 6*d.* for 5 lbs. of sewing cotton, which used to cost only 16*s.* 6*d.* a very few years ago. But the prices are very low, compared with what used to be paid in old times for shirts. We now get 4*s.* 6*d.* a dozen for what we used to get 18*s.*, and sewing cotton found.

The shirt is never made throughout by the same person. One stitches, another puts together, and a third puts the buttons on and makes the holes; so they come into our hands, and go out again, several times before they are finished.

The little children frequently help their mothers, threading needles to save time, or doing some hemming. One woman with two little girls does for us a dozen twill or florentine shirts in a day and a half; for that the pay is 2*s.*; that is only the putting together. One of our button-holers, a woman of 65, manages to earn 10*d.* a day, that is, to do two dozen. Another, a young woman, with her sister's help, gets through six dozen a day, and earns 2*s.* 6*d.* An average worker will do the button-holing and buttons of a common shirt in 10 minutes; the better kind take a quarter of an hour, that is, for six holes and eight buttons. They can do flannels and twills quicker than regattas. One of our workpeople, a girl of 16, earned 6*s.* a week in eight hours a day at button-holing.

The Scotch and Irish both beat us in cheapness, and in beauty of work too, I must allow; all the high priced shirts for the wholesale trade are made there. The delay in sending so far is the only thing in our favour. They can do for 3*s.* 6*d.* in Londonderry, what we can't get done under 5*s.*; and I believe they pay the carriage too, 7*d.* a dozen, or at least half of it. I was offered shirts in London at 2*s.* 6*d.* a dozen lately, and actually could not take them, for the making and putting together would cost me 1*s.* 6*d.* at the very least, and the button-holing 6*d.*, the cotton 3*d.*, and the carriage one way 3*d.*, so that there was no margin at all for profit. Indeed our profits are so small, that it is only quantity that pays.

The woman who "makes," gets about 1*s.* a day, that will be for putting together half a dozen. They will do in Coleraine for 5*d.*, what we can't get done under 14*d.* The wholesale houses give different prices; one will give 3*s.* 3*d.*, where another gives only 3*s.*

A few of the women who take our work home have apprentices, one or two. They will pay them 6*d.* a week for the first two months, and then 2*s.* a week for some time after. They are called apprentices; if they have any work to give them they do it, if not they stop at home. They never live with them. One, I believe, has five or six; that is very rare.

I used, when very busy, to give out work in Chichester and Fareham, as many as 40 dozen a week. The shirts are often pawned, more for drink than from poverty. If a lot is kept over 14 days, it is always suspicious.

242. *Mrs. Caple*, Plymouth.—I take out shirts, stitch them, and put them together by machine; my sister helps. We employ four or five little girls to do the hemming; in the summer we have 10 or 12; they are from 12 to 14 years old; they don't work over the 12 hours a day; of course we pay them less than we should women; but if we didn't employ them, there would be nothing for them to do. No doubt the use of the sewing machine in our kind of work has diminished the number of needlewomen employed; but it enables those, who have them, to earn a living, which no one could at their needle without slaving, before that. The value of the machine is just this; I can do in two hours with it what would be a good day's work for me, if I had only my own hands. There are only two or three more in the place, who employ girls as I do.

243. *Mr. Grose*, Whimple Street, Plymouth.—All shirts are given out; very few who make them have more than one or two to help; some have little girls to hem; but not many have. The pay is very small at the best; we pay only 1*s.* for making a flannel shirt, and that is nearly a day's work, but some pay only 7*d.* and even 5*d.*, then they have slop work put in, so that is done quicker.

244. *Mr. Jasper, one of the City Mission*, Plymouth.—Many of these women, who take out shirts and slop work, get four or five, some eight or nine to help them; they pay them so much a day; some no more than 8*d.*; 1*s.* is good pay. When they are pressed, they will work from 8 a.m. till 9 or 10 p.m. without any extra pay. Many of the rooms in the low part of the town are very dirty and small; you can scarcely breathe in them.

COLLAR-MAKERS.—London.

Collar-makers.

London.

Mr. H.W. Lord.

c.

Messrs. J. & R. Morley, Wood St.

245. *Mr. Gibbons.*—We employ only about 40 or 50 women on the premises; they make gentlemen's linen collars. The whole of our shirts, both linen or calico and flannel, we give out to be made; the latter are made in London in private houses; but the others chiefly in the north of Ireland; that I believe is all cottage work. Those whom we employ to make our flannel shirts, own sewing machines, and have, I dare say, in some cases a dozen or twenty persons in their employment; others have merely the family. We require a householder's security, before we give them work to take home. The material is all cut here, and printed directions for making up are sent with every bundle.

I can speak of the shirt trade from a personal experience of 22 years. In that time the whole of our colonial and shipping trade has come into existence; formerly the class of persons, who require the articles which we furnish, scarcely existed in Australia, New Zealand, or the Cape, and other places; now there are nearly all grades of society, and labour is so dear there, that it is better worth their while to have goods sent out from England ready made up; and the price they pay leaves a fair margin for profit on both sides of the water. The consequence is that the trade has been greatly stimulated, and there is in ordinary times a very far larger demand and production than there used to be.

It is a mistake to think that the condition of the workwomen has been injured by the introduction of the sewing machine. The same price is paid them now as was paid for some time before the introduction of these implements, and they are enabled by means of them to make more shirts in a given time. Nor is the number of workpeople more in excess of the demand for them than was formerly the case. Neither shirts nor collars are made wholly by machine; the side seams and button-holes, and nearly all the substantial part of the sewing is still done by hand. It is only the plain ornamental work that is done by machine; it is in fact applied to low-priced goods to relieve the worker. If the article were made wholly by machine it would cost more than it does by the union of hand-work with machine work. There is always sufficient work for good hands in London; we keep ours employed all the year round, if only to increase our unwashed stock.

I do not think that late hours are at all common in the London houses, where collars and shirts are made on the premises; some may go on longer than we do; perhaps at times until 9 p.m., but even that is not general in the trade, and certainly not necessary. We used to keep our workpeople here till 7 p.m., but we found it unnecessary, and so let them go at 6 p.m. It is a simple question of the amount of capital in the business; a sufficient stock to meet an unforeseen emergency will prevent any excess in the way of work; for the pressure with us is almost the same all the year round. We for example, keep 12,000 dozen unwashed collars in stock; but for some such arrangement an order for a thousand dozen would cover a month, if added to our ordinary production, instead of being washed and ready for shipment in a week, as we can now do; or else would involve overtime.

Our collar-makers here are all on piece-work; their earnings vary with their ability and their industry; machinists are rather higher paid than hand-workers; the latter might always earn 12*s.* and the former 15*s.* a week, if they pleased, but many do not come every day now, they average four or five. Here are their accounts: machinists, you see, one earning 10*s.* 10*d.*, another 14*s.* 6*d.*, others 16*s.* 4*d.*, 17*s.* 7½*d.*, and 1*l.*; this is a slow hand-worker, she earns 8*s.* 10*d.*, another 9*s.*, others 12*s.* and 15*s.* Each collar passes through a dozen hands from first to last before it is ready for sale; eight or nine of them are engaged solely in the making; the hand-workers do the tacking preparatory to the machines, and also the finishing.

Their hours with us are from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; on Saturday they leave at 1 p.m.; they have an hour for dinner at 12 and half an hour for tea at 4 p.m.; they provide their own food. We give them water and attendance with conveniences for heating, &c. All take their meals on the premises. They have a washing place and water-closet quite separate from the men, and a place to hang their cloaks and bonnets. We have taken some pains to have the room in which they sit properly ventilated; that is very requisite, for it is on the ground floor and generally lit with gas. We have had two zinc shafts carried from the top of the room to the roof of our warehouse; there are windows also in the passages and other rooms beyond, which are left open, so as to create circulation of air without a draught. The room you perceive is warm, but not hot nor close. Were it not for these appliances, it would be simply poisonous. I fear that in too many work-rooms in the City, ventilation is still totally neglected.

We never employ young ones; few are even under 18; those to whom we give work out have children of 11 and 12 years old, I believe, to tack for them; they pay them 3*s.* or 4*s.* a week.

246. Mr. Hellaby, Gresham Street West.

We work on the premises from 9 a.m. to 6.30 p.m., with an hour for dinner; those, or rather from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., with another half hour for tea, are the usual hours in the City. If more work has to be done, they take it home to do. The majority, by a very great deal, of the City work is given out. It is done as cheaply and better by employing those, who work off our warehouse, for gas and rent are saved us. I used to have more than twice as many as I now employ here. There are from 40 to 50 of them at present; we keep them chiefly for special orders; the bulk of our regular work is done out. It is just the same whether it is collars or shirts or ties. All the women's work is paid by the piece; they earn 6*s.* and 8*s.* a week in our hours; some machinists get 12*s.* and 14*s.* and even 18*s.*, others won't earn more than half that; it depends solely on themselves.

The braces are made at the homes of the workpeople; that is very poor work; in fact they can't earn enough in our hours, so they do it altogether at home.

Much of our work, shirts for example, we can get done better and cheaper in Ireland than in London; they are content to work for 10½ hours there, I am told, and earn from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.* or 5*s.* a week, at work for which our hands here wouldn't take less than 6*s.*, and then only work our nine hours a day. They are certainly taught better to use their needle there than girls in England are. Many of the London needlewomen seem to come to a work-place merely for the sake of the warmth and the companionship, without any capacity, and almost without any care, to earn much. At one time I tried to employ a large number in one building to make shirts; there were nearly 250, and I went to considerable expense about making it a good work-place, but before long I found it absolutely necessary to turn off all who could not earn more than 2*s.* 6*d.* or 3*s.* a week; and very nearly, if not quite three-fourths of them had to go.

Collar-makers.

London.

Mr. H. W. Lord.

c.

Messrs. Blenkiron's, Murray Street, Hoxton.

247. *The Manager,* who showed me through their work-rooms, informed me that they employed about 200 women on the premises, 60 of whom would be machinists; not more than one or two were under 13, and those were helping a mother or sister. He stated that it was very difficult to get them to stay at all longer than the usual hours, and that there was scarcely ever any need for them to do so. Work was also given out to persons at their own homes, some of whom had as many as 4 or 5 machines; they also employed none under 13, unless it were their own children to tack for the machine. His own experience led him to the conclusion that all the poorly paid work in the collar and in the shirt trade was home, and not factory, work, for that even the hand-workers in a factory could earn a fair weekly wage; button-holers, for example, were paid 3*s.* 6*d.* a gross.

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248. *U. T.*, at Field Lane Refuge.—I put bands on to ladies' collars, that is paid 6*d.* a gross; I can do a gross a-day in our usual hours, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; cuffs are 9*d.* a gross, they take longer; we find cotton. For flannel shirts we find both silk and cotton; I can do two of them in the day of 12 hours, 8.30 a.m. to 8.30 p.m.; those were our hours at S——; we used five years ago to have 7*d.* a shirt, now they give only 4½*d.*; there were 200 women there. I have worked in a West End shirt house, there were 20 hand-workers and two machinists; I have had there 1*s.* and 1*s.* 3*d.* a shirt, and all the machinery done. I have also worked at ladies' under-clothing; at that I used to make about 6*s.* 6*d.* a week.

The youngest of those at the factory, where I was, were making neckties, but none of them were under 16 or 15 years old; it was a good work-room, and the pay was at all events as good as most.

I have also been a button-holer; I could do eight dozen a day, and got three farthings a dozen, but that tried my eyes too much. I have been a glove-maker at Worcester; my sister is in a glove factory there now.

Ladies' Under-clothing.

London.

LADIES' UNDERCLOTHING.—London.

Messrs. Sharp, Perrin, & Co., Cheapside.

249. *Mr. Perrin.*—We manufacture baby linen and ladies' underclothing, including stays and skirts, but nearly all our work is given out. That is usually the case with wholesale houses like ours, and with the retail dealers who make their own articles also. We never have more than 30 working on the premises; at present there are only 20; but we furnish employment to I daresay four or five hundred persons out of the house; for we give work at one time or another to 80 or 100, each of whom will have on an average four or five working for them. Very few of them will have more than 10 persons, if so many, on their own premises at one time, but they may in their turn give out to others.

We begin work at 8.30 a.m., and for six months of the year leave off at 6 p.m. During three or four others we go on till 7 p.m., and for perhaps six weeks in April and May, and a shorter time in October, we go on later; even then 9 p.m. is our latest, and that not on an average, for sometimes, even in the busy seasons, they leave before 9 p.m. We close on Saturdays at 2 p.m. From November to January there is nothing doing in this trade; our hands come in and earn a few shillings, if there is any work for them; but we like them, for their own sakes, as they are paid by the piece, to get other employment for the slack season, if they can. When we want them, we know where to find them.

The youngest we have here is more than 16; we use sewing machines; it is very seldom that a woman over 25 or 30 takes to them. We consider that two machines employ three persons beside the machinists. Machinists earn from 12*s.* to 20*s.* a week; plain needle-workers from 5*s.* to 10*s.* It is the semi-genteel workpeople, who keep earnings low in our business; so many are ready to take in work at almost any price, that helps them to keep up appearances; they do not, as a rule, do our best work.

I believe long hours to be unusual in the City work-rooms; as a rule the warehouses are closed early, and it would be inconvenient to allow the workpeople to stay after the rest of the premises is closed, even if they would stay if left to themselves. But the truth is that the increased facilities for communication in the last 20 years have materially shortened the hours for all manufacturing houses and warehouses too.

The meal times with us are nominally 12 o'clock for dinner and 4 for tea, but it seems to me that tea is going on nearly all the afternoon.

[The work-rooms, which are of very recent construction, were very clean, and though low pitched, seemed well ventilated by means of a large square opening boarded round into the stock room below; water-closets and washing apparatus were provided.—H.W.L.]

Cheltenham.

Cheltenham.

251. *Miss Carne.*—I used to be saleswoman at the shop of the Provident Society in High Street, and there saw a great deal of the women who do plain sewing at their own homes. I am quite sure such persons work much later than any do in establishments like Cavendish House. I knew one who had a sick husband; she worked from 6 in the morning till 11 at night on most nights last year; she was a good workwoman and quick, yet if she worked for the ordinary 12 hours a day without interruption except for her meals, she would not get more than 6*s.* a week. Indeed, it is not uncommon for those, who take work out, to work half the night. Some have little girls of 12 years old, their own or a neighbour's children, to help them; I do not think the children work more than the 12 hours, and I believe they have all been to school, for there are plenty of good schools here, and they are well looked after.

Where this home work goes on, the household affairs are often very much neglected; but I think they have one advantage, the room is not nearly so close and hot as these girls, who work together, make their work-room, by keeping every window shut, and stuffing up every place, where the air can get in. The women have often told me, when I have asked them how they could do, as many have to do, without a fire on cold days, that the sewing makes them warm; if that is so, it must be because they don't make themselves so liable to take cold by excluding the air from their rooms, as these girls do.

Plain sewing has been very much neglected in the last 20 years: they are now paying rather more attention to teaching girls in the national and other schools how to use their needles properly; but no one, without taking pains to look into it, can have any idea of the ignorance of most women, who try to live by plain sewing; they scarcely know how to work, many of them.

STAY-MAKERS.—London.

Stay-makers.

London.

252. Mr. W. Thomas, Cheapside.

Mr. H. W. Lord.

c.

I have had an experience of 40 years as an employer of females in stay-making; our factory is at Ipswich, comparatively few stay factories exist in London, the material is cut out here, and sent into the country to be made up. We have not more than 10 or 12 girls in our stay department here; at Ipswich we have more than a hundred.

At one time, before the introduction of sewing machines, we gave employment to some thousand people; most of them worked in their own homes; filling up spare time and not wholly dependent on what they earned. The material was distributed from Ipswich and other places as centres through the surrounding country districts; carriers used to collect the stays and bring them in every week. We do not now employ one-tenth of that number. That reduction is not caused by the sewing machine, it is the combined effect of several changes in the trade; one great cause is that the cloth is woven double, and, by means of thread binders and reels fixed in the harness of the loom, the stitching for the bones and cords is dispensed with; indeed it is only required for seaming, goring, and binding, and that is done by machine; the only part done by hand now is the sewing round the busks and putting on the quilling. Another reason is that stays are made so much lighter than they were, when women fancied they wanted support in the stays.

I do not think that the introduction of sewing machines has of itself at all diminished the number of persons employed in any trade in which they have been adopted. If I were to want the same amount of work done, in the same time, and for the same price, as 40 years ago, I could not get it done; and no doubt girls are far better paid as machinists, than they were 40 and even 20 years ago, when needlework was all done by hand. Every machine maker is still sending out weekly a number of machines; there is a demand for persons to work them; the machinist thereby becomes more independent of her employer.

I think it imperative on employers to consider the health and the morals of the women whom they employ. A mixture of the sexes should be avoided as much as possible, and I think that women work best under a manager of their own sex. I have never employed a man in our Ipswich factory. In my opinion good sanitary arrangements have more effect than anything else with the working classes; there are many very unwholesome work-rooms in London, and in the country as well.

About half of our girls at Ipswich are machinists, and the other half preparing and putting up in the warehouse; a few scrape the bone and wrap it in paper or insert it in the stay; they also put in the eyelet holes, and the fastenings for the bodice in front. Whenever I go down there, which is once in three or four weeks, I make special inquiries about their health, and I find as a fact that fewer machinists are absent from illness than of the other class. There is one thing worthy of notice from a sanitary point of view, which affects others than stays makers. All persons who work on articles which have been "stiffened" in Manchester, suffer frequently from the bad size used in the process; it is worse with fustians, moleskins, &c., than with nankeen, satteen, and such materials that stay-makers use, but even the latter, particularly in moist warm weather, give out a vapour very offensive and injurious; the girls say they feel unwell, and think it is the dye that makes them so, but it is nothing less than actual decomposition, the oxidation of the animal matter in the size: I have suggested to the stiffeners using sulphate of zinc as an antiseptic, but they will not; some put salt in, but that makes the fabric damp.

They begin to learn the machine as soon as they are strong enough, some at 14 or 15 years old; they are paid by the piece; their earnings vary very much, one getting 12*s.* or 14*s.* a week, another perhaps at the next machine not more than 4*s.* or 5*s.*; many do not care to earn more than that, living with their parents, and perhaps keeping most of what they earn, as pocket-money or for dress. Their hours are from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., there is nothing in that respect I believe in the stay trade that requires correction.

253. Mr. Stephenson, Monkwell Street.

I can give you no accurate estimate of the number of women employed in London and its neighbourhood in stay-making, but they must be very numerous. Some, like ourselves, employ large numbers; there are many mere journeymen-masters who employ perhaps half a dozen; in our very busy times we have as many as 110 at work here.

In places like ours the hours, wages, and nature of work are all much the same. The usual hours are from 9 a.m. to 7 or 7·30 p.m. There are three times of especial pressure in the year, January, Easter, and July, the first and third being after the half-yearly stock-taking of the wholesale houses, and the second for the export trade. That pressure lasts from a fortnight to a month each time, and while it lasts, work generally goes on till 10 p.m., never later, I should say.

They are paid in most cases by the piece; the earnings of average machinists in the ordinary hours vary from 10*s.* to 17*s.* a week, and those of needlewomen from 6*s.* to 12*s.* Our plan is to keep on our old hands all the year round on full work, and turn off the new ones, when we don't want them. I should think we discharge about one quarter of our total, when the work becomes slack; others may turn off nearly one half: another plan is to keep all on, but to put them all on short time.

They begin to work at 14 years old, or even younger, I do not think any of our's are under 13. The youngest fasten the eyelet holes with the stamp; the needlewomen mend the corners, after the machining is done, or put the busk in, and do the basting. Each machine keeps two or three needlewomen employed. The introduction of the sewing machine has certainly not reduced the number of hands employed in the trade; its effect has been to cheapen the article produced, and thereby to increase the consumption of it; for instance, stays of this kind, which used to sell for 28*s.* 3*d.* a dozen, now sell for 21*s.*

We use the Lancashire machine, not Thomas'; ours require only one foot to work them, the workpeople either stand or sit as they please, each has a stool. We do not teach any their work; at some places they are taken on the terms of giving a month's work for nothing; that is especially with the little men; a clever girl will learn in half a dozen lessons. They are often taught, where the machines are sold, and pay a small sum, from 6*s.* to 10*s.*, for so many lessons. For the needlework part no special teaching is needed.

The machinists can turn to mantle-making, when we get slack. When they understand how to use a machine at all, they can easily learn to use it for different purposes. I don't think the extra wages they get over the needlewomen go in the shape of better food; they dress better; every spare sixpence goes on their back.

Messrs. Helby & Son, Portsea.

Portsea.

254. *Mr. Helby, Junior.*—We employ a large number of women in the manufacture of stays. Part of the work is done by sewing machines, we have from 55 to 60 of them; they all are on the premises. We also have 8 or 10 girls who "finish" here, but the finishing is for the most part given out to be done at home, about 200

Stay-makers.
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are employed in that way by us. There are two or three other stay manufacturers besides ourselves in this neighbourhood; I believe we employ the most of any.

The system, the hours, and the wages are much the same with all. They are paid by the piece, and work from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., or rather from 9 a.m., for many don't come much before that. Our machine hands have constant employment, they earn from 9*s.* to 12*s.* a week; beginners have 4*s.* or 5*s.* only for the first 12 months or so.

We have lots of applicants, but not more than two in a dozen can learn the machine properly; they do not pay any premium, the others teach them, they learn in about two months. Very likely their teachers expect some gratuity; I know that a man, whom we employed, used to exact something from those he taught; we sent him away.

They begin at about 13 years old; I think many of them marry; we have only one so old as 30 here. They are strong and healthy girls. We have a good room for them to work in, and all live off the premises. It is good exercise for the muscles, if it is not too long. All have stools, if they like to use them, so that they sit or stand, varying the position as they please. The material has changed in the last 20 years, they used to be of leather, but now merino is used instead.

Bristol.

Bristol.

255. Mr. Ellis, Old Market Street.

Conducted me over the whole of his stay factory, stated that he employed as many as 300 females altogether, nearly 200 of whom were on his premises, about 70 of the latter being machinists. Their hours are from 8 a.m. to 7.30 p.m.; occasionally they may have to stay as late as 10 p.m., but he reckoned that not to occur more on an average than once in three months for a night or two. He used to be later, but had found late hours to be on the whole decidedly disadvantageous to himself, and injurious to those whom he employed; at that time he had fewer machines than at present, and consequently had been obliged to keep those, which he had, longer at work, in order to meet the demands of an increasing business. Very few machinists were under 16 years of age; they were not apprenticed, but came for a month or so as learners, either giving work for nothing, or paying a fee of about 10*s.* to be taught. After that they were paid by the piece; some of the experienced ones earn 16*s.* and 17*s.*, the average being 12*s.* a week. Four or five to whom I spoke were between 12 and 13 years old, they were preparing whalebone; these were the youngest, they had all been to school and could read.

Mr. Ellis considered it to be to his own interest, to take measures to ensure the health of his workpeople; he had all the rooms whitewashed once or twice a year, the closets were "bucketed" every morning, and the windows on one side of the room were always kept open: I found this to be the case, though we went in without notice. Each had $1\frac{1}{2}d.$ deducted from her weekly wage to pay for medical attendance, Mr. Ellis himself adding $\frac{1}{2}d.$ in every case. Mr. Player, the medical attendant, stated the health of the girls to be very good.

256. Messrs. Langridge, Temple Street.

The subjoined information was given me on the premises of this firm, but, through a misapprehension, without their knowledge. I subsequently read it over to them and obtained their sanction for it.

About 300 females are employed on the premises, 140 being machinists; none are employed under 15 or 16 years of age, except five or six who are about 12 or 13, and are engaged in "cottoning" or drawing threads by means of a wire through the gores to form supports. The hours are from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., with an hour for dinner; some go home for that meal, but the majority stay; they have half an hour for tea, which is always taken on the premises. On Saturday they pay from 2.30 p.m., and all are off the premises by 4 p.m. Work is given out in some cases, but speaking generally the stay is finished throughout, as well as machined, on the factory. The firm give their hands a treat every year, paying the expense of their railway fare and their food.

[The Messrs. Langridge added to this, in answer to me, that they were satisfied that the health of the machinists was far better than that of those females, who were formerly employed in stay-making; and they thought that the sewing machine, by requiring a superior intellect for its management, had developed a higher class of workpeople in the trade.]

Manchester.

Manchester.

257. Messrs. Guthrie & Jones, Back George Street. (Feb. 1863.)

The hours here were from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., but 6 p.m. was said to be more often than 9 p.m. the time of closing. 95 persons were employed, 8 being male adults, the rest females, 79 over, and 8 under 18; the youngest was 12 years and 9 months old; she and another were engaged in pressing the metal eyelets on to the stays with a hand press; these earn from 4*s.* to 5*s.* 6*d.* a week. All are paid by the piece; those who work the sewing machines earn from 10*s.* to 16*s.*; skilled hands would average 14*s.*; the women employed in seaming and casing, which is coarser and harder work, get 7*s.* 6*d.* or 8*s.* for their week's work on an average.

Nearly one half stay at the works for their dinner; when they work till 9 p.m. they have their tea on the premises, where a stove and boiler are provided.

Some of the girls prefer the treadle, and some steam power for working the sewing machines, the former having the advantage, as some considered it, of standing instead of sitting, and so admitting greater freedom of action.

Mr. Guthrie told me that in his opinion the application of steam to work the machines was mere waste of power, as each machine must in either case have one girl to mind it, and the difference in rapidity of useful production was not very great.

Good hands were very scarce; Mr. Guthrie had advertised several times, but still had more than a dozen machines idle, though there was work enough for them. He had been lately taking three or four at a time from the sewing school for the unemployed mill-hands, and drafting them off to machines as they learned the work. Under these circumstances the hands worked much as they liked.

Messrs. W. Gargett & Co., Grosvenor Street. (Feb. 1863.)

None under 13 were employed at these works, when I visited them; six were under 18, and 41 adults, there being only 3 males. Their hours were from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., with an hour and a half for meals. These were very rarely, if ever, exceeded, and then only for half an hour or so.

258. *Mary Eaton.*—I worked at several other places before I came to Mr. Gargett's; always at a sewing machine, but for a different class of work. I have been sewing tucks at a machine from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. for three weeks together; we were not usually so late there. At another place I have worked from

6 a.m. to 10 p.m. on stays several times a week, but not for several weeks together. I was about 16 years old when I was working from 6 to 10.

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258a. *Miss Wall.*—I am head cutter-out for stays here. At another establishment I have worked, before I was 20, from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. for a week at a time in the summer. I don't think I did that for more than a month in the whole year. That was only a few years ago. There is no special season in the stay-making trade. Here we never work over time to speak of. Children under 13 are not employed to any extent in this business; it is too heavy; at some places they have one or two to stamp the eyelet holes. The shaking of the machines is very wearying. I can't say that I know of any particular effect of it. They drive them by steam instead of a treddle at some places. This cutting out heavy stuff tires me more than working the treddle; it makes my fingers ache so.

SKIRT MAKERS (CRINOLINE).—London.

Skirt-makers (Crinoline).

London.

259. Mr. C. E. Willson, Monkwell Street.

In the busiest time I employ more than 300 women here, and in my factory in Whitecross Street, making collars and crinoline skirts, beside a large number who take out those and other kinds of work to do at home. The other kinds are chenille nets, mantles and cloaks, quilted skirts, children's jackets, belts, and braces; none of those are manufactured on the premises. Many of those, who take our work out, will have other persons to assist them. The leather ends for the braces are stamped out here, and given with the elastic, which is made at Leicester or at Rouen, to be sewn on by the people at their homes. So also the belts are given out to have the buckles and ornaments fitted on. That is work of a very low kind, done about the Golden Lane district, in places where it would not be safe to go without some protection.

The hours for our collar makers are from 9 a.m. to 7 or 8 p.m. They may go on till 9 p.m. in March and April. The crinoline hands also usually average from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; from December to February they leave at 6, but from March to May they will generally go on till 9, and perhaps once a week till 10 p.m. They are very fond of being as late as they can on Friday; sometimes they will stay till 12, and would be later, if we allowed it; that is because we pay on Saturday, and they give over then at 3 p.m. They are paid by the piece. We used to pay by the day, but we find that we get much more work, and they get much more wage, at piece-work. The same machinists, for example, to whom we were paying 10*s.* or 12*s.* a week, now earn 18*s.* or 20*s.* in the same hours. The average earnings for hand workers, both in crinolines and in collars, is 12*s.* a week.

The skeleton skirts are made on blocks. Machinists are employed to put the tapes on to the stuff skirts; these are then also mounted on blocks for the purpose of having the flat steel inserted.

Sometimes we may have a few girls of 14 or so, who come to learn, working a month for nothing, but there are none such now; most, if not all, are over 16. They have a tea room. The factory is always whitewashed in the spring; there are two water-closets and plenty of water.

260. Mr. Hubbell, Vine Court, Moor Lane.

I employ as many as 150 young women in the season; their hours then are from 9 to 9, perhaps they may stay till 10 p.m. for three or four evenings in the whole time; the usual time for leaving is 7.30 p.m., except in our very busy times. Some of them are as young as 12 or 13, but most are over 16. The youngest earn about 4*s.* a week, the others 10*s.* and 15*s.*, but some not more than 7*s.*

The state of education among them is very low I fear; in that room, where some 20 of all ages from 14 to 28 are working, I should say scarce three can read and write. I had occasion a few days ago to ask them all to sign a paper about coming to work at fixed times, submitting to be searched, and other matters, and though all agreed readily, I had to sign for about 30. I have offered to provide a teacher for them for an hour twice a week, but none will take to it, they don't care about it. In America 19 out of 20 in such a place as mine would be able both to read and write. If there were a law compelling a certain degree of education it might be good in the end, but many would suffer at the first and for some time.

I take pains to have the work-rooms clean and comfortable for them; in the summer I give them all a pic-nic.

One girl of 13 could not read the word "shilling" in large print; another, who could read, told me that she knew of several in the room, who could not. An errand boy of 15 also could not read; they were all clean, well-behaved, and intelligent.]

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261. *Miss Ph.*—I work a machine at a crinoline factory in Shoreditch. There are 13 of us, the youngest is 15 and the next 17 years old. Our hours are from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; we have not worked later than 8 p.m. altogether for more than a week and a half in the last four months, since October, that is to say, and never after 10 p.m. at latest, and yet we are considered to be very busy now. The room is well enough, but machine work is too much for me; I am well, when not working the machine, at least much better; but I have never been very strong, when I have been working at the machine, I spit blood. I do not find standing at all more tiring than sitting for machine work. I had quite as soon stand as sit, and so would many. I have also worked at collar making, the room there was very small and crowded.

Manchester.

Manchester.

At Messrs. Rylands and Sons' Warehouse. (Feb. 1863.)

262. *Mr. Rylands, sen.*—I speak with some experience of the subject, for I have had to do with some 2,000 hands in the various businesses which we carry on for 20 years and more, and I can safely say I have never known an instance of injury arising from length of working hours.

There was perhaps a time when the operative required protection against his employer; things are now tending to the other extreme, and before long the employer will rather require protection against his hands. I do not refer to trades unions or any such thing, there is indeed nothing of the kind with us; what I mean is the growing independence of and dislike to anything beyond ordinary work. The Saturday half holiday, which is now almost universal here, is an illustration of my meaning. For my own part I think an hour less every day and no half holiday would be far preferable, it only encourages idleness, if not mischief.

Matters of health, ventilation, cleanliness, and the like I consider very fair and proper subjects for legislative interference; many workplaces are very unhealthy, in our class of business as much as in any. Masters and men seem alike reckless of the value of life; they don't care, though the conditions of earning a high rate of wage involve disease and death in 20 years or so, if only the earnings be high, while the power of earning lasts.

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As far as regards education, I think the scheme of some preliminary educational test would work well for every kind of business; it is the appearance of inspection that creates antagonism. I am no legislator, but I should say that the employer might fairly be required to have a certificate, signed by some competent person, produced to him by the parent or child, before he employed any under some fixed age, 13 or so; and employment without such might even be made penal on the employer.

Whatever restrictions are imposed, should be made as general as possible; to comprehend, that is, all children employed in any way in trades or manufactures, and the inspectorial system should be avoided as much as possible. An inspector, who is a kindly disposed and well educated gentleman, can get almost anything he wishes done by the manufacturer, but those qualities are not always there.

263. *Maria Curran.*—A year or two ago I was working at a sewing machine in a garret in Red Lion Street from 6 a.m. till 9 p.m. generally, and sometimes till 10 p.m. I was making tucks and got 5*s.* 6*d.* a week; the machine was worked by a treddle, not by steam as these at Mr. Ryland's are. Some of the girls there could scarcely stand when the day's work was done, they are so tired; there were five or six others there about my age or rather older. I was 17 then. My father took me away, he thought it was doing me harm. Here I earn 6*s.* a week, and have to work only from 8 a.m. to 6½ p.m. I am paid by the week. I dare say I could earn 8*s.*, if I were paid by the piece, for I should work harder.

[Mr. Rylands accompanied me through his premises, which are spacious, clean, and well ventilated. From him and from various persons, forewomen, work-women, and girls, of whom I made inquiries in his presence, I learned that the youngest children were employed in winding for the sewing machines; there were some as young as 13 and 14 working such of those machines as were moved by steam. The hours 8½ a.m. to 6 p.m. were observed throughout the establishment; but it was a very frequent practice for the milliners to take work home to finish; they were most of them above 18 and paid by the piece. Some in the week before my visit had earned 26*s.*, by working late at home.

The females had separate waterclosets, and water for washing was laid on upon every floor.—H.W.L.]

H. Hope & Co., 19, Church Street.

264. *Mr. Henry Hope.*—My numbers are now only 44, but in our busy seasons, spring and autumn, that is, we should have nearly 80, besides "outsiders," those that come to us for work, which they do at home. All my hands are females but the errand boy; three are under 13, the youngest of them is 10 years and 3 months; she has not been here three weeks; she is sewing buckles on to stuff waist bands or belts; several of the young ones do that work.

There are 14 under 18 years old; some of them pin the tapes on to the crinoline skirts, which are afterwards sewn by the elder ones at the sewing machines; all at the machines are over 18; the rest of the younger ones are either making nets for the hair or fancy caps.

Our usual hours are from 8.30 A.M. to 7 P.M., in which time they have an hour for dinner; but for six months in the year we are very generally working till 9 P.M.; never beyond that hour. When I first started in this business, a few years ago, and had not so many sewing machines, we used often to go on till 10 P.M.; that is still done here, I have no doubt, wherever there are only a few machines.

The girls who pin the tapes are paid 4*s.* 6*d.* a week, and the others from 9*s.* to 12*s.*; some of those, who are on the crinoline skirts at the machine, will earn as much as 18*s.* a week; that would be by taking some home after we close here.* They are paid by the piece.

They take their dinner when and where they please; all but five or six have it here, for they can have a kettle and a fire; there is a watercloset, you see, on the second floor, and a basin and tap for washing. They don't like having the windows open; they get cold enough by sitting still so long.

They are all respectable and and well-behaved girls; every one, even the youngest, I think, can read, and all but two or three can write; some are very fairly educated.

[My examination of several fully confirmed this statement. One girl of 19 told me that the working of the sewing machine did not tire any of them for the hours they had at Mr. Hope's; she had before worked for a firm, since bankrupt, from 8 A.M. until 10 and 11 P.M. sometimes; that was very tiring.—H.W.L.]

265. As more than a year had elapsed, since I obtained the foregoing evidence in Manchester, I requested Mr. Coles, the Sub-Inspector of Factories for that district, to ascertain for me, whether steam had in the interval been more generally adopted there as the motive power for sewing machines. In reply I received a letter from him, of which the following is an extract.

My dear Sir, Manchester, 3rd June 1864.

. . . . I have to-day paid a visit to several sewing machine places for the manufacture of crinolines, &c. I find that *power* is introduced into very few places in Manchester for working sewing machines. Out of the four places I have visited this morning only one employs power, and that not for the purpose of moving the sewing machines,† but for propelling machinery for covering the steel in the crinolines with cotton; which operation comes under the Factory Act. The places I visited to-day are,—

266. *Messrs. Ewin and Peel,* Dale Street.—Employ about 40 females. Working hours from 8·45 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sometimes when busy the females are kept until 10 p.m. All piece work. Average age of females from 12 to 25. The rooms are close and are very small.

267. *Elizabeth Hall,* worker at a sewing machine, said "I am 14 year old; I can read and write; I "work here from 9 o'clock in the morning until 9 "o'clock at night, sometimes until 10 o'clock. I "used to work at Fulshaw's. [This firm is now "extinct.] Some females used to work there all "night. I used to be kept until 11 o'clock at night."

268. *Mr. Thomas Kirk,*‡ Little Lever Street. Employs about 150 females. Ages from 13 to 40. Hours of work from 9 a.m. to 8·30 p.m; sometimes, when busy, until 10, but not later. Rooms large and tolerably well ventilated.

269. *Mr. David Barker,* Stevenson Square. Employs about 50 females or so. Working hours from 8·30 a.m. to 8 p.m., sometimes until 10 o'clock p.m.,

* One of them told me that she had earned 16*s.* 6*d.* in one week in this way.—H.W.L.

† The writer had, in a previous letter, mentioned one warehouse besides that of Messrs. Rylands' which I visited, (No. 262.) as having steam power used for this purpose.—H.W.L.

‡ In 1863 Mr. Kirk, who then employed fewer on his own premises, informed me that his busy season lasted from December to March; and that for about 6 weeks of that time they worked from 9 a.m. till 10 p.m. for 2 or 3 nights in a week.—H.W.L.

but never later. Age of females employed from 12 to 30.

270. *Elizabeth Bentley* said, "I am 12 years "old; I cannot read; I sew up the crinolines. I "come to work at 9 o'clock in the morning, and "work until 8 in the evening, sometimes until 9 "o'clock, but never later."

271. *Elizabeth Driver* said, "I am 15 years old. "I work at sewing machines. I come at 9 in the "morning and go home at half-past 8 in the evening. "I used to work in Swan Court. Used to work "there until 9 o'clock. Some girls used to work all "night at that place." The rooms in this place are small, but tolerably well ventilated.

272. *Messrs. E. Hodges and Co.*, 15, George street. Employ about 200 females. Average ages from 12 to 30. Working hours from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., never later than 10 p.m. Rooms large and well ventilated.

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I hope these brief notes will be of service to you. I know no class of workers in whose behalf the legislature might more properly interfere than these sewing machine workers. Females all young and some very good looking, working all day in crowded ill ventilated rooms, and then turned out at 9 and 10 o'clock at night, and sometimes later, into the streets of Manchester. All with whom I conversed to-day, employers and employed, agreed that this state of things ought to be remedied.

Yours very truly,
H. W. Lord, Esq. ROBERT W. COLES.

273. In another letter, dated May 27th, 1864, Mr. Coles says "great complaints are from time to time "made to me by the smallware manufacturers here "(Manchester), who are under the Factory Acts, that "some of their best hands are constantly leaving them "to go to such places, (*i.e.* where sewing machines "are used, where the hours of labour are unlimited."

MISCELLANEOUS.—LONDON.

Miscellaneous.

London.

274. *Miss Gregg*, Monkwell Street.—I employ girls in making chenille nets for wholesale houses. I have employed in and out of doors as many as 50; 26 work on the premises, half of them on alternate days. On the days when they are not here, they work at home. The youngest I have here are over 10 years old; it is work, which a child of 7 can do, and often does at home, in fact mere netting; but such young ones require too much looking after, and spoil their work. My hours here are from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and I give them work to take home which will last them till 8.30. I also give out work to be done wholly at home; I have constant employment for them; we have not been slack a day for three years.

They are very ignorant, not one-half can read. I had no idea until I took to this business that people were so ignorant. They soon learn the work; one, who has been here only four months, is now earning 6*s.* a week. They are learners for about a fortnight, and then begin at 1*s.* 6*d.* or 2*s.* a week, and so on; most are on piece work. A fair average worker can earn her 9*s.* a week; some of mine have earned 15*s.*, they would have to work at home late for that, perhaps till 2 or 3 a.m., for they will work much more slowly, as they get more tired; I know our work takes double the time, after we light up. Most live at home, and pay their mothers for their keep; some girls of 15 I have had who paid their mothers 8*s.* a week, and had to dress themselves, so that they were obliged to work long hours. They often take Monday as a holiday, and waste their time here. In the summer they sometimes will come at 6 a.m., that is when they want their evenings to themselves.

[A young woman here told me she had worked at a warehouse where more than a hundred were employed in net making, some as young as 11; the hours were from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.—H. W. L.]

AT THE NIGHT SCHOOLS FOR GIRLS, ST. MARY CHARTERHOUSE, GOLDEN LANE, CRIPPLEGATE.

275. *P.*—I am nearly 13 years old; I make neck ties at a place by Bunhill Row. There are 10 of us, I am the youngest, the rest are not much older. I work from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. for three days, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, because we come here to school; on the other three nights we go on till 9 p.m. to make up the hour we lose by coming here; we work till 9 on Saturday just the same as other nights. The proper hours are from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.; I have never been later than 9 p.m.

Another child of the same age as this witness, a "dress cap maker," gave me a similar account of her hours.

276. *Q.*—I am 13, began at 12 putting the steel into crinolines; our hours are from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., and sometimes to 9 p.m.; there are quite 40 or 50, then but only three or four so young as me. I made neck ties at 10; there were six girls where I was at that; we worked from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Another had begun at 8 years old to sew tapes on skirts for crinolines; she worked at home then, and usually from 9 a.m. to 9.30 p.m.

277. *R.*—Am 11, help mother at home making women's caps; began at 7 years old, have two sisters who are older, they help too. We begin to work at about 10 a.m., and, if we are busy, don't leave off till 12 at night for three and four nights in a week.

278. *S.*—Was making collars at 10 years old, generally worked from 9 to 7, but often stayed till 9 p.m.; only a few there.

279. *T.*—Began to help collar making at 10 years old; often worked from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. for several nights, not later; generally earlier, 7 p.m. and sometimes 6.

280. *V.*—Am 14, make fancy trimming at home, have always been at home; began that at 11 years. Fringe making was the first work I was put to; I was 4 years old then, I used to smooth it; we worked about the 12 hours, but did not tire ourselves.

Another had begun fancy trimming at 8½ years old, and worked from 9 a.m. to 8 and 9 p.m.; several others were employed with her. A third, who was 16, worked from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. twice a week.

281. *X.*—I helped mother to bind shoes at 9 years old; now I bind myself. I am 14; I often work, when we are busy at home, from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.; I never worked, when I was 9 or 10, longer than from 6 to 6.

Another told me that she began at home to make linings for boots at 6 years old.

282. *Y.*—Am 14; began at 10 to tack for boot machine, usually worked from 8 to 8; sometimes work the machine now, not more than six hours in the day; have always been at home.

283. *The Mistress of the girls' evening school, Golden Lane.*—In reply to your inquiries I beg to say that the girls' evening school, Golden Lane, contains about 200 pupils, and I think that I should not be very far wrong, if I said that not more than one-third of these were able to read, write, and cipher, when first admitted, the remaining two thirds not being able to say the alphabet.

This state of ignorance is a matter of astonishment to me, for upon inquiry I found that there was not more than a dozen, who had never attended a day school. Whether they attended these day schools regularly is another question. The age, at which they attend night school, is on an average from 9 to 15; age is no

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standard of ability, as frequently the younger know more than the elder ones.

The majority are employed during the day from 8½ a.m. to 7 p.m. in the various shops and manufactories in the neighbourhood. Some few work at home with their parents, or mind the younger children whilst their parents are out at work.

I cannot help observing that there is a marked difference between those who work from, and those who work at, home, the former being much more neat and clean in their general appearance than the latter.

The general tone of character is superior, owing, I should imagine, to their being subject to greater restrictions, whilst those who remain at home are more vulgar in their habits, being more exposed to bad example, and being more in the streets.

I can hardly draw a comparison between those employed in the factories and those who are employed in domestic work, as there are not more than eight or ten who are at service, and those, I am sorry to say, attend very irregularly, their excuse being that their mistresses cannot spare them.

284. At a belt and brace maker's in a court leading out of Golden Lane, to which I was taken by the Rev. M. S. A. Walrond, I found five females working, one a girl only 7 years old; she worked there from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., sewing the leather ends on to elastic web, for which she was paid 6*d.* a week, and a halfpenny for pocket money. Her elder sister, who was between 12 and 13, had worked in the same place for five years. She was receiving 1*s.* 9*d.* a week; a third, who appeared to be about 20, was earning 2*s.* 6*d.* a week, she had worked there for 14 years. The employer seemed a decent, hard-working, kindly woman, and sent her own daughters to school, employing them only on the half holidays. She was, so to speak, "the lady" of the court, and gave out work to several other persons, who lived in it.

At the Field Lane Refuge.

285. *S.K.*—I am now sewing straps on to elastic webs for braces, that is all home work; the lowest price is 2*d.* a dozen, that is what I get; I can do three dozen in a long day from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Many very little ones do that work, children of 5 and 6 years old. I have a sister, who is only 10, and has worked for three years at that and belts; she can earn 1*s.* 8*d.* a week. They put the fastening and ornaments on to belts, that is 3*d.* a gross; I can do two and a half gross a day.

I was a shoebinder from 11 to 15 years old; I used to bind a dozen children's shoes a day; for that I had 9*d.*; that was all done at home. Since then I have been a fitter at a shoe factory, where there were 36 females, all of them 16 years old and more; I had 9*s.* a week there, and for only five days, for the employer was a Jew. Our hours were from 8.30 a.m. to 8 p.m., not ever much later.

I have also worked in a shirt factory where the hours were 8 to 8. We were paid 5*d.* a body, I could do two a day; cotton used to cost me about 2*d.* a week, that is for two skeins.

286. *Q.P.*—I began to make neck-ties at 9 years old; that is 15 years and more ago; but I had been at cloth caps for more than a year before that, and used to earn 2*s.* 6*d.* a week helping two sisters, not my own. I used to run the linings, and put the crowns in; that, and the ties too, are still done by children quite as young, only the pay is not so good. I have worked at ties ever since, except one 18 months. The busy time for ties is from March to July, and again from October and part of November. I have been where 16 girls were working, most of them little ones, some under 12; we used to work from 9 to 9, but we often took work home, four nights out of the six, and till 4 a.m. often enough have I gone on at home. We were paid on Friday, and used to make Saturday a holiday. We got 5*d.* a dozen for stitching, and 4*d.* a dozen for plain work; I prefer the plain, for I can do four dozen a day of that to only three dozen of the other.

In the warehouses where they make neck ties, the usual hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., but they usually give it out. The youngest who work, where there are many together, are at least 11 years old; they hem the ends, and are paid by the week 3*s.* and 3*s.* 6*d.*

For 12 of that 18 months I was apprenticed to a waistcoat maker, there was only me there; the hours were generally from 8 to 8, but we used once a week to work all night; on other nights we were never after 8 p.m. I used to have 6*d.* for myself, when we worked all night, I had no other payment. I stayed with her for six months after my time was out, and had 7*s.* a week; but I was always hankering after neck ties, and so gave the waistcoats up, though I believe I could earn more at them, but a waistcoat is so long about that I get tired of it, before it is finished. I suppose it was being used for so long to get through three or four dozen ties in a day, that made me feel that.

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Messrs. Townend, Lime Street.

287. *Mr. James Townend*, who conducted me over his factory there, stated that the women employed in such establishments in London are few in number, and generally 20 years old and upwards, 16 such being then on his own premises. Their occupation consists chiefly in sewing the silk used for the ordinary black hat into the shape required for blocking, and in lining and putting on the binding and fastening the inside band, and occasionally in sewing the linings, and other parts, of light hats for summer wear, or for the colonies. This work is however done usually at home, as is the case to a great extent with cloth caps, and children's fancy hats and caps. The greater proportion of felt hats and caps are made in the neighbourhood of Stockport, and the Lancashire district, where for binding and ornamental stitching of soft material sewing machines are in general use. The hours in Lime Street are from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., and to stay as late as 9 p.m. is considered an extreme case; 12*s.* and 13*s.* is a fair average earning for the week.

Messrs. Townsend have also a factory near Stockport, the hours there are 10½. About 160 females are employed, 40 of whom are under 18 and some few between 12 and 13; half of those work in their own homes and the other half in the premises. The education of the younger ones is said to be neglected.

Messrs. Pritchard, Stamford Street.

288. *Mr. Pritchard*, and his foreman, stated to me that the busy season with them lasted from about the middle of March until the end of June for gentlemen's silk hats, and again from September to November for ladies' fancy hats (silk and felt). At those times females employed on the premises worked generally from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., and scarcely ever later; at other seasons they would begin between 9 and 10 a.m. and leave off at 7.30 or 8 p.m. Those hours they thought were rarely exceeded anywhere in the trade in London, except perhaps in the case of some who take out the "odd jobs"

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for the best West End houses; where the connexion was with country rather than town houses the hours had been reduced in the last 15 years, particularly by the rule adopted by carriers, such as Messrs. Sutton, to receive no parcels after 4 p.m. Thursday was the latest day, because the goods were sent to the country on Friday.

Most of the female's work was done at home; Messrs. Pritchard employed only 8 women on the premises, but twice that number out of doors; none whom they had were under 20, but some might begin at about 15 to sew the crowns or to line; those who sewed the binding on the brim would be older, as that work required more experience and was heavier. The sewing machine had not been anywhere adopted for silk hats.

289. *Mr. N. Marks*, Clifton Street.—Children's caps, both cloth and fancy, are usually made in the homes of the work-people; some persons in the trade have a few employed on their own premises, but that is not the rule; they are got up so cheaply, that it does not pay to have room and gas wasted on them, to say nothing of the trouble of looking after them.

Very young children of both sexes are employed at home to help, some as young as 7; they can stitch the lining and sew the cardboard in; very few can ever go to school. Sometimes a woman who takes out work, and has no children of her own, hires one or two, paying them 1*s.* or 1*s.* 6*d.* a week. The work is very poorly paid; even in the last five years the price paid for making has fallen to half what it was; these buckram bodies, which used to be paid at the rate of 11*s.* a dozen, now fetch only 5*s.* 6*d.*; the shapes are hot-pressed, not sewn, and a wire put round to preserve the form; some of the commonest kind are sold by the retail dealer as low as 4¾*d.*, so there cannot be much profit for the maker.

290. *Miss Ph*—— (same as No. 261).—I have made men's cloth caps, that work is all in the Jews hands; there were only two of us girls, and a younger one to help. I began with working from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. at that, but I left it off in a week, and took 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., for I couldn't stand longer hours; my employer made no objection, for I was paid by the piece.

291. Another manufacturer of boys' caps in this neighbourhood, who employed 20 on his own premises, told me that such cases were rare. Some had begun to work there as young as 9 years old; they were hired and paid by the men whom they helped, there being three or four children to each man. They were very ignorant, girls of 18 and 20 being unable to read. A woman who took out work for Mr. Marks said that she had two or three girls of 10 or 11 to whom she paid 1*s.* 6*d.* a week.—H.W.L.

J. E. & W. Christy, Canal Street, Stockport.

Stockport.

292. *Mr. Wakeford Christy.*—We have 370 persons in our employ on the premises: of them, 3 boys and 28 girls are under 13, none of whom are under 10; 29 lads and 74 girls between 13 and 18; 170 men and 66 women. Beside these, a large number work for us at their own homes.

The females are employed to bind, line, and finish the felt hats. All the girls under 13 go to school every morning, and come here at half-past 12; they never stay after 7 p.m. They leave at 1 p.m. for about an hour for dinner, as the rest do, but as the national school to which they go is over at 12, they run in for half an hour's work before dinner. We pay the school pence. A record of their attendance is kept by the schoolmistress in a book provided by us for that purpose, which is sent in weekly for inspection. All the work is by the piece. Their work is chiefly, lashing and "piecing off" for the trimmers and other women. Lashing is sewing the leather band, which is inside the hat round the edge; piecing off is cutting off the ends of the thread, which the binders leave, after they have sewn the binding on. We use a good many sewing machines for binding; adults and some older girls work them: some of the younger ones fasten the binding on lightly, preparatory to its being sewn by the machine. The little ones earn 1*s.* 9*d.* or 2*s.* a week; a good lasher may get 2*s.* 6*d.* We don't apprentice any; they pay a small sum as premium to the women who teach them. Most here have been with us from childhood. It is a clean and respectable business, and well paid. Trimmers may earn as much as 1*l.* per week; 14*s.* and 17*s.* is by no means uncommon.

We are making none but felt hats here at present; there are two busy seasons of about six weeks each, spring and autumn, but in slack time also we generally work to stock, so that the work does not vary so very much for the whole year. We turn out from 500 to 700 dozen a week.

The girls and women are very well behaved, their moral conduct is good; we should always send away any girl, who had an illegitimate child, but there has not been a case for ten years past certainly.

As the girls under 13 have so much less to do than the women whom they help, it is always easy for them to get through in the afternoon all the lashing and piecing off of the hats, on which the women have been working in the morning, as well as what they do in the afternoon too.

The usual hours are from 7 or 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., and on Saturdays till 4 p.m. In very busy times some may perhaps stay for an hour later, that would not be in more than two or three months, and by no means every night in the week. We had a very exceptional order some short time ago for foreign shipment under peculiar circumstances; in the four or five weeks, during which that was on hand, the women worked sometimes till 9 and once or twice till 9½ p.m., but that was altogether out of the ordinary course. The children did not stop then.

One of the boys under 13 is in the warehouse, the other two are errand boys for the men, who pay them, by an arrangement among themselves, about 5*s.* a week. The rest of the lads whom we have here are in the warehouse, or apprentices. We deduct a third from the apprentices' earnings, but even that leaves it too high; that lad, to whom you were speaking is only 17, and his full earnings last week were 1*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.*, and so he had 1*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.* for himself, he is a planker.

Planking is the chief employment of those who work for us outside. Formerly we used to give out the fur to the work-people, who, besides planking, "bowed and basined" it at home; you will find that still done so in many places. But we now do that by patent machinery, and give them out the hats "formed" as it is called, ready for planking. They work generally in sheds at the back or front of their dwellings. They are obliged to have plenty of ventilation to take the steam off. All the family work, girls as wells as boys, beginning at 13 or 14 years old. They bring their work in once a week and are paid then, that is called "padding" day; they don't do much on that day generally; some of ours have one day, and some another. I don't think that working long and late is a habit with them. A family of four or five persons will earn 3*l.* and 4*l.* a week.

The patent machinery which I mentioned is worked by steam power, the patent is ours, no one else in the trade has any thing of the kind. There are 18 or 20 lads engaged in connexion with it. It is in the same premises with our mill where we make our silk plush and lining. That portion is under the Factory Act, and though the other is not, we always observe factory hours; the same engine turns both sets of machines.

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You may say generally the work consists in blowing and forming fur, and carding and planking wool, that is to say, making felt hats.

[I found all the arrangements here very good for the health and comfort of the work-people; all whom I examined could read, and generally read well; the boys attended school on Sundays, and night school, or Mechanic's Institute in the winter, and had been to day school before beginning to work.—H.W.L.]

293. In company with the Messrs. Christy, I visited several of the sheds where the planking was done "out." In most of them there were large openings on three sides, with a sliding shutter; one place, however, was a mere cellar, the floor of which was five or six feet below the footway, with only a door and one small window open. Two men and three girls were planking here; the steam was disagreeable, and on a hot day would have been much worse; the girls had been weavers in a mill, and hoped to return to it, if they could not get taken on as trimmers at Messrs. Christy's, which they much preferred to either. They considered that planking was not "nice" work for women. This appeared a genera. feeling, though I found several, one only 13, but a very healthy looking girl, at the work; the great damp caused by the steam and slopping of the water, and, when they were not all members of one family, the working side by side with the men, would account for this. No one however spoke of it as being unhealthy, nor did any, whom I saw, seem to have suffered from it. One boy, as young as 10, was beginning to plank with his father, who was in full work; he could not read, and had never been to school, and could only reach to plank by standing on a stool. Such a case, I was told, was rare.]

Oldham.

Oldham.

294. *Mr. Woodrow.*—Hatting is a long established manufacture in Oldham, and we represent the oldest house there. Hatters generally work for the house their fathers worked for; it has been so with three generations here. We have only one under 13, a girl who is learning trimming, and three or four young women close upon 18, who do the sewing, lining, &c., most of them are women. We have only one apprentice under 18, the other five are older. Our number is limited by trade rules, two apprentices to ten journeymen, and one for every succeeding ten. The apprentices are strictly bound by formal indenture, and we are so much in the power of our men, that their sanction is required for every apprentice we bind; two of them have to come in as representatives of the shop and witness the binding.

All classes of hands in hatting earn very high wages. Here is our wage book since Christmas; there is one a young man of 24, earning 4*l.* a week, another an apprentice, aged 17, who has for himself 2*l.* 2*s.*, one-third being deducted by us from his gross earnings. Even women earn 2*l.* a week, and girls under 18, 7*s.*, 10*s.*, and 15*s.*, you see. They are all on piece work, and please themselves as to hours; they come between 7 and 8 a.m., or later, and stay till 8 or 10 p.m., if they like. On Mondays they don't come till about 10 a.m., and on Saturdays generally leave at 1.

We are in our busy time now; the women, however, do not stay, I think, after 10 p.m., the men go on till 11 and 12 p.m., some of them. All the different branches depend on one another, and if one is lazy or absent, others are kept waiting or idle. We suffer as much as any of them for the delay; for example, the "tipper" or shaper is the highest paid workman, he gives the final touch after every thing else is completed. A good tipper will turn us out not much under 16 dozen hats a week, of the value from 80*l.* to 100*l.*, we reckon at least 300*l.* a month. Now they often choose to absent themselves. perhaps for some days together, their work gets in arrear; we have paid those who have been employed on the previous processes, and consequently so much of our capital is locked up.

When beaver hats were worn, the roughing or napping was done out, as well as the felting and body-making, which are still done in the cottages of the work people to a great extent. We make hats of all kinds, materials, and shapes. That is our reason for the irregularity in our hours. Fashion gives us no notice now; 30 years ago shapes were permanent, and we could work to stock; now they vary from season to season, and everyone wants the latest.

There is, I think, a very marked improvement in the whole population of Oldham in the last 25 years; hatters have partaken of it as well as others. The fathers are a lower stamp of men than the sons. The brutal life that men used to lead, and be proud of, when I first came here, is gone. One great thing is the improvement of their dwellings. I dare say the enforced cleanliness in the factories has something to do with that. Another thing is the Sunday school. It may not teach them much, but I am persuaded it is the main thing, that holds together such a society as ours is. The very pride they all take now at Whitsuntide in the rivalry between the different Sunday schools is beneficial. No doubt there are yet very many among those, who dress themselves in finery, and walk in procession with their gay parasols, who are really very ignorant. For all that, it is a great social advance. What we now want is some force from without to prevent any from being employed, who can't read and write; at all events under a certain age. It would be the wisest and finest thing the legislature could do.

Salford.

Salford.

295. *Mr. Eveleigh.*—Very few young ones are employed in our trade. Of 195 male and female on our premises only 15 are under 18, four boys and 11 girls; three of the boys are merely errand boys. We have 60 women over 18, and the 11 under are not far short of it. Their work is binding and lining chiefly. All are paid by the piece; the women's wage will average at least 8*s.* a week, taking the year round. They are a very respectable lot. In the 25 years I have been in the business we have only had two or three go wrong. As to hours and meals they do just as they please; in fact they are the masters so far as that goes. In the spring which is our busy time, the steady ones will work from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., but many don't come till 9 and 10 a.m., and those who come latest generally leave earliest.

Bonnet-shape and Bonnet Makers.

London.

BONNET-SHAPE AND BONNET MAKERS, &c.—London.

296. Mr. Harding, Aldersgate Street.

I employ about 100 females in making bonnet-shapes on the premises, and 300 more out of doors. I daresay 25 of the 100 may be under 13; they are hired and paid in most cases by the older ones, whom they help; except a few, who merely put the tickets on. In their own homes many begin the work at 10 years

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of age; they sew the wire round the crown, and sew the front on to the crown, after it has been placed by an older one. None who do that here are under 11.

Those who are under 13 never stay after 8 p.m.; from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. are their hours; the older ones stay at times till 10 p.m., and sometimes don't come till 10 a.m.; they leave on Saturdays at 4 p.m.; some take work home. There is very little done, either here or at home, on Monday. The season in the trade is from February to May, and again from August to November; but we work to stock, and so have constant employment for most; that is not general.

They earn good wages; the older ones 18*s.* and 21*s.*; even the helpers sometimes 6*s.* and 7*s.* Four of the young ones are trimming with scissors the crowns, after they have been hot-pressed or "turned." One, who is only 10, earns her 5*s.* 3*d.*, and two others, who are older, 6*s.* 11*d.* and 8*s.* 6*d.* last week; another of 15 earns 11*s.*

Many of them are quite ignorant; even young women, who earn 1*l.* a week, can't write their name.* There is one of 14, who earns 8*s.* and 9*s.* a week, she cannot read a letter. I am trying to teach her; she is quite the reverse of dull—so are many,—only utterly neglected; frequently the children of parents who earn good wages, but spend all in drink, the mothers as well as the fathers.

I keep a servant, to whom the grown-up ones pay 2*d.* a week for cooking their meals, washing their cups and saucers, &c. All dine here; they dine in four parties, between 12 and 1.30 or 2 p.m.

Those who work at home are very irregular. Monday is always wasted, and they don't begin really to work till Wednesday. They bring in every day, and we pay the out-door hands at 1 p.m. on Friday, so that probably they are often late at work in the middle of the week to make up their time; many are married women, and like to have a day to clear up; sometimes they will have a strange girl in to help, particularly to bring the work in, but it is usually kept to the family.

Willow bonnets are also made at home; there are none so young at that. The price paid for them varies very much, and it frequently is the case that more may be earned in the same hours on the commoner than on the better kind; of this kind, for which 2*s.* 6*d.* a dozen is paid, they can make two dozen in 12 hours; but they would not make one dozen of these at 5*s.* It depends chiefly on the width of the row; here there are 40 rows in the brim alone, all to be carefully sewn; those are 15*s.* a dozen.

297. Mr. Makeham, 9, Old Street Road.

Informed me that willow bonnet making was peculiarly a London manufacture, and that not one-tenth of the persons engaged in it were employed away from their own homes. The females, who were on his premises came there merely for convenience, and were under little or no control of any kind; they were not there 12 hours a day, and earned from 12*s.* to 18*s.* a week. Three of them had each an apprentice,—the youngest there from 15 to 17 years old,—who paid no premium, but gave their work for three months in return for being taught. Those who came out to work did not reside with their parents, but kept themselves. He did not think that even in their own homes children of 9 or 10 years of age would be of any use in making the bonnets. He had recently employed several under 13 years old, two as young as 7, for a few weeks to put fancy edges on to bonnets. They worked then from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., earning 3*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.* a week, and did the work very well. Many could not read at all; even girls of 15 could not. Such employment was always precarious and of short duration.

298. Mr. Spencer, Steward Street, Spitalfields.

I employ about 50 females on the premises, either in sewing, or trimming, bonnets of willow or manilla cloth. The willow is woven in the country chiefly, especially at Albourne, in Wiltshire, in pieces of about 3 feet 6 inches, by hand-loom in cottages; girls and women weave it, having little children of sometimes 7 or 8 years old as sewers to hand them the strips which form the weft; the warp is fastened over the beam with cotton ends, each being separately tied. The manilla cloth consists of a warp of cotton with a weft of manilla grass; the grass is dressed here by men just as flax is; then, after being dyed or bleached, it is given out to be woven in the neighbourhood by a process similar to the willow weaving; the cloth is then brought back, and cut diagonally with scissors into strips, which are doubled and shaped by the hand, and sewn together to form the bonnet, as the straw plait is.

None of our bonnet sewers are under 20, there are a few learners from 14 years old upwards; they will be cutting and doubling the strip. Our hours are from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; in the spring and the fall of the year, when we are most busy, they stay till 9 p.m., but very rarely, if ever, after that. They are all paid by the piece; many earn 16*s.* and 18*s.* a week. They are very independent, and often take a half-holiday on Monday, going off at tea-time, 5 p.m. My difficulty is to get enough to come to work here; plenty are ready to take work home, but they dislike the fixed rules and regularity of a work-room, and are much too fond of singing places and dancing saloons, and such places, which are the causes of incalculable mischief to young women of that class.

Messrs. Allan & Badger, Cheapside.

299. *Mr. Lathbury.*—I am very familiar with the straw bonnet trade, in fact I was born among it in the country. Most straw hats and bonnets are made in Luton or Dunstable, in which places there is a market for the straw plaits brought in from the surrounding villages. They make them of all qualities there; only the best kind are made in London; in fact, though the London manufacture has not diminished, the manufacture in the country has increased beyond all proportion. In London all is taken home by the workpeople; some will take out work for as many as 40, and may employ 10 or 12 on their own premises. Few, if any, are under 14; they average at least 20 years old. The younger ones sew the crowns of bonnets down to the gore; they have blocks at their side or in front of them for the purpose.

The hat or bonnet is also stiffened or wetted, and pressed or blocked; that is men's work generally the latter always; they are finished by "wirers and liners," who are women; the wire is put round the edges to preserve the shape.

From 10*s.* to 25*s.* may be fairly earned by straw bonnet hands, working say from 9 a.m. till 9 p.m. We have young women employed on the premises here, but they are milliners. April is their heaviest month, but March and May are heavy; from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. will be their latest even then; they do not work so late as 11 p.m. four times a year. Some 16 bonnet makers in a warehouse at Luton, will have, I expect, to work for me there nearly all to-morrow night, but such a thing is very rare. They will not be little ones.

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300. *Miss Wood*, Powell Street West, Goswell Road.—I employ 8 in making straw and crinoline bonnets, they sew the plait, and form it to the requisite shape, it is then sent out to be blocked by

* Some lads of 12 or 14, who were helping the "crown turners," were said to be equally ignorant. They are paid 6*s.* a week.

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men. The youngest here is 15 years old, she is finishing and trimming, there are three others so engaged; I don't take apprentices; some take one or two, they pay a guinea, if they go for six months, and nothing if for a year.

From 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. is the longest time that any work here, some take work home. It is very light work, but still it is very tiring to sit so long, the shoulders get very cramped and the fingers very sore. All is piecework, some kinds 1*s.* 6*d.* and others 2*s.* a dozen, and the 2*s.* is sometimes more easily earned than the 1*s.* 6*d.* They bring their meals and cook them in the kitchen.

BOOT AND SHOE MAKERS, London.

Boot and Shoe-makers.

London.

301. Messrs. Hickson, West Smithfield.

The boot and shoe manufacture is still in the unsettled state occasioned by the introduction of sewing machines; employers have scarcely yet determined whether it is better for their interests to have a large number of machines on their premises, or to give the work out to men having perhaps three or four machines, and employing 10 or 12 females in places of their own. We for three years had more than 60 working here, the majority of whom were machinists, but since last Christmas we have adopted the other plan, and now have only 8 machinists and 4 or 5 hand workers on the spot.

Many of those who used to work for us here have bought of us the machines they used, paying back by instalments, and now take out our work; several of them have been enabled to add other machines to those, and so become in their turn capitalists on a small scale. We believe that the work is done for us better and cheaper by means of such persons. It does not appear to answer so well for them to have only one machine; with three or four each machinist can confine herself to work of a particular kind, and thereby the time of adapting the machine to a change of work is saved, and the worker by continued practice becomes more skilful. Probably as much as a third of the "women's and children's" sale trade is done by garret masters; one man taking a particular part, and making nothing else. Sometimes they buy the skins anywhere, and sell the manufactured article to the dealer, at other times they may take the skins out from the warehouse, and return them in a manufactured form.

The tendency of things in London is not towards collecting large numbers; that is being done, to a greater extent in provincial towns, such as Leicester, Norwich, and Northampton. In the latter place, however, there are many small masters; one to whom we send work down has 13 machines, and will consequently employ about 30 persons altogether, reckoning three handworkers to two machinists, which is the usual proportion, though with us it is less, as we have taught our machinists to do much more than is ordinarily done by machine.

We were nearly the first to adopt machines in the trade, and consequently had to teach our hands; most began at about 15 years old, one or two were younger, one was as young as 13½; several of them had come as helpers, to go on errands, to baste, and to do other light work at 12 or 13 years old.

Before sewing machines were used, though women were sometimes "closers," the majority of hand closing for men's uppers was done by men "closers;" females were employed as binders; they used not only to put on the binding, but to close women's uppers, to sew the holes for laces, &c.; they were usually widows or daughters of journeymen, and did not depend solely on their own earnings. But now, in the sale trade as opposed to the bespoke trade, so much is done by machines that there are comparatively few binders, and they have not constant work. They live at home. Carpet and leather slippers are also made in private families, chiefly by Jews in the east of London. That is all hand-work and very poorly paid. Binders' wages were also very low, before machines were used to bind, 6*s.* or 7*s.* being the most they earned in a week; now machinists earn twice that sum. Many a machinist earns on an average 18*s.*, and some of ours have been paid 28*s.* and 30*s.* for closing; they will get 10*d.* and 1*s.* for work, for which we paid men closers 2*s.* 6*d.* and 3*s.* 6*d.*, but they can do so much more in the time.

Our hours are from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., the machinists come half an hour later; on Saturday we leave off at 4. For two months of the year altogether, perhaps for two or three weeks at the spring, and again at the fall of the year, they stay till 9 p.m. [One girl told me that she had stayed as late as 9 only once in the whole of the past year.—H.W.L.] All are paid by piece except the helpers; the handworkers in some cases—the fitters that is—earn as much as 18*s.* a week in our ordinary hours, but their average is 10*s.* or 11*s.* They are basters, tackers, or fitters; the fitter uses a knife and paste with her fitting last, the others a needle; both prepare before, and finish after, machining, but the fitter is employed on men's and best women's boots.

We now adopt the plan of paying the machinist only; she pays her own baster, and finds her silk, thread, and needles. Many girls never succeed with machines, we have had four or five give up from pure nervousness, one broke eight needles in one morning. Their health is generally very good; we have repeatedly had women go on to within a day or two of their confinement without any ill effects; one however, who had a tendency to consumption, could not go on; the doctor considered that the stooping injured her; one or two more we have had complain of head ache, and one, who has notwithstanding worked for eight years, of the eyes suffering. On the other hand we have one nearly 50 years old, who works with powerful glasses. It is very important that the gas jets for the machines should each have a screen to shade the light from the eyes; it is also necessary, where a number of machines are collected, to have proper ventilation, for, as each machine must have a separate gas jet, the room becomes very hot and unwholesome; even with the few machines we have now in each of our rooms, they sit on these cold days in the evening (Feb. 11th) with the windows open. There is one evil of a system of giving work out, that the rooms will be ill adapted for workrooms. Long hours of work also would be likely to occur in such places; we, for example, should prefer to close our place at 7 p.m. as usual, and if pressed, send the work out to be done, so that they might perhaps work in such places half the night through for us. We see a tendency that way already.

We do not think steam power applicable to our work, the difficulty of checking the speed is so great, and it is necessary to be continually stopping, or at all events slackening; indeed their hands are constantly on the plate, it is not like the long straight seams of trousers and great coats.

301a. [The girl who worked this machine told me that she thought she could not go on at it from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., as she had done at Thomas's, that had made her very tired, but it occurred very seldom, and her health had not suffered in any way.—H.W.L.]

Messrs. J. Joseph & Sons, Skinner Street.

302. About 100 females are employed here. The machinists do their own knot tying, so that children are not employed. I saw none under 16 years of age. Mr. David Joseph allowed me to examine several of the workpeople in a separate room adjoining their workroom. Their evidence with regard to the effect of machine work upon their health I subjoin as it was given. The hours are, for nine months, from 9 a.m. to

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7 p.m., with an hour and a half for dinner and tea, which most take on the premises; for the other three months, which is the busy time, from 8·30 a.m. to 7·30 p.m.; that is the utmost at any time. They have generally two days holiday at Christmas, a day and a half or two days at Easter and at Whitsuntide.

303. *Miss Hillier.*—I have worked a machine for three years, I was 18 when I began, it gives me a pain in the chest; the pain goes off in the morning always; I don't feel it more in the winter, when we burn gas; it is worse in summer. Our regular hours are from 9 till 7; when we work longer than that, the pain is worse. I have never worked more than an hour longer. I never worked at needlework all day, before I learned the machine. I think it is caused by stooping; probably it is only indigestion, I thought of taking advice about it, but never did.

304. *Miss Ellis.*—I am 17. I have worked a machine two years. I have a little pain in my chest sometimes; I believe I stoop more than many do. I have been here a year; where I worked before, the room was smaller and the hours longer, but my health was no worse then than it is now. My eyes have never suffered.

305. *Miss Jates.*—I began to use a machine at 17, that is two years ago, it never did me harm; before that I was a fitter here. My health has certainly been better since I worked the machine. My hours at fitting were the same as now; I worked in the room down stairs.

306. *Miss Kipping.*—I have been at machine work for five years; before that I was a binder, and worked at home. My health is better now than it was then; I have only been to a doctor twice in these five years, it was for a cold each time. Some do suffer from machine work, in their chest mostly. I think it often comes about in this way, they play and gossip and waste their time for half the morning, and then injure themselves by working hard to make up what they have lost; we are paid by the piece. I do not think any harm would come of machine work, if people only worked steadily in our regular hours.

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307. At *Messrs. Flatau's, Leadenhall Street*, about 30 females work on the premises, the hours being from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., with an hour and a half for meals. None were under 13. I received from the Messrs. Flatau information generally corroborative of that given by Mr. Hickson. (No. 301.)

308. *Mrs. Porter*, of 40, Britannia Street, City Road, who takes out work—"uppers"—for Messrs. Hickson, allowed me to see her work-room and make inquiries of the various persons employed there. She informed me that for numbers, size of premises, age of workwomen, and hours of work, hers was a fair average specimen. She had 5 machines and 7 or 8 tackers in the work-room; this number, 13, being usually kept up from February to October. Each machine had a gas jet, besides those which lit the tackers' table. None had shades. The size of the room at a rough but liberal measurement was 12 × 10 × 9 ft., giving 83 cubic feet per head. There was no contrivance for ventilation beyond two windows and a fire place.

None had begun work before 14 years of age, and at the time of my visit only one, a kind of servant girl and general helper, was under 17. The machinists were paid 12*s.* a week, that being by the day. The hand-workers, tackers, or basters were paid by the piece, they earned in the week nearly as much as the machinists, but had to work two or three hours more than they to to do so; the machinists' hours being from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., and 9 p.m. the latest, while the tackers very frequently, if not usually, worked from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Mrs. Porter's daughter, a fine young woman of about 20 years of age, told me that, if there was any work to be done late at the machine, she did it herself. and had actually worked for the whole of the last season, she said, from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. on every week day but Saturday, when she left off always at 6 p.m. She said that she found her head ache now and then, and her hand shook so, that she could never hold a pen: but she declared that her health was in all respects very good. She had for three years, from about 14 years old, worked in a shoe factory in London, where for the summer half of the year the hours were from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Her mother told me that she thought she must not allow her to work so late again.

309. *Mrs. G.* (the wife of a journeyman in Mile End New Town) stated to me that her two daughters, one of whom was only 13, often had to work at home from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.; the elder one worked a machine, but not for the whole day, as she varied it with hand work from time to time; the younger one was "fitting."

310. *Mr. G. H. Rabbits*, of Elephant House, Newington Butts, informed me that, although several years ago persons had been employed by boot and shoe manufacturers in large numbers upon the premises of their employer, especially in the case of women working at sewing machines, the tendency of the trade in the last two or three years had been decidedly in the opposite direction; it having been found more convenient to give out work to different men, who were possessed of 3 or 4 machines of their own, than to have the superintendence of 30 or 40 in one place. He considered that very few manufacturers in London employed any number on their own premises. He accompanied me into his own work-room, where 2 machinists and 5 hand workers, all females, were employed in stitching the upper cloth and leather of children's and ladies' boots. We asked each of them whether they would prefer working at their own homes, or in the room in which they then were: only three would give their opinion; of them two (one being a machinist) said they should prefer to be at home, because they should not be tied to fixed hours of work, and because they could cook their dinners more comfortably; both the hand-worker and the machinist adding that, if they had not a machine at home, they would rather be where they were, as they would otherwise earn less.

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Leicester.

Messrs. Walker and Kempson, Market Street.

311. *Mr. Walker.*—The wholesale boot and shoe trade of Leicester may be said to have come into existence in the last five years; up to that time there were only one or two wholesale manufacturers in the town, now there must be from 2,500 to 3,000 females alone employed, chiefly in large factories. I arrive at that number by reckoning the number of sewing machines, which is tolerably well known, at somewhat over 800, and taking a proportion of two fitters to each machinist, with a margin for those who are otherwise employed.

Most of the females work in the factories; work is, however, given out to some, who own or hire a sewing machine, to do at home. We have now some young women from a country village in the neighbourhood learning the use of the machine; when they are proficient, they will be able to have their work at home, and bring or send in every week or so.

I wish to encourage that system, but I do not think it will become so general as to put an end to factory work.

We employ about 300 females on these premises, and at another factory. Their hours are from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. in winter, and from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. in summer; they have an hour for dinner, and half an

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hour for tea in winter, for breakfast in summer. On Saturday they are paid at 2 p.m. The difficulty here is to get them to work long enough; there is no fear of their being overworked. Many of our women do not come now till 8·30 or 9 a.m., after breakfast, that is, though our doors open at 6 a.m. They can earn good wages without overworking themselves; an average machinist, who attends to her work during our regular hours, makes her 12*s.* and 14*s.* a week, and an average fitter 10*s.* and 12*s.*

We have very few under 13, I should say, and those at our other factory are older than these are here.

[I went round with Mr. Walker, and found only one girl under 12.]

Probably the factories in the town all resemble each other, in the hours of work and ages of the workpeople. The only thing that I know of, which requires special attention, is the overcrowding, and want of proper ventilation of the workrooms; it is, I am well aware, a fault with our own, but we hope to have better ones before long. That is one invaliable result of a trade that developes itself very rapidly; the employers really have not, as it were, any time to look about them, and are overtaken by a press of work, requiring many more hands than they ever calculated for, and so they are glad to use any rooms they can.

I think also that a general adoption of a half-time system for children would be productive of great good.* I indeed proposed recently to send all the boys, whom we employ, to the Great Meeting Schools; one set to go to school in the forenoon, and to work in the afternoon, or the contrary; but the master says that the Government capitation grant would not be allowed for half-time attendance, so it could not be carried out.

I am sure it would be an excellent thing, and there is nothing in the nature of the work, either for boys or girls, to prevent it being generally adopted. Although our hours are not very long, and the children's work not very hard, still ten hours is a long time for young ones to work, and it would certainly be better for them to work a little less, and give up some portion of the day for education.

It would also get rid of the complaints, which we hear constantly from the masters and mistresses of day schools, that the children are so soon taken entirely away; in all probability the children would learn nearly as much in their half-day's schooling, as if they were at school all the day without any change.

At first there would be objections on the score of inconvenience urged on the part of the men, and perhaps of employers too. But I am confident that the best class of employers and of parents would see the value of that mixture of work and school; they would set an example, and the rest would fall in by degrees. I would adopt it at once myself.

If I am rightly informed as to the grant, it would be well to give a proportionate capitation fee, so as to include half-timers, the masters and mistresses, being thus themselves interested, would encourage and help the parents in seeking work for their children, instead of being, as they now are, adverse to it; for then they would feel that they had a stronger hold on the child by reason of the very work, which before took it out of their control altogether.

[A girl of 17 who was "pressing" here, told us that though she did not mind it, that was far too heavy work for a child of 12 or 13 years old.—H.W.L.]

Messrs. Crick & Son, Red Cross Street.

312. *Mr. Johnson* (foreman).—Mr. Crick was the first to introduce the wholesale boot and shoe manufacture into Leicester; that was 30 years ago, I have been with him all the time. There are now many others, but none employ so many on their own premises as he does.

The Leicester trade is chiefly in women's and children's goods; men's are also made here, but that is the Northampton trade for the most part.

We employ 420 females, most of them on our premises; by far the greater number of them are between the ages of 15 and 23; we also employ 300 men and boys, a good many of the latter are between 11 and 14, one or two may be under 11. We allow some girls to work at the sewing machine at 12 years old; those who are younger wind the reels for the machinists, and put laces in: there may be six or seven under 12; there are not a dozen under 13.

I think the health of machinists is good, they certainly have to watch the work very intently, so that it might be trying to the eyes, but they seem to get used to it very soon, and, as a matter of fact, their eyes do not suffer. Most of our machines are moved by steam power. I think ours is the only factory in the town where that is so.

Our hours are in summer 62½ in the week, from 6 a.m. to 6·30 p.m. for men and boys; the females do not come till 7·30 a.m., and breakfast before they come. Dinner is at 12·30 p.m., they have ten minutes grace before and after the hour.

The two sexes have separate entrances to the place of work, and dine at different times. On Saturdays they leave at 2 p.m. In winter our hours are from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., then they have half an hour for tea at 5 p.m. with the same grace. Occasionally some of the hands work overtime, scarcely ever the whole factory, but just those engaged on a particular kind of work. It never continues for long at a time; once last year most of them worked every night in one week for an hour or two overtime, but that is unusual. Most are on piece work.

[From the wage book it appeared that the earnings of competent hands, whether machinists or fitters, varied from 8*s.* and 12*s.* to 15*s.*, and even 20*s.* a week. One girl under 16 had earned 16*s.* in the previous week without overtime. The average was 11*s.*, some of the younger ones had made 2*s.* 4*d.*, 3*s.* 6*d.*, and 4*s.*; two winders aged 10, the youngest there, had 2*s.* 6*d.* a week.]

Parents bring their children to work a great deal too young. I have asked some, if they think we keep an infant school; but, indeed, many use their children just as farmers use their cattle, to get what they can out of them, and have no regard either for their health or their education. I am sorry to say that the result of my experience is that, as wages increase, morals decrease; the men, and women too, become more improvident, as they find that they can earn more than is absolutely necessary to support themselves and their family. There is more comfort in the household, where a much smaller weekly wage is earned, than where a man can get a large sum at irregular work by the piece. For instance, one of our men, who works with his son and another youth to help, has frequently 4*l.* a week, and yet the whole furniture in his place is scarce worth 4*l.* altogether. He has a wife and several children.

Some employers let out sewing machines just as the old stocking frames were let for hire to the workpeople at their own homes. We do not do so. I believe they pay about 1*s.* 6*d.* a week.

* In a letter written subsequently, Mr. Walker stated that he did not think that any Government regulations would benefit the working women or children, but hoped that the question of a capitation grant would be brought under the consideration of the Education Commissioners.—H.W.L.

[313. Mr. Crick, jun., who conducted me over the whole of these admirably arranged premises, stated that he would himself have no objection to be under the Factory Act, and he thought that no respectable employer would, if only the smaller men could be reached, as well as the owners of large factories; otherwise they would, he considered, be able to drive the larger manufacturers out of the market for common goods. His opinion was that on all grounds, sanitary and moral, the finishers, who worked with a few hands at home, were in greater need of regulations than any other class in the trade.]

314. Mr. Charlesworth, Stamford Street.

Employs from 60 to 100 females on his own premises, according to the season of the year, allowed me to see his wage book, and stated in answer to me, that there were no deductions of any kind for materials, light, or rent of machine, in any boot and shoe factories, so far as he was aware, and that the wage book therefore in each case showed, what really went into the pockets of the workpeople. The females employed on his premises earned on an average 12*s.* and 14*s.* a week. He considered that, if a regular factory system could be made to reach the worst places, the finishers and other small workshops, the whole trade would be benefited. He also noticed a habit of men employed in the newly adopted mode of fastening soles, that of riveting, as being likely to be prejudicial to health. In order to have a nail constantly ready to hand, the nailer puts a quantity into his mouth, and presents them one by one upon his under lip, pushing them out with his tongue.* The nails are made of iron or brass, and are said to produce "cankered" mouths and tongues.

Mr. Charlesworth's foreman, who conducted me over his premises, stated that scores of parents brought children every Monday as candidates for employment, who were much too young. We found only one girl as young as 12, but several had, he said, been "sent off" in the week before my visit, as too young for work; they had been let in by one of the overlookers without his sanction.

315. Mr. Stanyon, Belvoir Street.

I have had as many as 120 machines on my premises, but I now much prefer to give my work out, and have only about 20 females here for any special or sudden order. I let out my machines at a fixed rent of 1*s.* a week; some have two, and a few three, of them. The cost of a machine is 11*l.* or 12*l.*, and reckoning that they get knocked to pieces in two or three years, still it answers my purpose. In some cases I have arranged to let them purchase the machine at the end of a year, allowing the rent they have paid. I would not go back to the old system, for I get by this means a better class of girls, whose parents would not like them to work in a factory.

Messrs. Stead and Simpson's, Belgrave Gate.

316. *Mr. Gee* the manager, and *Mr. Ward* the foreman, informed me that about 120 females were employed there. I found on enquiry that several were under 12, four or five being between 10 and 11; but machinists were not under 14. Their hours are from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., with an hour and a half for meals. One girl of 12 was "pressing" at a horizontal handwheel, which seemed to involve a great deal of exertion, seeing that she held the rim and spokes with both hands, and flung herself backwards to make her weight the power of pressure. I was informed here that the rent paid by those who hire machines varies from 1*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* a week, according to the value of the machine.

317. At *Mr. Greatorex's*, where eight or nine young women were working, one of them stated that she had found that working the machine made her very warm, and that where many work together, the room soon becomes very unpleasant, unless it is well ventilated.

318. [Mr. Moore (see No. 421) took me round to several of the smaller places of finishers and others. In one of the former 13 males were working and another 10, in each case three were children of 11 or 12 years old. In a third as many as 20 were working in two rooms, seven or eight being boys of about 12. One of these rooms was tolerably ventilated, and not very dirty; the other three were in all respects detestable: the ceiling and walls black with the gas soot; the faces of the workpeople, men and boys alike, colourless and grimy; the children literally in rags of the dirtiest description; the heat of the atmosphere almost intolerable. One of the young men at another place told me that he knew of boys as young as 9, and one only 7 years old, working in similar places.]

319. *Mr. Joseph Dare* ("Minister to the Poor" for the Leicester Domestic Mission) May 1864.—I have made particular inquiries, since I had your letter, and find that few under 12 in the shoe trade are employed; they chiefly put laces in, stamp eyelet holes, or do some similar work. The factory hours, 60 a week, are generally observed. There is one establishment, I believe, where steam is used to drive the sewing machines; others have steam power, but only for rolling and stamping out the soles; male adults are employed at that work.

Some portion of the employment, the finishing, which is carried on in the private workshops of the men, is very unhealthy. This arises chiefly from a reckless disregard of sanitary precautions. Six or eight men will hire a room together, and have three or four "sweaters," lads helping them by scraping bottoms, and rasping the heads of the sprigs off. They are packed as close as they can sit, on each side of a low table, on which are several broad gas flames always burning to heat their burnishing and other irons. These occasion so great a deposit of carbon as to cover every part of the rooms and even the persons of the workpeople.*

The attendance at school is very small throughout the town, and the ignorance deplorable. In the majority of cases poverty is not the cause that keeps children from school, or sends them to work. Until a law is passed, which shall make it compulsory that all children who work, shall have so many hours of school in the day, parents will be careless of education and moral training, so long as they can get anything from their children's labour to spend upon themselves.

319a. Mr. Dare on a subsequent occasion enclosed to me a copy of a note received by him from the Master of the Great Meeting Day School, Mr. Jas. Hepworth, stating the average age of children attending them to be 8 years 5 months, and the average duration of the attendance to be one year, 5 months, 2 weeks. "Thus," adds Mr. Dare, "you see at this large school, "conducted by properly certificated masters, and under

* See No. 320.

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"Government inspection, the average age of the pupils is only a little over 8 years, and the average time of attendance not 18 months. . . . . I find from recent inquiries that the 'shoe finishers' frequently keep lads at work from 6 o'clock in the morning till 8 or 9 o'clock at night. They cannot get to our 'free classes,' and those that do, fall asleep from exhaustion. Is it any wonder that the rising generation are becoming day by day more reckless and demoralized? Such drudgery must inevitably break down the spirits, and produce that morbid physical condition that rushes to stimulants and animal gratifications for relief and mistaken recreation."

320. Extract from Mr. Dare's Report for 1863.

(Pp. 13,14.) The "nailers" are subject to excoriated lips, and cankered mouths, and painful attacks of the stomach and lower regions. Indeed some have applied to me for medical tickets, stating that all their limbs were affected. These affections are caused by having the mouth always filled during work with metal sprigs, either brass or copper. On beginning to work, the "nailer" puts a quantity of sprigs into his mouth, and the tongue presents them in the right position for the workman to seize. Some chemical action takes place, producing the effects described. (But see No. 421 a, *inf.*—H.W.L.)

Many of the "finishers" also soon grow pale and attenuated. . . . I would call the attention of these workmen to a simple but effectual contrivance used by some more intelligent finishers whom I know. A piece of iron piping, about 6 inches long, $\frac{3}{8}$ bore, is screwed to the gas burner, with several holes drilled round it, just below where the gas issues. This, on the principle of the blow pipe, oxygenises, the flame and completely consumes the carbon, so that neither the irons nor burnishers require even wiping before used. A bell-shaped tin tube over each gas-light, connected with a main pipe, would carry off the heated air and ventilate the room.

(P. 14.) The juvenile branches (of evening classes) are in a very unsatisfactory condition. . . . . That I might not be suspected of giving too dark a picture of their educational state, I desired a teacher, one evening, to examine a number of the boys. Out of 18 so examined, he found 14 who could not read, and the other four could only do so very imperfectly. Their ages varied from 13 to 17 years, one only being younger. 12 had been to no day school. Only one had been so long as a year. All of them seemed to have been put to work at from six to nine years old. Several of these boys had come from distant places, being drawn hither by briskness of trade; so that we see boys of the same grade are in similar condition all over the country. I should say that 50 per cent. of the boys who come to the room are in this state. The girls, though I suspect we do not have so many of the same grade, are in a similar state.

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321. Mr. F. Bostock.

I believe that the trade tends more and more towards a factory system. I have myself no machines or females on my premises, but that arises chiefly from the fact of my business being chiefly in men's boots, on which hand labour is mostly employed. From conversations with various parties, I suppose there may be from 800 to 1,000 machines in Northampton, very many of these are distributed by threes and fours among a number of small employers, who take out work from the larger manufacturers. My foreman can tell you more about them than I can.

Wellington and Blucher boots are still frequently "stabbed" by hand in Northampton. That is done at home or in small work places; children of both sexes are sometimes employed at it. Boys also drive rivets, securing the soles of boots to the upper leathers, and girls tie knots after machining; that is their chief employment.

The introduction of the machine has much improved the domestic condition of the workpeople. As regards the management of a factory, very much must always depend on the personal character of the employer, and on the person entrusted with the management of the concern. No doubt there is very little oversight in some places, and little attention has as yet been paid here, except in the larger places, to the evil of having the two sexes to work in the same room. But everything is still transitional in the trade. Operators (*i.e.* machinists) are still scarce, and wages high. The present state of business keeps the small places regular; but it is possible, that, if the factory system does not become general, the same evils of long hours of work, irregularity, and overcrowding, which used to characterize the home work in small places, will re-appear. There must, however, be much less pressure on the young children, even in their own homes, now and for the future, because of the sewing machine supplying their place to a great extent; where 30 children would have been employed in stabbing, there will now be two or three operators, girls of 14 or 16, and one child of 9 or 10, to tie knots. The work of that one is also light and intermittent. The stabbing was laborious, required great attention, and was even dangerous, for they often sat so close that in drawing the thread with both hands, the awl, which was always held point outwards, in the right hand, not unfrequently struck the next child in the face or eye; many have lost an eye in this way.

[I had noticed, before seeing Mr. Bostock, that several persons of both sexes, whom I met in the town, had lost an eye; but thinking it merely an odd coincidence, had not enquired about it, till Mr. Bostock made the above remark.—H.W.L.]

322. *Mr. James Allen* (foreman at Mr. F. Bostock's).—The majority of children who stab or tie knots at home or in small workshops are put down at 8 or 9 years old; I heard of one only three weeks ago, a child 8 years of age, and mentally young I consider; the father is receiving very good wages. The girls at the British Schools are allowed to take their work there to do; I have two who do so, one 12 and the other 14, they do it in the time allowed for teaching sewing. Many go only to Sunday school.

The usual way is to take children to learn stabbing for 6 months for nothing; then they are paid 1*s.* or 1*s.* 6*d.* a-week; they have to get so many rows done, a row is $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches; if they are idle, they are kept late; the hours are more regular now, but children of 11 and 12 years old used often to stay till 9 and 10 p.m. from 7 or 8 a.m., if they had been idle; they were tasked 40 or 50 rows a day.

In small factories, where they use machines, the hours are usually from 7·30 a.m. to 6·30 p.m. or thereabouts, allowing an hour for dinner. Mr. Bostock gives out work to 12 small employers, each of whom has upon an average three sewing machines, one has seven. I should say that most men, who take work out, have at least two. Where there are two machines, there will be employed besides the "operators," three fitters, who are usually men, one welter, one finisher (or smoother), girls of about 16, and one knot tier, a girl of 9 or 10.

Ten years ago it was common in small places to make holiday of Monday and Tuesday, and work very hard at the end of the week; a girl of about 16 would have to work much harder then to earn 6*s.* a-week at stabbing and welting, than she would now to earn 10*s.* I should say that the average earnings at spring-side-closing then was 8*s.* or 9*s.* a-week, but now, after a very few months at the machine, girls can earn 12*s.* and even 16*s.* Not long ago we had to pay some

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as much as 5*s.* a-week, while they were only learning. They can learn to use a machine properly in three months. Some bind them for two years, and pay them 6*s.* or 8*s* a-week in their second year.

I think the girls, who work in the larger factories, are of a rather lower class, and are rather less well paid, than those who work for small masters; the latter often have their own friends to work for them. Proper supervision cannot be so well exercised in a large establishment; and so, if a small employer is a respectable man himself, the chances are that those, who work in his place, will be so too.

[I was taken by Mr. Allen to the two following witnesses, as being small employers of the class to which he referred.—H.W.L.]

323. *Mr. Walden.*—I don't think the machine is altogether a good thing for the health; rough girls can do it, but not delicate ones; 8 hours of machine work in the day is quite enough, I think 10 hours too long. The eye has to be fixed intently; several who have worked for me have complained a good deal of headache. The quarter of an hour for lunch is a great relief, not so much for the food, as for the rest and change it gives. Still the introduction of machines has done great good; work used often to go on from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., and sometimes from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. Now it rarely exceeds 10 hours in the day. Their health is also better. We have bade good bye to the little cripple backs that were so common from long stooping at the stabbing. Their conduct has improved too: no doubt there are many, the children of poor parents, unaccustomed to good wages, who have not made the best use of the sudden increase in their earnings caused by the sewing machine. But that evil is temporary. If we had to do by hand the amount of work that is now done by machines, we could not get it done.

In the lower parts of the town, where the largest amount of work is done, there is still dreadful ignorance and wretchedness, but that is not to be compared with the state of things about Dudley and that neighbourhood. The state of education in this town is generally good.

324. *Mr. Wills.*—I employ from 25 to 30 females. Our hours are from 7·30 a.m. to 6·30 p.m., with an hour for dinner; we also have a quarter of an hour for lunch at 10 or 11 as the case may be; that is a general habit throughout the shoe trade of this town.

Since the introduction of sewing machines there has been a great improvement both in the appearance and the manners of the girls; they are less rough and have greater self-respect. There is much less shifting about from place to place than there used to be; children are not employed so young, nor are the hours so long. Twenty years ago, as a boy, I often worked at stabbing from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.; I began at 7 years old. I don't think such cases often occur now.

I know of no cases in which the use of the sewing machine has proved injurious to the health of the operator, unless there has been a natural weakness of constitution.

325. Mr. Manfield.

We employ about 70 females on our own premises; three or four are under 13; comparatively few are over 25. Most are bound at 14 for two years, and after they are out of their time are paid by the day 10*s.* or 12*s.* a week. Our hours are from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. from March to October, and from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. from October to March. We pay on Saturday at 5 p.m. They have an hour for dinner, three-quarters of an hour for breakfast or for tea, and a quarter of an hour for lunch. From 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. is too long for women to go on without a break; they cannot stand the continual strain that men can. Now and then they may have to work an hour and a half extra for a week at a time, but it does not amount to a month in the whole year. We avoid it as much as possible, for it does no good. In these days people do not work the long hours they used to do, but they give much more labour, work much harder, I mean, while they are about it. Some seem to have suffered from machine work; they complain of their head; these appear to be of a nervous temperament. We found the double-action machine of Thomas's bad for them, and consequently had ours altered. We find it does not do to pay women by piece-work; they are so much more inclined to slip the work from wanting to get through as much as possible.

Our holidays are Christmas Day and the next day, and the half days of Easter Monday, Whit-Monday, the race day, and Boughton fair day; those are usual in Northampton.

Employers should, if not from good principle, as a mere matter of policy, take care of the health and comfort of their workpeople. A friend of mine in our trade told me a very short time ago that he was going to build a new factory; he said he found himself forced to do so, because, as his present workrooms were damp and ill-ventilated, he could not get as good hands as his neighbours.

The usual proportion of machinists to fitters is one to three with us. Only three or four employers besides ourselves in this town have a large number of females on their own premises. Yet I think the factory system is progressing. Attention to ventilation is important, and a good forewoman is most valuable; we are fortunate in that respect; it is for many reasons much better than having a man alone.

We have only one boy under 13. I think there is little fear of very young children being employed as they used to be in the trade, for they cannot compete with the machines, and by that simple fact are driven out of the market.

Messrs. Ager and Milne, Castle Street.

326. *Mr. Ager.*—We put all our work out to be done by men, who employ others than their own family, but not often more than eight or ten persons work together in one place. This used to be the usual practice throughout the trade in Northampton, and is still, I should say, common.

Labour is so scarce as to be both well paid, and to prevent over work, I believe that not only in the factories, but in smaller places, where the closing is done out, the hours are regularly from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., and are not exceeded. The habit of playing at the beginning of the week, and working hard at the end, obtained much formerly, but now it exists in few cases, except among those, whom we term shoemakers or bottomers, the men who put the soles on to the uppers. They are a class quite distinct from the closers, and have the uppers given out to them ready for their last. They do not employ women.

Where closing is taken out, both sexes work together, two or three females it may be, with sewing machines in one part of the room, and several men working by hand in another. Some machines are let out for hire by employers, but most of the men, who take out closing, own machines now.

We used to have a number of women working machines on our premises, but the trouble of supervision was so great that we have abandoned that, and believe that our present system is the best.

327. *The foreman* at Messrs. Ager and Milne's informed me that he knew of two cases of children as young as 7 working for men, who took work out,

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but he believed that none were employed in factories under 9 or 10, and very few so young as that.

He was convinced himself that the trade had not suffered by the introduction of machinery, but that more was earned at it, and that a demand had sprung up beyond the present supply of labour. He considered that modest girls often preferred working at home to going to a factory.

Messrs. Turner Brothers, Hyde & Co.

328. *Mr. J. B. Simon* informed me that they employed no females on their own premises. After inquiring, he stated that out of about 300 males in their establishment there were but five or six under 13, and none under 10; these were in the warehouse. *The foreman*, for whom he sent to give me further details, said that the numbers employed in some places varied very much, some having only 3 or 4, others as many as 20. Both boys and girls were employed to paste for fitting, and to tie ends after machining, some as young as 9. He considered that the large factories by setting the example of regular hours had done away with much of the old habit of late work at the end of the week; still he often found that he could get more done by those, who took work out, from Friday morning to Saturday at midday, than from Monday to Wednesday, and he knew of cases, though they were rare, of children and all beginning at 4 a.m. and earlier on the Saturday in order to leave off at 2 p.m., and not stopping for any meals till their 2 o'clock dinner.

329. Messrs. Hollis, Silver Street.

Afforded me every opportunity of obtaining information from the workpeople, both as to their hours of work, and the effect of the work on their health. I could not learn that any had suffered from the use of the machine, and one, a young woman who had been married two years, assured me that she had felt much better since she had used it. These rooms were well ventilated. About 100 females are employed in them, very few being under 13. A boy of 14 here told me that he had begun to stab at home at 7 years old.

330. *Mr. Starmer* (Manufacturer, Newlands) did not think machines good for women; they begin at a time of life, when the female constitution is likely to suffer from such work. He had known several who had to give it up. In two cases the men had had to take to it because the women could not stand it.

The hours of work are regular, but the high rate of wages has increased the love of dress, and in other respects not led to an improvement in morals. Education is generally valued in Northampton. He was not aware of cases of overcrowding, but thought the mixture of the sexes was not good. The machines had been, as it were, forced upon the employers on a sudden, and in many cases no provision for separation had been made.

341. *Miss Smith*, a machinist at Mr. Woodford's (a small employer, who very readily gave me information of a generally corroborative nature), stated that she used to stab when she was a child; she was then thought to be in a decline, but had now worked a machine for five years, and was much better in health. She found that the regular hours did her no harm, but when she worked an hour overtime, as was sometimes the case, she was very tired. She said that two or three of the smaller employers had as many as 16 machines, but the rest had seldom more than four or five. She thought that very few young children were employed even at home now.

342. *The master of the British schools* stated to me that he had found that boys stayed longer at school since the "stabbing" machine had been in general use; before that many used to work as young as 8 at home in doing, what was now done by that machine. Even now it was the home work, and not factory work, that took away those, who left much too soon. Out of 300 on his books, with an average attendance of 240, there were 40 over 11 years of age, and 17 of these were children of persons, who worked as shoemakers or closers.

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Messrs. Homan, Theatre Street.

343. *Mr. Cannel*, Manager.—310 females are employed here, and seven or eight of them are between 12 and 13 years old; one or two between 11 and 12. (This was the result of inquiries made by myself and Mr. Cannel, while he conducted me through the workrooms.—H. W. L.) Our hours are from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. I found that so many of the women became ill, when they worked overtime, even though it was only an hour extra, that I determined to give it up, and we have not had any overtime now for a whole year.

We pay by the piece; machinists average 9*s.* or 10*s.*, fitters 6*s.* or 7*s.* No deductions are made for silk or any other charges; the forewomen receive 15*s.* a week each.

The numbers employed at sewing machines in the city have increased very rapidly; two years ago last Michaelmas we had only 12 machines. I cannot say I think machine work is altogether good for their health; at all events not in all cases, five or six of ours have had to give it up. I have observed that fitters have better health than machinists; the books of our sick fund prove this. The proportion of fitters to machinists with us is about 2 to 1, and that same proportion exists among the members of the fund, yet during last year there were more machinists than fitters drawing on the fund.

With reference to the health of the employed Mr. Cannel afterwards forwarded me by letter the following tabular statement.

	Machinists.	Fitters.
Present No. of hands - - -	106	205
Average „ „ in last year - -	86	165
No. of hands ill in last year - -	48	37
No. of hands ill at the same time on average.	2½	2
Average duration of illness, viz., quantity of weekly payments taken by each person.	3	3
Total payments taken from the club during the year.	138	109

344. [I examined many of the young women here with reference to the effect of machine work on their health; some complained of their eyes, others of their chest, but very few had found any permanent effect in either case. Most said that the pain in the chest, which they attributed to stooping, goes off after the night's rest or after half an hour's walk. Some kinds of work involve more stooping than others; the stabbing, for instance, more than putting in spring sides. Those, whose eyes had suffered, noticed especially the "flooring," or ornamental work, on patent enamelled leather, or bronzed leather, and "white work" generally, as hurtful. One or two said that both their eyes and chest had suffered.]

[344a. *Miss Goldsmith*, one of the forewomen, told me that her eyesight was not so good as before she worked a machine; she had done so for four years, and had a good deal of white and bronze work; her chest had not suffered at all; she was quite a young woman. Another machinist named *Ellis*, who had worked at a machine for 12 months, had been "ill with her chest" for five or six weeks; she said she had never suffered in that way before.]

345. Messrs. E. and T. Bostock, Swan Court.

The manager here stated that about 60 females were employed on the premises; some directly under his control, others hired and paid by persons to whom he paid a contract price for the work; three were 11 years old, three others were 12, one was only 10, and had been there since the previous summer; she was the daughter of a widow, and apparently a very intelligent child; all these seven could read.

The ordinary hours for females were from 8 a.m. to 6·30 p.m., if they stopped till 8.45 p.m. half an hour was allowed for tea. The youngest are paid 2*s.* a week, when they first come. Machinists standard wage without overtime varied from 8*s.* to 10*s.* a week, some, however, being as low as 5*s.*, fitters from 5*s.* to 7*s.*

346. Messrs. Tillyard and Howlett, St. George's Plain.

110 females were employed here; none under 12. The hours were from 8 to 7, an hour for dinner being allowed at 12.45, and five minutes grace for going and returning. On Saturday they left off at half-past 2 p.m., no dinner hour being allowed on that day. The utmost overtime was until 8.30 p.m. for a month or two at most; if there was need of extra work, it was usually obtained by longer hours on the Saturday; a quarter of an hour was ordinarily taken for tea; this meal was had on the premises.

Mr. Tillyard, junr., conducted me over the workrooms, and gave me the above information; he also stated that the boot trade was essentially a season trade, the busiest times being September, October, and November; from March to May also they were very busy. He observed that the proportion of hand workers to machinists varies with the kind of work, fewer of the former being employed in making laced boots, for example, than boots with elastic sides, but in either case the operatives "hang one upon another," so that one cannot get on, unless the full complement of her "set" is present.

Both the Messrs. Tillyard were strongly opposed to Government interference of any kind. My informant believed that so soon as a sufficient number of hands had learnt the use of the machine, work would again be done very much at their own homes.

347. Mr. Charles Winter, Upper Market.

Stated that on a rough calculation there were in Norwich about 1,000 females employed in the boot trade at workplaces where 40 or more worked together, and another 1,000 in smaller places or at home. About 130 are employed on his own premises. He thought that in places, where two or three machines only were worked, the hands would be likely to be rather older, and perhaps better paid, than in factories. He considered 9*s.* 6*d.* a week the average of machinists' earnings, 5*s.* that of fitters. The change from payment by the day to payment by the piece added, in his opinion, nearly 30 per cent. to the week's wages. The usual holidays were Christmas day and the next day, Good Friday, and two half days at Easter and in Whitsun week. I found none in this establishment under 13 years old.

Messrs. E. W. Lulham and Co., Bethel Street.

348. *Mr. Boyce.*—I have been here as foreman for six or seven months. Before that time I was for some years in a similar place in Somersetshire. We used there to work frequently from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.; but I became convinced that we could get quite as much work done in regular hours, and that has proved to be the case, for here we work regularly from 8 a.m. to 7·15 p.m., with an hour at 1 p.m. for dinner, and never exceed those hours. When they are paid by the piece, they will always get enough work done in that time.

Between 50 and 60 females are employed on these premises; with the exception of one little girl of 13, who runs on errands, the youngest here is 15 years old. She is at a machine, and receives 5*s.* 6*d.* a week; that is the lowest wage we pay to machinists, she does not yet do good work; several other machinists are having 10*s.* a week. We are just changing from day work to piece work. They all prefer the latter, and will earn more than they now are getting at day work.

They may say what they like, but I know that machine work does try the eyes very much. I remember one in particular, a young married woman, very steady, and in other respects healthy, who found after four years machine work her eyes failed her so much that she had to give it up. She had been working for some time in a room, which had not enough light for machine work. I know of nothing else at all exceptional in her case.

Our rooms are certainly small, and do become very hot, especially upstairs, when the gas is lit; however, we are going to build new premises, and that will all be set right; at present these are no doubt inconvenient, and ill suited for work.

We take no learners, many are taught by small garret masters, who take a small premium for doing so, and give them common work; then they go elsewhere for very low wages for a time, but when they come to us first they are seldom properly qualified. Our proportion is three to each machine besides the machinist.

I cannot say much for their education or moral character; there are four or five at least out of the 20 young women in that room who cannot read. They would never think of going to a night school; the theatre or dancing saloon is much more to their taste. They do not suffer for want of holidays. In last Whit week they took three half days, and in the next week they had another, the Queen's birthday.

349. *Miss Mitchell* (forewoman).—Before we came here, not a year ago, we worked from 8 a.m. to 9 and 10 p.m. for five weeks together; that was too much for the girls. We first worked every night for a fortnight to 10 p.m. from 8 a.m., but all were knocked up by it, and we told our employers that we could not bear it, so it was at once altered, and we then used to vary it, and working sometimes till 9 and sometimes till 10, and at other times till 8 only; but from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. is quite enough.

350. *Miss Jane Greaves.*—I have been here six months, and never worked after 7 p.m. Before that I was at another place, where we worked for six months together from 8 a.m. till 9 and 10 p.m. and did not have any tea; nothing from dinner at 1 p.m., unless we brought something to eat at our work. They were about the same age as these are here, from 15 years old upwards. We did get tired indeed; we didn't know how to stand sometimes, when work was over.

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351. *Miss Spinks* had worked from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. at another factory for four or five weeks; there, after the first fortnight, a quarter of an hour had been allowed for tea; but she thought it would not do to let them go home for tea, because they would then have half an hour and probably take three-quarters, and so would waste much time.

352. [Several other girls had worked elsewhere, for six or eight weeks together, from 8 a.m. to 8.30 or 9 p.m.; they had then usually had a rest of 20 minutes for tea. They had very rarely at such times worked later on Saturday than 3 or 4 p.m. The usual hours in Norwich, they said, were from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., with one hour for dinner. Few ever worked in factories under 14 or 15 years old. "If we all had our "choice, we would always be on piece "work, and never work longer than from "8 a.m. to 7 p.m." This was said to me by half the room full.

I found that the little one of 13 had never been even to Sunday school; in another room seven out of 20 could not read; these were young women of decent appearance and behaviour, from 16 to 20 years of age; some had never been to day school at all.]

353. *Miss Plumstead*, Union place.—I and my sister have each a machine of our own at home, we have only five fitters between us now; we want more, each of us can keep three or four going. Those who work at home in places like ours are very rarely under 13 or 14; I would not have any under that age to fit for me; they cannot be trusted. I never heard of any younger being employed, except, perhaps one or two to ink edges or tie knots in a factory.

I have often got up at 3 and 4 a.m. at home here, and worked on till 7 or 8 p.m., just stopping for meals, so has my sister. If we had plenty of women to fit, they would never work longer than from 7 to 7; they do not often, for we usually have enough. Our busy time is just beginning (June 2); for the next three months or so we shall often have to work as long as from 4 a.m. to 7 p.m. There are scores of people in the city, who work at home till 10 or 11 p.m. night after night, of course they don't begin so early as we do. We leave off earlier on Saturdays, but I have gone on till 7 p.m. even then. It is partly our own fault, if we work long, but not altogether; for if the manufacturers, from whom we take out work, find that we don't do all they want in busy times, they will say, when we go to ask them for work in slack times, as we often have to do then—"You may go "where you got your work from, when you were too "busy to work for us."

I have worked a machine for two years and a half, and have had one of my own for 18 months. I get very tired, when we have to work long. Sometimes I am quite dizzy, when I first get up in the morning, and have to lay my head down for a time, but the dizziness usually goes off; I generally manage to get out into the country on Sunday. The double action is more tiring than the other machine. The "flooring," is very trying work; that Spanish or patent leather is so bad for the eyes, especially where they have to burn much gas.

Those who work in factories work less hours than those who are at home, but I think the noise and heat make them worse than home work, [the father of this witness here remarked that all the girls, who worked in factories, talked at their homes, as if they were shouting in a field], I was for three weeks in a factory, but didn't like it altogether; the machine wears out our dress so; at home we can wear what we like, but we must be decently dressed to go through the streets. I had an offer last month to go into a factory, but I refused to go for anything under 10*s.* a week, day work.

I paid 1*l.* down to learn machine work, and had 5*s.* a week for the first three months; after seven or eight months I used to earn 12*s.* a week. When I was learning, it was not uncommon for a learner, who paid 1*l.* or so, to receive 5*s.* a week for the first three months, and 8*s.* for the next six; but now learners often go for two or three months, paying nothing down, and receiving 2*s.* or 3*s.* a week.

[The above witness was a delicate looking intelligent girl of 18 or 19 years old apparently.]

354. I visited several other small houses in Norwich, in which I found seven or eight females from 13 years old and upwards, two being usually machinists and the rest hand workers. All were overcrowded, some by no means clean; none had any means of ventilation beyond the ordinary window and fire-place. From inquiries of the relieving officers, I ascertained that girls under 13 were rarely employed in the boot trade, either at home or in factories. —H.W.L.

Stafford.

Stafford.

Messrs. Wynne, Mill Street.

355. *Mr. Wynne*, Jun.—We have about 25 machines, and altogether 70 females; they come at 8 a.m. and leave at 7.30 p.m., having an hour for dinner at 12.30 p.m. and half an hour for tea at 4.30 p.m. On Saturday they leave at 4.30 p.m. In November, December, January, and February, they do not come till 8.30 a.m., for that is a slack time. Work for the summer shipping trade begins in March; for about three months then, and for as long in the latter part of summer, and the early autumn they work till 9 p.m. We have about half a dozen girls of about 11 and 12 years old, who baste and tie knots; they stay as long as the rest. I am afraid it is too long for them to be at work. I have felt that to be objectionable, but still they do not suffer in health, and as compared with the hours of work, when the work was done at their own homes, it is far less oppressive; then from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. was by no means rare, and many more and much younger ones were employed than are now.

I have thought that the eye must be strained by the constant attention required for the machine, especially in winter time, when we light our gas at 4 p.m.; even then occasionally we have to work till 9 p.m., and that is five hours of gas light; but that does not go on night after night then, as it does now. We are, however, always liable to some pressure, for we never make to stock, as we used to do; the fashions change so from season to season that it does not answer our purpose. Probably, after all, working by candle-light in their homes was worse for their eyes than our gas is. Our great consumption of gas makes ventilation the more necessary. Our architect in adapting these for workrooms has had every other ridge tile in the centre of the roof raised throughout the whole length of the building, as you see, and long narrow boards, which are made to open and shut on hinges by a cord and pulley, are placed underneath them along the ceiling. We find that very successful. Rooms, where sewing machines are used, are too frequently overcrowded; they can be packed very close; it is that, and not the nature of the work, that is injurious.

The health of the people has certainly improved since the introduction of the machines; they live better and dress better. We take girls at about 14 under an agreement for three or four years, paying them 6*s.* a week for the first year, 7*s.* for the second, and 8*s.* for the last; but here is a case, where a girl, after about a year, preferred to substitute payment by the piece, and though she has been only 18 months at

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it, she earned last week 14*s.* 3*d.*, and the week before 14*s.* 4*d.* Even the little basters get 2*s.* 6*d.* a week.

There are very few small manufacturers here, it is all either pure home work, or factory work, and except that some are not so well contrived for ventilation as others, and are overcrowded all are much the same.

I cannot say that I think there has been any improvement in morals corresponding to the advance in physical condition, the tendency seems the other way.

356. Mr. Edwin Bostock, Foregate Street.

Conducted me over his factory, and stated that he employed about 200 females there. The hours are from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. with an hour for dinner at 12·30, and half an hour for tea at 5. For two months or more before my visit they had worked, in one room, until 8·45 p.m. for five days in the week ; and in another, where most, about 125, were employed, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. ; in that case they had half an hour for breakfast at 8 a.m. The younger ones, of whom there were 9 or 10, about 12 years old, stayed as long as the rest, with one exception, a child of 10, who went home at 7 p.m. ; she had occasionally, at her own request, stayed later.

His establishment was closed on Christmas Day, Good Friday, and Whit Monday ; all were paid by the piece, so much being deducted for the silk used in sewing. In three cases which I selected from the wage book, it appeared that in one week one girl earned 24*s.* 2*d.*, from which 5*s.* was deducted for silk ; the second 21*s.* 9*d.*, the third, a girl of only 15, 22*s.* 6½*d.*, in this case 4*s.* 4*d.*, in the second 5*s.* 8*d.* was charged for silk. This was in a week when they worked for five days an hour and a half over time. In the same hours the earnings of fitters averaged from 8*s.* to 11*s.*, and the needlewomen, who sew the linings, from 7*s.* to 9*s.* Mr. Bostock believed the ultimate tendency of the trade in all places to be in the direction of a factory system ; he thought that there were about 1,000 women and girls employed in Stafford, nearly all of whom would be in factories ; one third of them might be taken to be machinists, if the proportion in other places was like his own. In his opinion, a half-time system for children under 13 years of age would not work any serious inconvenience, and might be productive of considerable good, if children came to be employed in greater numbers than they were at present. He did not consider that any restrictions on the hours of work of young persons and females generally were at all needed in the trade, as it was conducted in Stafford ; but at the same time he did not doubt that the limitation of the hours of work for all such to the factory hours, 10½ a day, would not injure the trade, if it was thought advisable to make such an enactment general.

He was sure that the workpeople appreciate the endeavours of employers to make arrangements conducive to their health and comfort, and believed that they would come to such employers at even a lower wage than is paid at other factories, where no such care is shown.

357. The *foreman* stated that boys were sometimes employed to close, and put to "the seat" by their fathers at home, as young as 9 and occasionally even 8. Several boys between 12 and 13 were using the clamps for closing at Mr. Bostock's ; these were the youngest.

[358. Here all the arrangements for white-washing, ventilation, closets, &c., were very good.

I could not learn from the girls themselves, who worked machines, that they found any other result, even from working overtime, than feeling very tired. One who was engaged in very fine white ornamental stitching on patent leather, and had been for nearly three years at machine work, said that her eye-eight was never in any way affected ; she had never worked longer than from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. ; an elder sister, who had worked for two years more, she said, complained of her eyes watering after a long day's work, but it went off in the morning.—H.W.L.]

Messrs. Lloyd.

359. *Mr. Lloyd, jun.*, who conducted me round the factory, stated that 45 females were employed on the premises ; the whole of the finishing being given out ; if that were done on the premises, the number of females would be doubled. Four were between 11 and 13 years of age : one, the youngest, who had been only a month at work, said she was not quite 11.

The recognized hours were from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., but from June of last year they had been so busy as to be constantly working from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. for several weeks consecutively. This was considered by Mr. Lloyd to be too much, not only for the younger ones, but for females of any age : "to make seven days "in six, that is 14 hours a day for five days, is very "heavy work." He however hoped that it would not be necessary, for the rest of the summer at all events, to do so any more. Messrs. Lloyd make solely for the home trade. The rooms are white-washed twice a year, and separate waterclosets provided on each floor for the women, who have also a separate staircase to their workrooms. The holidays given here are Christmas day and two days following and Good Friday ; on Easter Monday work ceases at 5 p.m. Machinists' wages are from 8*s.* to 18*s.* a week, averaging about 12*s.* ; they are paid by the day.

360. Messrs. Gibson and Woolley, Foregate Street.

Nearly 100 females were here employed, the youngest being over 12 years of age. Several had begun work at other factories but none before they were 11 years old.

The hours in summer are from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and in winter from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., two hours being taken for meals in the former case an hour and a half in the latter, as they then had their breakfast before they came. For about two months previous to my visit, (May 27) they had worked overtime until 8.30 p.m. for five nights in the week, but never later.

The earnings were stated as varying from 6*s.* to 18*s.* a week, most being paid by day work ; the average was about 11*s.* Besides the ordinary holidays of the town a special day was set apart, usually in the beginning of June, when all the hands went to some park in the neighbourhood for a picnic. The rooms were well ventilated and white-washed twice a year. Mr. Gibson informed me that their trade was exclusively a shipping one. He also stated that there was no system in Stafford as in Northampton, of small manufacturers having three or four machines, and employing women on work taken out from the large factories. The boots were, however, distributed to men at their own homes within a radius of 10 miles or so round the town to be "made," that is to have the soles put on to the uppers.

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361. Mr. Hodges.

Stated that he employed about 30 females on his premises in fitting or at machine work, and as many more at their own homes in felling and finishing: he found it more convenient to give that work out to be done, but did not consider that plan was generally adopted. His hours were from 7.30 a.m. to 7 p.m., an hour being allowed for dinner at 12.30, and half an hour for tea at 5 p.m. In some places they began work at 7 a.m.; in that case half an hour was allowed for breakfast at 8 a.m., but his hands breakfasted before they came. On Saturday they left off work at 4 p.m. It was not uncommon for them to work from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. when work was brisk; this sometimes lasted for four or five weeks together. Shortly before my visit (May 26) they had worked every day but Saturday for three weeks from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., making "seven days" in the six. He stated that he was quite sick of the overtime by the end of the three weeks, and that his foreman, who had had charge of a room of nearly 50 females at another factory, assured him that no more work was done with the help of the extra two hours, than could be got through in the regular hours; but that his practice was to pay by the day, and not by the piece, and therefore, if there were any pressure, the hands preferred to eke out the work so as to be paid for overtime.

He took girls as apprentices at 14 years old for a term of three or five years; for the first year they would be paid 3*s.* 6*d.* or 4*s.* a week, in the fourth year 9*s.* or 10*s.* The earnings of an average worker, whether paid by day or by piece, would be 12*s.* or 14*s.* He stated that the women were very difficult to manage, and that he did not like even to go into the place where they worked.

362. *The forewoman*, who appeared to have a very strong dislike to answering any question, asserted very positively that no one was knocked up, or even very tired, at the end of the three weeks, during which they worked from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

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363. Several persons, both employers and professional men, spoke in strong terms of the deterioration in morals since the high rate of wages and system of factory work had become general. One spoke of the town as being quite changed; especially in respect of the dress and noisy behaviour of the girls on Sundays. One case was mentioned of a foreman, who had seduced several girls who worked under his control.

364. *The schools* were said by the Rev. C. Jenner to be fairly attended, and at all events to be less affected by the factories than they had been by home work. The general opinion was that in all respects, but that of morals, the factory system was an advance in the right direction. I did not meet with any case of a girl employed in a factory who could not read, and most said they could write and had been to day school.

Bristol.

Bristol.

Messrs. Luggs, Castle Street.

365. *Mr. Barham**, showed me through the workroom, in which 50 or 60 females were engaged in making "uppers," 18 or 20 being machinists; he stated that a great portion of their work was given out to be lined, seamed round (the spring sides), and otherwise finished, all this being hand work. Some few as young as 12 or 13 were preparing work for the machine. Machinists rarely began before 15 or 16; they were then apprenticed for two years, and received during that time weekly payments of 5*s.* and 7*s.*, and towards the end of their time 9*s.* a week. There was still such a demand for machinists in that trade in the district, that they could only be got on these terms; in some places they were apprenticed to the managers of the room; that he thought a practice open to abuse, if the manager were disposed to be tyrannical.

Each machine would keep about five employed, including the machinist; all were paid by the day, machinists earning 9*s.*, 12*s*, and even 18*s.* a week.

The hours had been from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., but they now left off at 6·40, having their tea at home afterwards, instead of taking 20 minutes out of their time on the premises. For about one month of the 12 they might make a quarter day overtime, or, in other words, work till 9 p.m., but if they were pressed, extra hands were taken on. As light was essential for the work, there were sure to be windows enough in any boot factory; when gas was needed, they reversed every other machine, so as to have one jet between two. The premises were thoroughly cleaned and whitewashed every summer; at one side of the room there was a skylight at the top of a kind of shaft, which could be opened without causing draughts. He was fully satisfied that girls who worked machines were far better off and more healthy than binders used to be; as they were able to clothe and feed themselves better, and were obliged to come to the factory, and so have exercise, instead of sitting all day at work at home.

366. Mr. Derham, Nelson Street.

Stated that the hours observed by the females employed in their boot and shoe factory are from 8.15 a.m. to 6.30 p.m. with an hour for dinner; the overtime never exceeded a quarter day or two hours, and was not frequent. About 150 females were on the premises, half of whom were machinists; these were apprenticed at 14 or 16 years old; there were some few younger ones who helped some of the machinists by tacking and preparing the work. Many persons also worked at their own homes for Messrs. Derham, having one or two machines of their own.

367. Mr. Waterman, Rupert Street.

Conducted me over his boot and shoe factory, a new building which seemed to be in all respects admirably adapted to secure the health and comfort of the workpeople. I found about 80 females, one-third of whom were machinists, employed in one lofty, spacious, and well ventilated room at the top of the premises. The hours were from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. with an hour for dinner, to which they went home, and a quarter of an hour for tea, which was taken on the premises. Occasionally, for about three weeks in May, and for a rather shorter time in the autumn work would be continued till 8 p.m. They could take on a few more hands if necessary, but Mr. Waterman considered that work beyond the 12 hours would not be useful, as they would become fatigued, and unable to work either fast or well. All were on piecework; work was given out, but all, that was machined, was also finished, on the premises. Each machine was reckoned to employ three persons, including the machinist. Mr. Waterman thought the tendency now was rather to give work out, than to build additional work-rooms or factories, and that he should adopt that course, whenever a pressure arose, requiring the work of more persons than could be conveniently accommodated on the premises.

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* I am not quite sure of this name.

368. Mr. Blight, Frankfort Lane, Plymouth.

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I have four or five machines, but several in this town, and in Devonport have more than I; for much of the work I still think hand work best. All my hand workers live out. I employ 50 or 60 of them.

They like home work best, because they are independent, even though they do not earn half as much as they would, if they worked on the premises, and were paid by the day. The machinists are all paid by the day; one has as much as 10*s.*, the younger ones 4*s.* or 5*s.*; they are about 14 years old. Those who work at home are paid by the piece; if they do two pairs a day they will earn 3*s.* a week; a fast worker can do six pairs a day, that is 9*s.* a week. One woman has earned in the summer as much as 1*l.* a week, that was by working from 4 a.m. to dusk; she had no need to work so hard, for she had her husband's half-pay, and no children. It all went on the Saturday and Sunday; she often came to me for an advance to pay her rent.

I do not take apprentices; if they know the trade, they can learn the use of the machine in a fortnight. All go home to dinner and to tea; they have an hour for dinner, but take an hour and a half more often. The usual hours are from 8.30 a.m. to 8 p.m., and are not ever exceeded.

Mr. H. Willis, Copenhagen Street, Worcester.

Worcester.

369. *The foreman* conducted me over the premises, and gave me the following information, which I verified for the most part by my own enquiries.

Between 70 and 80 females were employed on the premises very few being under 13; the youngest machinist was 12 years old. Machinists were apprenticed for six months, during that time they received 3*s.* a week; after it their earnings varied with their capacity, one at the end of three months after her time was out, was earning 9*s.*, another, who had been three months longer, earned only 6*s.* a week, some machinists had 11*s.* a week; they always began with some light work, such as running the web for the loop on to the lining. Others were taught fitting only, and learned to "skive" or thin the edges of the upper leather with a sharp knife so as to allow of being turned in round the spring; their other implements are paste, a square block, and a small metal hammer, with which they fix the material for the machine to stitch. Some of the younger ones had merely to tie up the threads left by the machinists. The hours for all are from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., with an hour for dinner; for one week in the last year they had stayed till 9 p.m.; but that was very exceptional, and in the opinion of the foreman, unsatisfactory also, as the girls got tired, and did not work so well. Some could read only a very little.

370. At *Mr. Wall's* boot factory about 40 females were employed, four of whom were 12 or 13. The youngest was the foreman's daughter, a girl only 10 years old; she was working a machine. Their hours were from 8.30 a.m. to 6.30 p.m., with an hour for dinner.

GLOVERS, London.

Glovers. — London.

At Messrs. Morley's, Wood Street.

371. *Mr. Bridge.*—I have the management of what you call the stuff glove department; the trade name is "fabric," as distinguished from leather. The course of business is the same with the other large glove houses, Messrs. Dent, Fownes, and Foster, Porter and Co., as with us.

The material is sent in the piece from London to the agent in some central place in Somersetshire, Devonshire, Worcestershire, as the case may be. On his premises a few men are employed to cut out, and then the various parts of the glove are given out to be sewn together. The people who do that, are wives and daughters of agricultural labourers scattered throughout the neighbouring country. It is purely domestic work; there is no such thing known as a woman getting ten or a dozen people to do the work, which she has received from the agent there. If they live near, they bring in their work as it is finished, if far off, probably some one goes round once a fortnight, and collects all that is ready, bringing it in for a small per-centage. The girls are taught by their mothers; a girl of 14 becomes very useful, at 16 or so a girl will often earn as much as her mother, or even more, because she will not be occupied with household matters so much. There are whole villages of born glove-makers; it is quite an hereditary talent, and families generation after generation are celebrated for their peculiar skill.

We have had as many as 6,000 names on our books of persons employed in this manufacture by us in one year; not, of course, all at one time, but counting all, whether regularly or irregularly employed. About 70,000 dozen a year are cut for us.

[Mr. Pritchard, the manager of the leather glove department at Messrs. Morley's, informed me that that branch of glove making was carried on in the same districts, and in a similar way to the "fabric" glove-making described by the last witness.]

Yeovil.

Yeovil.

372. *Mr. Cleal.*—I have had four or five girls at a time to teach; some have been 9 and 8 years old. I used to give them out their day's work, when they came, and when they had done it, they might go; they used to come early, by 6 o'clock, often and stay till 7 or 8 p.m. One of them would come sometimes at half-past 4 and 5 a.m., and we had hard work to get her away at 8 p.m., she would often be later. She died quite young; we were all very fond of her, and she of us. She was a very great exception, she was always for being at her work, and could not sleep at night for wanting to be here, her mother said. I am afraid her work, and her being such a quick nervous sort of child, must have brought her to her grave; but no doubt many suffer very much from working so long, when they are quite young; my own girl there has suffered very much.

I should be glad enough for none of them to work longer than from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.; that is quite long enough, and I believe that we could get through all that is wanted in those hours. So many are obliged to work half the night, and all night too sometimes, at the end of the week, because they waste two or three days at the beginning. I would never allow of their "slack Mondays."

The children go very little to any school, they certainly don't know much. I used to pay some 2*s.* 6*d.* and 3*s.* a week, the little ones would have 1*s.* 6*d.* and 2*s.*

373. *M. A. Cleal* (daughter of last witness).—I began at sewing gloves, before I was 9; I was with four or five others under a mistress, she was very kind, but my health quite broke down with it; we used to work from 6 a.m. to 8 and 9 p.m. She was very punctual, and if we were not there at 6, she would not let us come in, and so we used to lose a quarter of a day. The engine hurt me very much; my side used to hurt me, and my eyes were weakened, sometimes I couldn't see.

We used to have an hour to go home for dinner, and half an hour for our breakfast, and for our tea; we took them with us, and had them in the garden.

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I left her at 15 years old; I only got 1*s.* 3*d.* a week then. I could get much more at home working for myself; for a long time after I had learned I was paid only 9*d.* a week.

Many go to a mistress as young as I did, and begin with their mothers at 8 and 7 years old. I know one now, a mere doll of a child, whom they set upon a stool at the engine; I am sure it is very bad for her. Many of them know their letters and no more, very few go to night school. I should like to go now, but I must not risk the night air, the doctor says; besides it is hardly respectable for a girl to be out in Yeovil in the evening. That makes it difficult to get any exercise at all, when you have to be at work all day.

374. *Mrs. Butcher.*—My married daughter Emily began to sew at 6 years old, she is 21 now. She went to a mistress to be taught; after a month she could do her work well; she stayed there till she was about 14; then she used to bring her work home, for she could get much more by working for herself. I used to take 4*s.* 6*d.* and 5*s.* a week for her, but she only had 1*s.* 6*d.*, when she worked for a mistress. She used to work about from 6.30 a.m. to 8.30 p.m. for her; at home she often worked from 6 a.m. to 12 at night; that was to please herself; but she was kept much closer to it, where she was before; there were several there, and it was as much as their life was worth to look up, if any one happened to come in. She is very delicate now; her health has suffered no doubt from the hours of work; her eyes have become quite weak; that is with having to look so long at the bright brass of the engine. I have brought my younger ones up to service, for I think that is much better for their health than "glovey;" but I shall teach them glovey too, that they may have that to fall back on. I don't think so many are put out to learn now as used to be; more mothers can teach it. Those who do go out, work about as long as she used to, but I don't think they begin so young now; not many begin before 8 years old; one reason is that schools are so much cheaper. They used to cost 3*d.* or 4*d.* a week; but I wish they could have more schooling than they do, even now. There is one of mine I have kept at school, till she is near 9, and I shall try to keep her there for another year, but I don't know how the work will go; it must depend on that. We used to have pads, when I was a girl, but they all use those engines for pointing and sewing now.

375. *Mrs. Tompkins.*—I have 10 children living, and four of them are younger than that one at the engine; she is 9, and has been two or three years at it; she has worked all night before now, and from 6 or 7 a.m. to 11 and 12 at night in the same week. They do suffer in health, and get very little schooling; they only go on Sundays; I can't say much about the reading. If the Queen was to tell me that I must send all my children to school, I should just ask her to take one or two of them off my hands altogether, and be glad if she would.

[This last sentence was in answer to a question put by the manufacturer, for whom she worked, and who appeared very strongly opposed to any interference.

Another daughter, a girl of nearly 18, told me she had worked all night twice in a week last winter.]

376. *Mrs. Gill.*—My girl is near 11; she has not been long at it; they do begin at 8 or 9 years old often; they don't work above 12 hours a day at home. If we are pressed, they are longer perhaps; we do often get pressed at the end of the week: we don't always work on Monday or Tuesday much. They will have to work from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the end of the week; they can't get much to school at any time; 14 hours a day is too much for the little ones. Well, for a girl of 11 too, it is too long.

[I am not sure of the name of the last witness; she gave her evidence reluctantly.]

377. *Mary Ann Smith.*—When I was 8 years old, I often worked from 4.30 a.m. to 8 p.m.; that was 12 years ago; my health has suffered much from the work; they still begin as young as that sometimes; that little girl who works for me, is between 7 and 8 years old. I think none ought to begin before they are 11 or 12. Some of the little ones perhaps work only for a few hours at home; but if they go out they are tasked.

[The child, to whom this witness referred, told me that she usually worked from 9 a.m. to dusk; her work had been "taken in" on the Saturday afternoon, when I saw her (3.30 p.m), so she was cleaning the knives to fill up her day.]

378. *Mr. Seaward.*—I finish gloves; that consists chiefly in what is called ironing; in most places iron hands are still used for that purpose. There is a fire at one end of the room, and they have to be constantly running to heat their iron; that is fatiguing; young women of 17 or so do that. I have a plan of my own for heating the hand with steam-pipes from a boiler outside; the hands are hollow, and screw on to the end of the pipes, which pass up through the table, so that they can sit or stand to the work as they like, and have not that continual running about, besides avoiding the additional heat from the fire being in the room. There is always a steam from the leather. The ironing room should be lofty and well ventilated; fresh air is essential. The glove, while on the hand, is rubbed with French chalk, but only a very little is used.

I employ 9 or 10; some are my own children, four or five are boys from 11 or 12 years old. As a rule, boys are not employed in any factories here under 10; you may find one or two younger here and there, but most are about 11: I take none under 11. That boy, who is younger, has been only a month here; his mother pressed me to take him, saying that he would be in the streets, and not at school, if I did not. He certainly should be at school, but he is better here than in the streets.

[This boy did not know his letters.—H.W.L.]

I don't think the young boys usually stay as late as the men do in the factories here; from 8 a.m. or even 9 to 8 p.m. is seldom exceeded. I should say there are 50 or 60 boys under 12 employed at the different factories and finishing places in Yeovil.

Mine have very good health; those two girls have been with me for 12 years, and have neither been ill for a day.

Messrs. Whitby.

379. *The Messrs. Whitby, jun.*, who conducted me over their premises, and showed me the whole process of preparing the hides as well as of cutting and finishing the gloves, informed me that about 50 men and 30 boys worked on their premises, those being reckoned boys from 10 or 11 up to 18. They had one under 9 who was "putting up," and an errand boy of about 10, but intended having none in the counting room for the future under 11; these were paid by time, and employed from 8 to 8 in winter, and from 7 a.m. to 7 or 8 in summer; they were sometimes an hour or more later in this department on Saturday night; as the packing and other final processes are done there. In the cutting shop boys were apprenticed at 14, usually after having passed through the counting rooms; here they might sometimes work from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the end of the week, on Friday and possibly Thursday; they left off at 1 p.m. on Saturday. The apprentices were to be paid under their indentures 2*s.* a week at 14, and to be raised 6*d.* a

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year till 21. A habit had, however, grown up of giving them journey work at 18, if they were able to do it properly, on the terms of their paying out of their weekly earnings 6*s.* to their masters, and keeping the rest themselves; in the next, the sixth year, they paid 5*s.* 6*d.*, and in the last 5*s.*, so that an apprentice might be in the receipt of considerable wages.

In the paring room Messrs. Whitby exercised no control; the men brought whom they chose to help them, most being lads of 15 or 16; there was, however, one of 12 helping his father, and another only 10, a fresh hand; this child could not read. Their usual hours were from 7 a.m. to 7 or 8 p.m., and they left off at 4 p.m. on Saturday.

In speaking of the age of the younger ones, Mr. Whitby told me that the father of one boy, who was put into the counting room at 10 years old, earned 1*l.* and sometimes 23*s.* a week. Several young women were employed at the sewing machine, but were 16 or 17 years old and upwards; one little girl of 10, who was helping a machinist, could only read letter by letter.

Mr. Whitby stated that no attempt had as yet been made in country places, to collect into one building the women and girls who usually took their work home to sew, but he thought that such a system would have great advantages both for them and the employer, and was very likely to be adopted before long, as the tendency was certainly in that direction.

Messrs. Bide & Hill.

380. *Mr. Hill* informed me that the hour of leaving work for the women and boys, who worked on their premises, was 8 p.m.; they came at 8, 7, or 6 a.m., according to the season of the year. The men often stayed till 10 p.m., and the women would be allowed to do so, if they wished it, but they never did. When they did not come till 8 a.m. they had breakfast before they came. He considered that girls of 7 and 8 were too young to work at the engine; at the same time the chief source of injury to the health was the continual stooping, which might always be avoided by altering the height, either of the stool, or of the engine itself. He had heard of some women, to whom children were put out to learn, having 8 or 10 at a time; the usual plan was to "task" them with so much work to be done in the day.

381. Two girls, who were tambouring in a cottage close to Mr. Hill's, told me that they had begun to point at 14, and had found the stooping hurt their chest; they knew of children of 7 and 8 who did so, and thought it very bad for such young ones.—H.W.L.

382. *Mr. E. Raymond*, who explained to me the process of shaping out the gloves by means of the web, employed 6 or 8 boys of ages from about 11 to 14 in various light work, such as "turning in" or rolling up the material, when stamped out, into packets for those who fetched the gloves to be sewn at home; in putting studs in, or punching out thumbs, by means of a hand-press, boxing, &c. They went to night school; all could read, and seemed healthy.

383. *Mr. Tucker*, a resident magistrate, who had for 20 years been greatly interested in the education and employment of children in Yeovil, was convinced that the greatest benefit would result from an adoption of the half-time system, and a general extension of the Factory Acts to Yeovil and similar places, and felt sure that no manufacturer would object after two years' experience of the working of it.

Number in attendance at the Girls' National Schools, Yeovil.

Age - -	Under 7.	7–8.	8–9.	9–10.	Over 10.
Old Church -	66	12	16	13	9
Trinity - -	84	22	12	5	3
	150	34	28	18	12

384. *The mistress of the Old Church Schools* informed me that of the nine girls over 10 years of age only two were children of parents connected with the glove trade. She stated that the attendance of those, who came at all, was very irregular, as they frequently stayed at home to nurse for their mother, who wanted all her time for gloving. She had found it very difficult even to get a class together of the requisite standard for any examination by the Government inspector.

385. *The mistress of the Trinity Schools*, which have been in existence for little more than a year, told me that in the past year 11 girls under 7, and 19 between 7 and 10 or 11 years old, had left to go to work, either nursing or gloving, in most cases the latter. For the first half year 12 older girls between 12 and 14 years of age had come for half the day, being employed at gloving or nursing at home for the remainder; they, however, had not stayed, some leaving because they had too much work at home, the rest, because all the other girls were so much younger, that they did not like it. They could only read imperfectly, and not one could write.

She sometimes took a class at the Sunday school, and found very many wholly ignorant of the simplest facts of Scripture history. It was found necessary to teach to read, and even to spell, at the Sunday school. She had previously been a mistress of a village school near Stroud, where several of the scholars were half-timers from the silk mills, and "only wished that such a system was in operation "at Yeovil."

386. *The master of the boys' National School* stated that he considered the half-time system would be of great advantage to the place; he found that when, as was sometimes the case, boys came to the National school from dames' schools at 9 or 10 years old, they knew no more than their letters, and could not form a letter, or a figure, in writing. He observed that the attendance at school was always largest, when work was said to be slack, and that the majority of parents took them to work as soon as they could earn anything, or help them in any way; from his experience of agricultural labourers he thought they were much more ready to make little sacrifices, in order to keep their children at school, or to send them there, than parents in manufacturing districts.

He gave me the following average of ages in the school classes, stating that it was far below the average in other neighbouring places where glove making was not practised, such as Sherbourne, where the average age of the first class was 13.

In the 1st class	37 boys of average	age	10
2d	„ 38	„	8–9
3d	„ 48	„	over 7

There were six infants, but the majority of the infant boys, 118, had, under a new arrangement, been transferred to the Trinity girls' school. He informed me that there were not above 200 boys attending all the schools of a public character in the town.

387. A gentleman, who has resided for several years in Yeovil, and has taken an active part in connexion with the night schools and Sunday schools of the place, informed me that 70 or 80 boys from 10 to 16 years of age attended night schools, which were held three times a week from 8 p.m. to 9.30; it was found necessary to admit them so young, as many were desirous of learning, but had no other oppor-

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tunity. In some cases the glove masters paid for the boys, in others they paid 2*d.* a week themselves; some great boys of 15 and 16 were unable to read.

There was also a night school for girls from 6 to 8 twice a week; but only about 20 attended, and they were 15 or 16 years old. About 1,400 of both sexes attended Sunday schools of all denominations in the town.

He considered the morals of the older gloving girls to be exceedingly low, and stated that love of dress, and drink, and late hours of work, in the factory or at home, produced in the two sexes most lamentable results.

388. Several gentlemen among the clergy, the medical practitioners, and magistrates, used similar language; one stated that girls of 14 were commonly to be found on the streets, and that some were even younger. The amount of money spent on dress was said to be incredible. I was told that girls would frequently sit without any gown on, gloving at home all the day, and put on a silk dress for the hour's walk at night, or on Sunday. Both boys and girls were stated to become at an early age quite independent of parental control. Many who were scarcely more than children would pay their parents so much a week for boarding and lodging them, and spend the rest on dress or amusements.

Stoke.

389. Mr. Southcombe, Stoke.

In this village of 1,400 inhabitants, we are in a very sad state for the want of proper means of educating the children. There is no national school; a man and his wife are paid by myself and a few others to keep up a kind of day school for boys; they have a night school too, at which eight or ten boys attend; but the girls are wholly neglected, except on Sunday; we have one Sunday school, which is Wesleyan.

The girls are not wholly ignorant, however. I employ 44 females, whose ages vary from 12 to 23; most of them can write their names, and all can read a little, but there I fear it stops. There are some old women who keep dame's schools, with four or five children at a time; they just teach them their letters.

We manufacture only the cloth or "fabric" glove, but the process, so far as the cutting out and sewing are concerned, is in effect much the same as with the leather glove, except that we make more use of the sewing machines; most of those who work on my premises use those machines. Many of them have begun work with me at 11 years of age, some have even used the sewing machine at that age. Their health has not suffered; so far from it, that in these four years, for which we have had a sick club, we have paid out only 18*s.*; the doctor has a part of the subscription, and the rest is divided at Christmas among the members; each pays 1*s.* a month.

I find I have only two girls under 13, and only two over 23; they marry young, and then leave the factory, and take out the sewing, or rather the pointing, to be done at home. We send our gloves to be sewn as far nearly as Salisbury in one direction, and Exeter in the other. Between the ages of 13 and 18 I have 20 girls. There are only 20 males altogether in my factory, and the three youngest are boys from 14 to 16 years old.

We begin work now (March) at 7 a.m., in winter at 8 a.m., and in summer at 6.30 a.m.; they leave at 8 p.m. all the year round. When they come at 8 they have breakfast first; they have an hour for each meal, breakfast, dinner, and tea; it would be much better, if they could be made to leave off always at 6 p.m. and go to evening school; we might save part of the time by giving only half an hour for their breakfast and tea, but the remedy for us employers, if the hours were limited, is at our fingers' ends, so to speak; we could employ a few more, a tenth or a twelfth more would make up any time so lost.

They are paid by the piece, but the earnings of machinists and all vary very much; one will earn 5*s.* and another 10*s.* in a week. As to the machines the fact is that the number of stitches they put in could never be done by the hand.

Those who work at home begin very young, some at 8 years old. The women are glovers all their lives, so, when they become mothers, they teach their children as a matter of course; but we can have no idea of the numbers of persons, who make the gloves we give out, nor their age, nor anything about them; the gloves are distributed by those, who have them from us, throughout the country for 30 miles round. The younger children usually nurse the baby, so as to let the mother do her own gloving work at home.

390. *E. Walters.*—Am 21, have worked 10 years for Mr. Southcombe; used to "pointy" at home; began that at 7 years old, often worked from 6 or 7 a.m. to 8 or 9 p.m.; was very tired indeed, but had no father, so was obliged to work hard. The children don't begin much before they are 9 years old usually.

391. *Jane Caller.*—Am 18, have been 7 years here; have always worked a sewing machine, never found any harm come of it. Have worked in summer from 6.30 or 7 a.m. till 8 p.m., but never got very tired. Have very good health. There are no glovey schools here, all learn at home.

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392. [The master of the Wesleyan school reckoned the number of children at 170. He said that he found it very difficult to get any older ones capable of acting as pupil-teachers, the younger ones very soon knew quite as much as those from 15 to 17 years of age. —H.W.L.]

Worcester.

Worcester.

Messrs. Dent, Allcroft, & Co.

393. *Mr. Ladler,* Manager.—We employ about 40 females upon our own premises; 12 or 14 of them use sewing machines; their age varies from about 17 to 24; the rest prepare or finish for these, they are younger; some merely draws the ends of the thread through, and knot them. Our rule is to take none for any purpose under 12, but it is impossible to adhere very strictly to that, for parents, who wish their children to be employed, constantly say that they are of that age, although they know that they are not.

The same rule applies to the boys, whom we employ, and is as often broken through. We have a night school of our own for them; from 70 to 80 attend it; but there are manifest objections to a night school for the other sex. We also make it a rule to take no boys, who have not been to school. They are more trouble than they are worth to us, if they cannot read and write a little. Our employment of females on the premises is of so recent date that we have not adopted any such system in their case as yet.

Our hours now (May) are, so far as females are concerned, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.; three-quarters of an hour is allowed for breakfast at 8.30 a.m., and an hour for dinner at 1 p.m.; they have no recognized time for tea. Most of them go home for all their meals, but some have tea here. For four or five winter months we do not begin till 8 a.m.; in that case they breakfast before they come. At this time of the year, and during the summer our doors are opened at 6 a.m. for five minutes to allow such of the men and boys as are on piece work to come an hour earlier, if they please; but that does not apply to females.

The hour of closing, 7 p.m., is always the same for all the females and for the younger boys, who have a weekly wage. Some of the machinists are paid a

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weekly wage, others by the piece; 10*s.* 6*d.* or 11*s.* may be taken as a fair average in either case.

The sewing machine is used for the ornamental part of the work (whether thread, cloth, or leather) on the back and wrist; but the glove is "made," that is, sewn together, and usually "pointed" also, and topped or finished, in the houses of the workwomen. They are distributed in villages for 20 miles round Worcester for this purpose, and are even sent into the south-west counties, Somersetshire and Dorsetshire, from here.

It is not very common for others than members of the family to be employed in this district on the work, which we thus distribute. We do not usually give out to one person more than enough to employ the members of an ordinary family for about a week. The glove is returned to us, and re-distributed, several times before it is complete; for it is commonly "made" in one place, "pointed" in another, and "topped" in a third.

We have no process of ironing for finishing our leather gloves; that is used only for an inferior article; we do, however, use the iron hand in a similar way for our thread and cloth gloves, and have found by experience, how superior, so far as health and comfort are concerned, the gas stove is to the ordinary open stove which we formerly had; it used to make the room so hot as to be quite unbearable.

In an adjoining house a considerable number of girls and young women are employed, not by us, but by a person who takes the work out from us, in pointing with the "frames" or "engines," and welting the tops and slits, and otherwise finishing the glove, after it comes in sewn from the country. Our hours are observed there, for the whole block of buildings is locked up by our doorkeeper; in other respects we do not control them.

394. [Mr. Ladler conducted me over all the premises used by Messrs. Dent and Co. We found that several of the girls had commenced working there at 11 years of age, and one or two at 10; these had been brought to help some relatives. One, who was 10 years old, could read only a very little. In the adjoining house, above referred to, there were 50 or 60 girls and young women; one had begun at 8 to sew fastenings on, and several at 9 or 10. The upper rooms here were very low pitched and much overcrowded, but they were very clean; the part of the building in which those worked, who were employed directly by the firm, was in all respects unobjectionable.

395. I also visited *Mr. Williams'* premises in Edgar Street, where 16 girls were working, their ages varying from 12 to 24, and obtained from him, and from *Mr. Partington* (Messrs. Groves and Partington) the information that Messrs. Dent and Allcroft were exceptional in the number of girls, whom they employed on their own premises, it being still very rare to find more than 10 or 12 in one place, and those seldom under 12, most being 17 and more. One or two girls were only 11; some could not read. The love of dress among the girls of all ages was generally spoken of as excessive, but they were said not to have an immoral character. The hours of work were 10 or 11 at most.

396. The *Rev. Mr. Sarjeant*, Chairman of the Board of Guardians, confirmed these statements as to hours of work, age, and moral character, adding that complaints either by or against apprentices were of very rare occurrence. He also considered the attendance of schools in Worcester to be good.

397. *Mrs. Williams*, Park Terrace.—I and my little girl are making boot linings now; we make gloves, when we can have that work; she is just 10. I have kept her at school as long as I could, for I know they are more useful in the end, as well as being better, for being taught at school. She has been about a month at gloving. Children are put to it younger than she is. A mistress takes three or four from about 8 to 11 years old sometimes; there are none such just here, but I know of one or two on the other side of the hill. One offered to take my girl and give her half earnings; that would not be more than 1*s.* or 1*s.* 6*d.* a week for a long time. But her hours were from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m., and I think that too long; besides, she is very strict, and they get thumped, if they don't attend to work all the time. Children, as young as my girl, can point as well as welt. The younger ones don't often earn more 1*s.* 6*d.* a week; a girl of 16 or 17, who has been a long time at gloving, will have to work hard at home to earn 6*s.* a week, and she must have a frame to do that. It certainly does hurt the chest with stooping at the frame. I used to find it made my chest ache. These children get very little schooling. I think in the country, the older women sew more and the children are more in the fields. I stayed for three weeks this March at Broughton, a village near here, and it was so there.

398. *Mrs. Whetstone*, Fish Street.—Here I found four females; one middle-aged, two young women, and a child of 7; the older women were "topping," the child sewing welts. They stated to me that there were very few working in Worcester so young as 7, and that children were not "kept" to it. Many, however, begin between 8 and 9, and from that to 12 years old. They usually worked at home, but some women had three or four children to teach. One knew of a woman who had had five or six; the hours they usually worked were from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., but some were later. "They work a long day for little ones." The children are paid 1*s.* 6*d.* and 2*s.* a week, and have no school except on a Sunday.

EVESHAM.

Evesham.

399. *E. Pinchin.*—I am 14 now, and have been at gloving for six years and a little more; I have never done any other work. I work at home with mother; some here learn three or four girls together; we have had two besides ourselves working for us in this room; but most work at home. We usually work till dusk from 8 a.m.; my chest aches often with stooping at the frame, but my eyes don't. We never work by candle light; that hurts the eyes very much.

400. At another house, a mother and two daughters were working at the frame, the youngest of these was 12, and had begun to welt at 8; they all found their chests ache, but had not observed any effect on the eye-sight; they usually worked till dusk from about 8 a.m. They reckoned to make six pair a day of "best men's" between them; and were paid 3*s.* 6*d.* or 3*s.* 9*d.* a dozen pair, with 7*d.* a dozen if they did the pointing as well; if they found their own thread, they would be paid 4*s.* a dozen instead of 3*s.* 9*d.*, but the thread was usually sent with the gloves from the employer.

401. [In company of the Rev. Mr. Walsh I visited several other houses in Evesham, and obtained similar information to the above. I received subsequently the following letter from that gentleman.]

The Vicarage, Evesham,
May 18th, 1864.

Sir,

In reply to your note of the 6th ult., I send you answers to your questions. As to the numbers attending the Church National schools, there are from the ages of 7 to 8, 37 boys and 14 girls; from 8 to 10,

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20 boys and 36 girls; above 10, 22 boys and 30 girls. In the Sunday schools connected with the church we have a total of 81 boys and 88 girls. On account of ignorance and irregular attendance of many at the week-day school, we find it necessary to have them for two hours in the afternoon of Sunday instead of taking them to church. Of those in our national school 22 boys and 30 girls, belong to gloving families. And in the girls' school there are six girls who do gloving at home, and attend most irregularly the school. In the infant school there are 90 on the register; of these 50 are girls, and 30 of them belong to gloving families. In the Girls' British school of Evesham the number on the register is 83. Average attendance 55. Those under 6 years, 10; from 6 to 8, 25; from 8 to 10, 30; above 10, 18. Of the girls attending the British school 24 girls belong to families engaged in gardening operations; 12 girls belong to families engaged in the gloving.

The trade of glove making is carried on to a very large extent in Evesham and the parishes roundabout, and it is followed by a large section of females, who are either too proud, or too lazy, to follow more arduous employments. I am of opinion, and it is the opinion of medical men, that it is not by any means a healthy occupation; five or six, and often many more, living shut up in a small badly ventilated room, stooping over their frames, and breathing an impure atmosphere for from 10 to 14 hours together; the consequence of this is, that they all appear most contracted in the chest, and generally complain of pain in the side and chest; in appearance they deathly pale, or have a fixed high colour, which is not natural. The parents take their children away from school at a very early age, and compel them to work at gloving in the house, and in many cases they do not go to school after 8 years, but are at once put to gloving.

There is no doubt but that many evils arise out of the gloving. The women are allowed to take the work into their own houses, and consequently they are left free from anything like superintendence, or moral responsibility to their employers. Indeed, I imagine the employers look merely to the quality of the work, rather than anything connected with their moral conduct. The houses in which the gloving is carried on are generally gossip shops, and in many cases schools for scandal, and training places for immorality, from the tone of the language carried on there. They are also, as a rule, very dirty and untidy. There is a very little animal food consumed by the gloveresses; their meals consist chiefly of tea and bread and butter, and this arises from the sedentary life they lead, which naturally affects their appetite and digestion. They are in the habit of sitting close at the frames from 10 to 14 hours a day; the wages a first hand can earn is 4*s.* per doz. pair for Dent's best gloves, and the ordinary gloveresses earn from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* per doz. pair. It is only a most expert first hand that can stitch three pairs in the day, but the average is one dozen per week, *i.e.*, 3*s.* or 4*s.* per week per hand. If one of the gloveresses spoil a pair of gloves in any way, she is charged the full retail price, 3*s.* 6*d.* per pair, and the spoiled gloves are thrown on her hands.*

In the schools we find that those girls, with whom we have the greatest difficulty in maintaining order and good discipline, are those who belong to gloving families. They leave school at much earlier age than in other cases; in fact, as soon as they can sit at the frames. I have heard of cases in which girls have been put to gloving as early as 7, but 8 is a common age to begin gloving. It is a very common thing to find numbers of girls here from 20 to 30, who cannot even write their names, and yet all these might have received a good education, and far superior to that of the older women, owing to the national schools having been built, when they were small, and of an age to attend school.

With regard to the effect the gloving trade has upon the morals of the young women in Evesham and the neighbourhood, I am sorry to be in a position to state that the far greater number of them lead very immoral lives; it is well known that many girls commence an early life of sin, being ruined as early as 14 or 15 years of age. This no doubt arises from the neglect of the parents, and from their improvident habits; and I believe the parents do not care what the girls do, as long as they can get anything to support themselves. And what they get from the gloving is not sufficient to support them, so that they will sin with anyone, who will give them the means of gratifying their inordinate love of dress.

There is very little open prostitution in the town. I am informed on reliable authority there are not more than three or four, who openly walk the streets to solicit prostitution. I find the number of illegitimate births remarkably few and on the decrease; but that proves nothing as to an increased state of morality; I think it rather tells the other way; indeed, I have no hesitation in saying that the young girls, from the age of 14, who are engaged in gardening and gloving, are highly immoral, and that a great amount of immorality ensues from the intermixture of the sexes during the seasons of asparagus tying, pea picking, and plum gathering. I fear that the glove-making is to the young girls of Evesham and the neighbourhood, what the millinery is to the young women in London and the other large cities, a cloke for prostitution *sub rosâ*. In consequence of this an inordinate love of dress is fostered, and they will do anything in order to get finery to make themselves attractive to the young men; besides, the young women having sat from 10 to 14 hours closely, go out about dusk, just at the time the young men are about after the gardening is over, and you will see in an evening all the streets and favourite places of resort crowded with gaily dressed girls†; and this is seen especially on Sunday afternoons and evenings, when they are walking about with young men, and I fear that by the conversation, that the younger ones hear in the cottages at work, their minds are very early polluted, so they fall an easy prey on the first opportunity.

As regards the morals of the older women, who are gloveresses and work in the gardens, many of them are of very drunken habits (worse, if possible, than the men), and dead to all sense of shame, and these, I fear, are a great cause of the immorality of the younger girls; they do not care anything about their children as long as they can indulge their propensity to drink. It is most difficult to get good female servants; as long as they can get gloving, the girls will not go out to service, or be under any sort of restraint. It is, indeed, high time there should be some legislation on the matter. I trust the time will soon be when some of our great and good men, as Lords Kinnaird and Shaftesbury, will be able to effect something, so that by the education of our children these great and crying evils may be ameliorated. If I can supply you with any more information for the Commission, I shall be happy to do so; this is a subject I have much at heart.—I remain, &c.

G. R. Dallas Walsh,
Curate of Evesham and Chaplain to the Right Hon. Dowager Lady Vivian.

[The Rev. Mr. Atkinson, curate of Hampton, a village near Evesham, made statements to me regarding the immorality of the gloving girls in that village very similar to those contained in the above letter.—H.W.L.]

* This must not be taken as the general practice. Mr. Ladler, (No. 393.) of whom I made inquiries after the receipt of the above letter, informs me that Messrs. Dent never adopt any such course; they require the gloves to be brought back, and levy a small fine, the amount of which is never equivalent to the damage done.—H.W.L.

† Mr. Walsh attributes much of this evil to the tally system, and denounces the travelling packmen in strong terms.

MEDICAL EVIDENCE.

Principles of Room Ventilation.

402. Statement of Dr. John Sutherland, M.D., Edinburgh, Member of the Royal Commission on the Sanitary state of the Indian Army, Commissioner for improving Barracks and Hospitals, and President of the Sanitary Section of the International Exhibition (1862), &c., &c.

War Office, 20th June 1864.

Dear Mr. Grainger,

In reply to your request that I would inform you as to the principles which have guided the Barrack and Hospital Improvement Commission in the ventilation of rooms, I have much pleasure in sending you the following brief statement, which you will find expanded into detail in the General Report of the Commission itself (pages 36–65).

A healthy atmosphere, such as nature has provided for the support of animal life, is composed as follows :—

Oxygen gas - - - - 21 per cent.
Nitrogen gas - - - - 79 per cent.
Carbonic acid gas, from 3 to 9 parts in 10,000 of air.

Water, from one half to four-fifths of the total amount required to saturate the air.

Any material change in the proportion of these constituents is hazardous to health, and additions to them may render the air either unwholesome or poisonous, according to the nature of the added substance.

The whole art of ventilation is intended to preserve the air in a room of the constituents and in the proportions indicated above.

In a room inhabited by human beings we find the following very important changes produced in the air.

1. Oxygen is withdrawn by the process of respiration and its proportionate quantity is reduced.

2. The oxygen withdrawn is replaced by an equivalent of carbonic acid gas.

3. The relative amount of moisture is increased by the exhalation of watery vapour from the lungs and skin.

4. This exhaled moisture carries with it a large quantity of animalized excreted matter ready to enter into decomposition.

In short, the vital element, oxygen, is withdrawn, and its place supplied by two poisons, viz.:—Carbonic acid and putrescing animalized matter dissolved in aqueous vapour. When carbonic acid amounts to a half per cent. of the total mass of the air it produces mischief.

An adult gives off by the process of respiration alone nearly a cubic foot of carbonic acid per hour, and thus in an unventilated room, allowing 300 cubic feet of contents for each inmate, this dangerous state of the air would be produced in an hour and a half.

But carbonic acid is far less injurious than the excreted air poisons referred to above.

An adult gives off from the skin and lungs about a pint of fluid, in vapour, every eight hours, and this fluid carries as much animalized matter in solution with it as it can hold.

Hence an eight hours' occupation of an unventilated work-room, allowing 300 cubic feet per worker, would render the air impure by the abstraction of about eight cubic feet of oxygen by every occupant, the addition by every occupant of about eight cubic feet of carbonic acid and a pint of water in vapour, carrying with it a large quantity of putrescing organized matter. It is this putrescing air poison which occasions the close foul smell of unventilated inhabited rooms, especially sleeping-rooms. It saturates every wall and ceiling, and covers the furniture. It can be scraped off and examined. It is absorbed into the blood by respiration and then it causes loss of vigour, blanching, blood disease, tuberculosis and consumption, in many cases predisposition to fever and to general nervous ill health. In such a state of the atmosphere little good work can be done, and of all the "negligences and ignorances," which afflict the workers, this neglect of the state of work-rooms is the most costly to the employer.

There is no escape from this law, or from its consequences.

In our own department of work we had to determine what amount of air was necessary to keep rooms healthy. We performed a long series of experiments to ascertain the point, and the result was that a mean quantity of 1,200 cubic feet of air per hour was required for each inmate in a closed sleeping-room.

We carried out our works on this assumption, and subsequent inquiry made by others has shown that this 1,200 cubic feet per inmate per hour is simply the *minimum quantity* required to keep the air, not quite pure, but sufficiently pure.

In sleeping-rooms, however, there are no lights nor fires, and in barracks there are no trades nor processes carried on which tend to increase the amount of impurities in the air, beyond the amount due to the presence of human beings. In ventilating work-rooms these additional sources of impurity must be taken into account. If the work itself gives rise to atmospheric impurity, this impurity must be provided for separately in all ventilating arrangements.

To take the lighting alone, we find that every burning candle introduced into a room is about equivalent in its effect on the air to the introduction of an additional inmate. Two common gas jets require more fresh air than would suffice for the respiration of three men. Two fan gas lights are equivalent to the addition of eight occupants to the room in which they are burned.

Generally each cubic foot of good coal gas consumes about $2\frac{1}{4}$ cubic feet of oxygen, and produces $1\frac{1}{4}$ cubic feet of carbonic acid, together with a large amount of watery vapour and other deleterious products.

These facts will be sufficient to show the necessity of providing for the removal of all products of gas combustion. Besides injuring health they weaken and destroy colours and fabrics, and are, on the mere commercial side, extremely costly additions to the air of either shop or work-room.

For simply removing air impurities occasioned by the presence of human beings in a room, we have adopted the following practical principles.

1. We have found it absolutely necessary to allow 600 cubic feet for every sleeper in a sleeping-room. There are several practical reasons which have determined this amount, but chief among them stands the fact that in order to ventilate without injury to health you must have a certain cubic space to act as a relay of air, into which you introduce a certain amount of fresh air at one end and from which you remove a certain amount of impure air at the other. You cannot ventilate if there are drafts, and drafts increase in violence in proportion as you diminish the space through which you have to pass 1,200 cubic feet of air per inmate per hour. Again, unless you have a certain amount of warmer air with which to mingle your colder air coming from without, you will lower the temperature too much, and subject the inmates to sudden alternations and to colds. Suffice it to say that experience has fully justified the amount of cubic space we have employed apart from all theoretical reasons.

2. Besides this, it has been necessary in winter to warm part of the admitted air, in addition to the radiating effect of a common open fire-place. No open

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c.

fire-place can heat so large an amount of air by radiation alone as is required except in a very small room.

We have made use of a grate made by Messrs. Kennard for the War Office. It is like a common fire-grate, but it has a fire-brick chamber behind the fire, through which chamber fresh air from the outer atmosphere passes into the room above the chimney breast, after being warmed to 70° or 80° F.

In larger rooms, such as schools, we use stoves with open fronts and fire-brick air chambers, and all the air to be warmed is passed through these chambers from the outer air:—No air to be warmed is taken from the room in any case. All is fresh air from without.

3. For removing the foul air of rooms, we introduce square wooden shafts carried up from a corner of the room above the roof of the buildings. To these shafts we give a sectional area corresponding to the cubic contents and inmates of the room.

A room with 4,800 cubic feet of contents would contain $\frac{4800}{600} = 8$ inmates, and

In such a room if on a top floor the shaft would have a sectional area of one square inch for every 50 feet of contents, or $\frac{4800}{50} = 96$ square inches.

For floors next below the upper we allow one square inch for every 55 cubic feet, or $\frac{4800}{55} = 88$ square inches. For all floors below these we give one square inch for every 60 cubic feet, or $\frac{4800}{60} = 80$ square inches.

Whenever the number of inmates is increased beyond eight in such a room, these sections would of course no longer hold.

4. All fresh air introduced into such rooms should come in close to the ceiling. If introduced at the floor it cools the air injuriously about the feet of the inmates, and it causes drafts.

We have abolished this situation for inlets, and all ours are at the ceiling. The best inlets for fresh air for work-rooms are Sherringham's valves. There are several others, some with wire gauze or perforated zinc, but Sherringham's are best in practice. We generally put them above or between the windows.

We allow one square inch of inlet area for every 60 cubic feet of room contents, so that for such a room as that instanced above we should give the inlets 80 square inches of area. With Kennard's grates for warming part of the air it would not be necessary to make the fresh air inlets above half the area. That is, in a room with 4,800 cubic feet, into which a warm air grate had been introduced, the fresh air inlets at the ceiling might have a total area of 40 square inches.

5. For gas ventilation we use a funnel over the burner, having a tube carried into the chimney or into the ventilating shaft to increase its draft. But in hospitals we have recently introduced a glass globe,* suspended by a metal tube from the ceiling. The lights are enclosed in the globe, and all the fumes pass away by the tube along the ceiling to the outside.

These are the general principles which we have had successfully in use in the ventilation of barracks and hospitals for years. But in applying them everything depends on the situation and construction of the house or building. In open, high, airy positions there is no difficulty in ventilating rooms with numbers of inmates. The difficulty begins when the house is situated in a close narrow street, court, or district.

I am not prepared to state that the plan and dimensions I have given above would answer everywhere. Ventilation is an art to be applied under very variable conditions, and all our works have been carried out after examination of the rooms to be dealt with.

Such an examination I look on as being indispensable to success, and even after works are carried out they may require some modifications or additions to render them sufficient for maintaining the purity of the air.

On the general question of what amount of cubic space is necessary for health, I would remark:—

1. That for sleeping rooms, ventilated, 600 cubic feet are required.

2. That for work-rooms very much will depend on the nature of the work. Active occupations where the muscles are much used, are far more healthy under even unfavourable conditions of ventilation than are sedentary or passive occupations. A cubic space of 400 feet with proper ventilation will be more healthy for an active workman than 600 would be for a tailor.

For sedentary occupations I should consider 500 cubic feet of working room with abundant ventilation and warming by no means too much for health alone. Warming is essential. Sedentary occupations are not heat producing. They are all cold. Every breath of cold air causes a shiver in the workers, and they close up every cranny to protect themselves, notwithstanding the certainty of disease, and possibly of death, before them. What has to be done is to combine skilfully fresh air with heat in some such way as we have endeavoured to do it, and it can be done.

Many small work-rooms may be improved by Arnott's ventilators into the chimneys, and Sherringham's at the ceilings.

For work-rooms in upper floors or under roofs the double tube ventilator of Mr. Mackinnel will be found to answer well. It answers both as foul air shaft and fresh air inlet. But it does not warm the air.

Nearly every barrack-room and hospital ward in the United Kingdom has been ventilated on the principles stated above, and it may be of interest to compare briefly the mortality and leading fatal diseases in the army before the barracks and hospitals were improved with the present sanitary state of the troops at home stations, and also with the civil population of the soldiers' ages.

To begin with the last of these elements, we find that the English male population between the ages of 15 and 45 yields a mortality of 9·8 per 1,000 living per annum. The infantry of the line before the Crimean war yielded an annual death-rate of 17·9 per 1,000 living. We began our improvements in 1858, and the mortality among the infantry has since averaged about 8·56 per 1,000 living per annum. In 1862 (the last return), it was 8·09 per 1,000.

The death-rate among the different classes compared has been made up as follows:—

	Annual Deaths per 1,000 living.		
	Zymotic Diseases.	Chest and Tubercular Diseases.	All other Diseases.
English Male population, ages 15–45.	2·0	4·5	3·3
Infantry of the Line serving at home, 1837–46.	4·1	10·1	3·7
Infantry of the Line serving at home, 1859–60–61.	0·96	4·2	3·4

I have used the most recently-published returns, but the proportions of mortality from the different diseases remain much the same at the present date. You will perceive that the real cause of reduction in the soldiers' mortality has arisen from the great reduction which has taken place in "foul air" diseases. Those of the epidemic class have fallen to less than a fourth part of their former prevalence, and the mortality from consumption and its allied diseases has fallen from 10·1 per 1,000 to 4·2 per 1,000. Formerly the mortality from chest affections in the army exceeded the total mortality from all causes in the civil

* The makers of these globes are Messrs. Stevens & Sons, Darlington Works, Southwark Bridge, S.E.

population. Now the mortality from chest diseases in the army is less than it is in civil life.

After our experience I can see no reason why with ordinary care, and at a very trifling cost, the high death-rate among certain classes of work-people may not be greatly reduced. A high death-rate among any class of workers is a very costly affair for their employers; for one of the things it indicates with certainty is inefficient and costly production.

I remain, &c.

J. Sutherland.

R. D. Grainger, Esq.

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403. Dr. Letheby, M.B., M.A., Ph. D., and Professor of Chemistry in the Medical College of the London Hospital, and Medical Officer of Health for the City of London, &c. &c., on the Sickness and Mortality of Needlewomen.

41, Finsbury Square,

My Dear Sir, May 21, 1864.

I regret that I have not had an opportunity until to-day to write to you about the needlewomen of the City.

In the course of the last nine years I have classified every death in the City according to age, sex, occupation, and residence, as well as according to the special cause of the death. I have therefore now accumulated facts which throw a light on the influence of occupation on the value of a City life; and as regards the subject of your inquiry, namely, the mortality of needlewomen, the following facts may perhaps be of use to you.

During the last nine years there have been 295 deaths of needlewomen at 15 years of age and upwards in the City of London, and there have also been 181 deaths of their children under 15 years of age, making altogether 476 deaths of this class.

Of these 295, which may be regarded as the working or self-supporting portion of the class, 97 only reached the age of 45, and but 32 arrived at 65. Of every 1,000 deaths, therefore, among needlewomen at 15 and upwards, 671 occur before the 45th year of their age. Among all classes of women in the City at this age the proportion is but 325 per 1,000 of the deaths, and among the better classes, as the shopkeepers, it is only 296 per 1,000. The mortality, therefore, of needlewomen at from 15 to 45 years of age is at least twice as great as that of other classes.

And, again, if we examine the mortality from another point of view, namely, from the facts shown by the mean age at death, it will be seen that the value of a needlewoman's life is but small. At from 15 to 45 years of age the mean age at death among all classes of females in the City is 29·6 years, and in all England it is a little more than 30 years; whereas with the needlewoman it is but 24·7 years. At other ages the mean age at death is as follows:—

Mean Age at Death of Women.

	Needlewomen in the City.	All Classes in the City.	All Classes of Women in England.
15 and over -	36·4	54·1	53·9
45 „ „ - -	60·2	66·0	68·2
65 „ „ - -	70·4	75·1	76·8

These facts are sufficiently clear in their indications of the high death rate and the early mortality of needlewomen; but the question will naturally arise whether this excessive mortality is due to an unhealthy character of the occupation, or to the fact that the occupation draws into it the weakly portion of the community. An examination of the causes of death may furnish us with an answer to this.

Causes of Death, per 1,000 Deaths, of Females at 15 and upwards.

	Phthisis.	Pneumonia and Bronchitis.	Fever.	Diarrhœa, &c.
Needlewomen - -	438	95	106	11
Shopkeepers - -	127	200	37	33
All classes in the City -	194	215	43	22
All classes in England -	214	106	49	54

From this it is manifest that the two great causes of death among needlewomen are phthisis and continued fever. The former disease is at least three times as fatal with them as it is among the better classes of women in the City, and the latter is nearly three times as fatal. How far the occupation may be concerned in causing phthisis is an open question, but there can be no doubt of the influence of the occupation and its concomitant circumstances in developing, or at least in favouring the malignity of continued fever, for there is no other class of persons in the City, excepting those who are occupied in waiting on the sick, who are even nearly so liable to attacks of this disease.

And there is yet another aspect of the question that deserves consideration. More than one-fourth of all the deaths among the children of needlewomen is from tubercular diseases, as scrofula, tabes, and hydrocephalus. In all England the proportion is scarcely 7 per cent. And here, again, it may be asked whether this terrible manifestation of tubercular disease is due to the condition of life, to the close atmosphere, the poor diet, the filthy home, or to the natural taint of a scrofulous constitution. But let it come whence it may, it is clear that there is great necessity for improving those social conditions which, if they do not actually engender the disease, are largely concerned in maturing it. A very slight acquaintance with the habits of the needlewoman, and the many circumstances which tend to impoverish her strength and sap her constitution, will be sufficient to show how urgent is the necessity for a large improvement of her social condition; and not alone is this needed among the very poorest classes who are struggling for existence, and who either die young or find their last home in a workhouse, but it is also needed in those more refined establishments where the slaves of fashion are worn out by exhausting labour, or are hopelessly injured by the close atmosphere in which they are obliged to work and sleep. In the latter class, indeed, three great improvements of their occupation are necessary, namely, shorter hours of labour, more space for healthy respiration, and a proper regard to the effective ventilation of the rooms where gas is used.

I have written this very hastily, but I hope it will serve the purpose you had in view when you asked me to give you some information on the subject.

I remain, my dear Sir,

Yours truly,

H. Letheby.

R. D. Grainger, Esq., F.R.S., &c.

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404. Examination of the Effect of Blue Glass on Gas Flame. By Dr. Letheby, M.B., M.A., Ph.D., and Professor of Chemistry, &c.

41, Finsbury Square,

Dear Sir, 29th June 1864.

I have made a careful examination of the effect of blue lamp glasses on the colour and intensity of the gas flame, with the view of ascertaining whether the quality of the light would be improved without seriously destroying the illuminating power. The results are, that when common London gas is burnt at the rate of five feet an hour from an Argand burner of 15 holes, with a seven inch chimney, the orange yellow colour of the flame is decidedly neutralized by the complementary blue tint of the glass;

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and the flame is whiter and more agreeable to the eye; but the loss of light is rather serious; for when the gas is burning at the rate already mentioned with a colourless glass chimney, the illuminating power of the flame is equal to the light of 14 sperm candles; but with the blue glass it is equal to only 11·7 candles—the loss of light, therefore, is nearly 16½ per cent. This is equivalent to burning 16½ per cent. more gas in the rooms to get the same amount of light; and this would have the effect of heating and vitiating the atmosphere to the same extent. In considering, therefore, the advantage derived from a more agreeable light, we must not lose sight of the disadvantage arising from the increased injury to the atmosphere. I enclose a table which illustrates the relative values of different illuminating agents in so far as they affect the temperature and purity of the atmosphere; and I may add that they are the results of my own experiments. I may further mention that for every pound of water raised one degree of Fahrenheit by the heat of the combustible, there are nearly 5 cubic feet of air raised to that extent, so that the gas of a single burner giving the light of 12 candles will, in an hour, raise the temperature of nearly 700 cubic feet of air from an ordinary temperature (60°) to the uncomfortable temperature of 80°. This and the other facts of the table will show the necessity for good ventilation where gas is burnt in the work-rooms.

Relative Values of Illuminating Agents, in respect of their heating and vitiating Effects on the Atmosphere, when burning so as to give the Light of 12 Standard Sperm Candles per hour.*

—	Pounds of Water heated 1° Fahr.	Oxygen consumed (Cub. Ft.).	Carbonic Acid produced (Cub. Ft.).	Air vitiated (Cub. Ft.).
Cannel gas	1950	3·30	2·01	50·2
Common ditto	2786	5·45	3·21	80·2
Sperm oil	2335	4·75	3·33	83·3
Benzole	2326	4·46	3·54	88·5
Paraffin	3619	6·81	4·50	112·2
Camphine	3251	6·65	4·77	119·2
Sperm ditto	3517	7·57	5·27	131·7
Wax candles	3831	8·41	5·90	149·5
Stearic ditto	3747	8·82	6·25	156·2
Tallow ditto	5054	12·06	8·73	218·3

Truly yours,
R. D. Grainger, Esq. H. Letheby.

405. Carsten Holthouse, Esq., F.R.C.S., Surgeon to the Westminster Hospital, and the Surrey Ophthalmic Hospital.

I have had much experience in ophthalmic disorders; I see from 2,000 to 3,000 cases every year. I have paid much attention to the effects of occupation on vision, especially as observed in young women employed in needlework. They are much subject to what is called asthenopia, *i.e.*, a want of power to sustain vision for any length of time on near or small objects; the focussing or accommodating power of the eye (a muscular act) becomes exhausted by over-use, so that the patient can no longer maintain it in focus, and vision is consequently indistinct; this necessitates rest, and the eyes are either closed or directed into vacancy till their exhausted muscular energy has been renovated. The further progress of this disease is manifested by the periods of working power becoming shorter, and the intervals of rest required becoming more frequent and longer, so that girls who once could work continuously for one, two, three, or more hours before they experienced any asthenopic symptoms, will now be unable to work without resting their eyes for more than half an hour or 20 minutes, and even much shorter periods. These symptoms always become aggravated at night, or if the girls are employed on dark colours, as black, which is found very trying to all eyes but the best. The aggravation of the symptoms at night I believe to be owing partly to the general bodily exhaustion consequent on long continued work; partly to the artificial illumination by which these girls work, so different both as to quantity and quality from daylight; and partly to the increased deterioration of the atmosphere by combustion. This affection is chiefly met with in those whose eyes are naturally or congenitally somewhat less refractive than they ought to be, and whose powers of accommodation are therefore more called upon than they would be in the healthy eye. But that the asthenopia is really brought on by over-use of the organ, is proved by the length of time which often elapses before the symptom manifests itself, not indeed till the system generally, and the eyes in particular, have become weakened by overwork; by the great benefit derived from tonic medicines; and by the greater working capacity of these women on Monday after the Sunday's rest. Besides this very common affection, which may be greatly relieved by the use of proper spectacles, diseases of a more serious kind—inflammatory affections of a low type—are occasionally set up, either in the conjunctiva or cornea, or not unfrequently in the more important structures of the eyeball—the choroid and retina, leading in the latter case either to total blindness or to such an amount of impairment of sight as permanently to incapacitate the patient from getting her living by needlework. I have no doubt that much of this mischief and suffering might be prevented by shortening the hours of work, by attending to the ventilation of the work-rooms, and, where the individuals are affected with myopia or hypermetropia, by an earlier recourse to the use of spectacles, which correct these dioptric defects of the eye. Fourteen, and even 16 hours a day, which some of these needlewomen have told me they are obliged to work, is much too long, and, if persisted in, is sure to lead, sooner or later, to permanent injury of the sight. I have a young woman now under my care who has been engaged in various kinds of needlework for the last eight years, and whose eyes are so irreparably damaged that she can now barely earn sufficient to maintain herself by her needle, and wishes to emigrate. At one workshop in which she was engaged, in Little Britain, 30 girls were employed at their needle, in one room with a low ceiling and only two windows in it, from 8 in the morning till 10 at night. At some kinds of work she has been obliged to work hard day and night to earn as much as 7*s.* a week, and has been so thoroughly knocked up at the end of the week as to be too tired to go out on the Sunday, or even to read a book.

To sum up, I should say that too many hours continuous working of the eyes must of itself tend to fatigue them; but when they are employed, as is not unfrequently the case, on black fabrics, by artificial light, and in ill ventilated rooms, the air vitiated by the products of respiration and combustion, there is a combination of unfavourable circumstances which tend to impair the health generally, and thereby to predispose to, and actually excite disease in the delicate organ whose powers are so unmercifully overtaxed.

May 24, 1864. C. Holthouse.

406. George Critchett, Esq., Surgeon to the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital, Moorfields, late Surgeon to the London Hospital.

Cases of defective sight amongst the needlewomen of all kinds are very frequent; such defect is due to the prolonged use of the eye upon minute objects; it is aggravated by a feeble state of health, the result of deficient air, ventilation, and nourishment. The adapting or focussing power of the eye is impaired, leading to defective vision, and limiting very materially the time during which such persons can use the eye. At first it is found that they can use the eye for a few hours. The period during which they can use the eye is gradually diminished until it is reduced to two or three minutes. The cases from overwork at the needle form about three per cent. of all the eye affections at the Hospital.

* An adult person consumes 1,250 cubic inches of oxygen, and produces 1,084 cubic inches of carbonic acid per hour. Other authorities give a larger amount, and, as stated in the body of this Report, the quantities vary according to age, sex, and many other modifying conditions.

There are certain congenital defects in the eye, connected with the adjustment, which predispose to this disorder, and increase its intensity.

Has found that prolonged work by gaslight tends to develope this condition; that is the time when the sight most rapidly fails.

Young women who have been working all day, if called on to prolong their work by gaslight, are particularly liable to suffer; it is the prolonged effort that causes the evil.

Working together in numbers, thus vitiating the atmosphere, predisposes to this weakness of the eye by lowering the general health.

Many of these patients look pale and anæmic or bloodless, and their general health bad.

Working from 12 to 15 hours a day is likely to produce this state of health.

Knows that many of them do work for these hours.

407. White Cooper, Esq., F.R.C.S., Surgeon Oculist to the Queen; late Ophthalmic Surgeon to St. Mary's Hospital; consulting Ophthalmic Surgeon to the Milliners' and Dress-makers' Benevolent Institution, &c. &c.

I have had great experience in all kinds of ophthalmic disease, and paid much attention to the causes that affect vision.

In nine years I met with 1,360 cases of affections of the eyes from overwork.

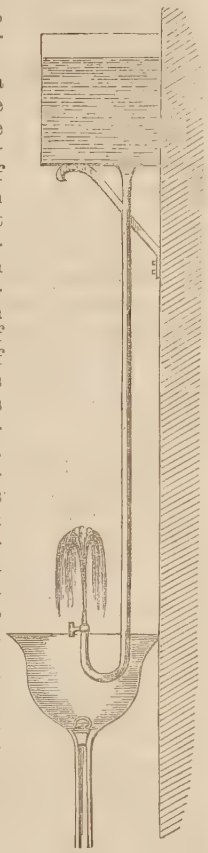
Ordinary needlework within moderate limits is not injurious, but prolonged needlework produces an inability to continue working; the worker finds it necessary to stop frequently; the object on which she is employed appears misty and confused, and an indescribable feeling is produced, obliging the worker to frequently close the eyes to rest them, until at length, in extreme cases, she cannot work at all. This effect is caused by continued strain and long application of the eyes on the same object, especially in insufficient light. Moderate work in sufficient light would not have that effect.

I have seen cases of absolute loss of sight from overwork with the needle; such cases are not common, but cases of inability to continue working are common. Overwork produces in some instances a permanent injury to the sight; but if the cause is removed at an early stage the evil may be arrested. Needlework carried on for 12 or 14 hours must unquestionably be injurious to the eye from the prolonged strain. Many domestic servants (ladies' maids especially), suffer from needlework carried on at night; and many ladies injure their sight by minute fancy work, especially worsted work with gaudy colours. The number of cases of injury done to the eye by working for bazaars, &c., is quite surprising. Working with bright colours or on black for a length of time is the most pernicious. Carried on in moderation, needlework is not more injurious to the eye than engraving or watchmaking.

The custom of having black work done by artificial light is very hurtful; the strain on the eye is so great. The occurrence of a public mourning is attended with an increase of eye disorders. Gaslight is worse than daylight. The injury to the eye from gaslight arises partly from the flickering or unsteady motion of the flame, and partly because the gas is deficient in blue rays; it is, in fact, too red, and therefore too exciting to the eyes. The best precaution against mischief arising from this cause, is to have the flame surrounded with chimneys or globes slightly tinted with blue. I attach much importance to the position of the light. It ought not to be on a level with the eyes, but above or somewhat behind the worker. The light should be thrown on the work and not on the eye. Gas produces great dryness of the air, which is irritating to the eye, and to obviate this it is a good thing to have pans of water in the work-rooms where gas is burning.

Unsteadiness of light is a discomfort o the eye, and one source of mischief. I have also seen most injurious consequences result from reading in railway carriages from the constant oscillation. Where it can be done, it is a great refreshment to dress-makers to have their room hung with blue or green,—but not flock paper prepared with arsenical green. It is a good plan to change frequently the colour of the work on which they are employed, as a relief to the eye.

If provision were made for the ventilation of gas burners, there would be little risk to the work, and the rooms would be altogether more healthy. Prolonged work in hot rooms must tend to aggravate any disorder or weakness of the eye, which would suffer from the general want of health in the worker. And eye affections are rendered worse by sleeping in badly ventilated rooms. I have frequently found that milliners who suffered from overwork, had at an earlier period of life been afflicted with strumous or scrofulous diseases of the eyes, which predisposed them to disorder.



Where contagious ophthalmia presents itself, there should be perfect isolation, to prevent the spread of the disease, which may be communicated by the use of the same towel, or by washing in the same basins. A simple but efficient mode of preventing infection would be by the use of an eye douche thus made, as originally suggested by Sir William Wilde. A cistern capable of holding three or four gallons of water is fixed to the wall; it is open at the top to admit of its being filled, and closed by a well-fitted lid to exclude impurities. A funnel-shaped zinc tube, furnished with a fine strainer, is attached to the bottom; from this extends a pipe of quarter-inch bore; the end is curved and furnished with a stop-cock and rose attached. Below this is a zinc basin furnished with an ordinary plug and waste pipe, into which the water falls. By simply holding the face over the rose and turning the cock more or less, a regulated jet of water can be thrown upon the eyes, which would effectually cleanse them.

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408. Geo. Lawson, Esq., F.R.C.S. Assistant Surgeon to the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital, Moorfields, and the Middlesex Hospital.

1st. My opportunities for obtaining information concerning the influence of employment on Eyesight are derived from the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital, Moorfields.

At this institution over 80,000 patients are seen annually, and of these over 16,000 are new cases. This number is made up strictly from the working classes, not only from the immediate neighbourhood in which the hospital is placed but from all parts of England.

The Effect of prolonged Needlework on the Eyesight.

The sight is influenced, 1st. By the direct effect of prolonged work on the *eye itself.*

2nd. It is often much affected by the impaired health which prolonged needlework necessarily produces.

α By the direct effect of prolonged work on the eye itself.

1st. By over work of the eye, its accommodative power becomes exhausted.

For looking at near objects, the power of accommodation is brought into action, and a distinct effort is

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required (though at first unperceived) to bring them into focus on the retina, the nervous expansion at the bottom of the eye.

After long work the eye becomes fatigued, the strain is relaxed, and the image being thrown slightly out of focus appears indistinct. A continuance of the work without resting the eyes causes a complete relaxation of the effort to accommodate, and a complete loss of the object on which the eye is fixed.

After a short rest the eye is again able to resume its work, and to continue it until fatigue again brings on the same symptoms of exhaustion.

A maintenance of this excessive fatigue daily for many hours, ultimately damages materially the accommodative power of the eye, and renders necessary the early use of convex glasses.

2nd. From long continued prolonged work, the eyes become congested, and a form of chronic ophthalmia is common.

3rd. The retina from a continuance of over work may become more or less paralyzed, and incapable of appreciating correctly minute objects. A form of amaurosis is induced, which may, unless the exciting cause, over work, is removed, pass on to complete blindness.

The class of patients in whom I have noticed all these symptoms, are, needlewomen engaged in slop work ; in making button holes for gentlemen's collars ; in bootbinders ; and in women engaged at artificial flower making. Similar symptoms I have seen, though less frequently, in watchmakers, steel plate engravers, and amongst the Spitalfields weavers.

One case I will shortly record :—

Eliza H——, aged 18. A thin, delicate looking girl, presenting the characteristic appearance of one over worked and under fed. She gets her living by making artificial flowers.

This employment obliges her head to be for a long time continuously in a stooping position.

The room in which she works is hot and confined ; 40 women being engaged in it, sitting as close to each other as they are able.

She is occupied from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily, after dark working by a strong gas light. When fully employed she can earn six shillings, but at present she only gains four shillings per week.

Twelve days ago whilst at work with her flowers, she felt a violent throbbing across her temples, and suddenly saw, she says, a bright light like a "star in the sky."

The eye immediately became painful, so as to oblige her to cease from work. She went home to bed, and on the following morning the pain was less but the eye felt hot and looked red. On trying to read with that eye she found that practically she was blind.

She could make out the lower part of an object placed directly in front of her, but the rest of it was dark.

Examined with the ophthalmoscope, the cause of all her present symptoms was found to depend on extensive retinal hæmorrhage.

In this patient I think the loss of the eye may be attributed, 1st. To the stooping position she was obliged to maintain during her work, favouring a congestion of the eyes.

2nd. To the many hours at which she was engaged.

3rd. To an unhealthy and debilitated state, depen- on the close atmosphere in which she lived, and the confinement to which she was subjected.

Girls suffer very severely from derangement of the uterine system, when overworked in hot and crowded rooms, breathing an impure air, and denied proper recreation and exercise. The disordered condition of the functions of the uterus reflects itself on other organs, and of these the eye not unfrequently suffers.

β The eye is much affected by the impaired health which prolonged needlework necessarily produces.

That the health suffers severely in all cases of prolonged work in a confined room, ill ventilated and overcrowded, is a fact known to all.

The want of proper exercise, the continual breathing an impure atmosphere, and the maintenance of a constrained position, favour the development of latent disease in all so circumstanced.

In the young, proper growth and development are arrested and a sickly constitution often engendered. The eyesight may and frequently does become secondarily affected, and diseases of a low type, dependent on impaired nutrition and faulty assimulation are common, and are witnessed daily in every Ophthalmic Hospital in England.

Influence of other Employments on the Eyesight.

Boiler makers.—Men engaged in boiler making frequently in their work meet with severe injuries to their eyes. In striking hot rivets, and in cutting cold ones, fragments of the metal fly off with great rapidity and often strike the eye.

They either inflict a wound which is more or less dangerous to the eye, or else the chip of metal lodges itself within the globe. Such injuries to the eye are most common.

My own experience is, that no class of mechanics lose so many eyes from the work in which they are engaged as boiler makers, and the men engaged in striking rivets. One man assured me that in one establishment in London, there were eight men who had each lost one eye. I have often questioned the men as to why they do not wear wire gauze protectors, and I am invariably told, that although occasionally when engaged in specially dangerous work they do, yet they could not wear them habitually, as their masters would object.

I have been informed by several workmen that wire gauze spectacles are an efficient protection against this evil.

Percussion caps.—Several eyes are lost every year from bad percussion caps. Made of a cheap and brittle alloy, instead of when struck by the hammer merely expanding out after the explosion of the detonating material within, one or more fragments of the metal are detached, and fly off with great velocity.

If an eye is struck with one of them, as too frequently happens, it either penetrates the globe or inflicts a very dangerous wound. In all such cases which have come under my notice, I have found on inquiry that the caps used were the cheap ones.

One man lost his eye from shooting at a target for nuts ; a spiculum of the metal flew off and lodged itself in the eye, causing irreparable damage and total loss of the organ.

Another man lost his eye from shooting at sparrows, using at the time some cheap caps he had purchased in the village.

In another instance a child had a piece of a gun cap lodged in the eye, from playing with a toy pistol. The caps were purchased at the toy shop where the pistol was sold. I have mentioned these three cases as illustrating three different uses for which the cheap percussion caps are commonly employed.

On the injurious Effects of working by Artificial Light, particularly Gas Light.

Much work by gas light is prejudicial to the eyes. The bright yellow glare of a room so lighted by gas that fine work may be conducted, acts as an irritant to the eye, speedily induces fatigue, and an inability without great discomfort to continue using it for any lengthened period of time.

The congested appearance of eyes in the morning which have been much worked over night in a room well lighted with gas, must be familiar to all.

The injurious effect of working by gaslight is much increased if the light is a flickering one. The continued motion of the light throws alternately and irregularly, into sudden light and shade (although perhaps only to a slight extent) the object on which the eye is fixed, and tires the accommodative power of the eyes, by frequently requiring them to readjust their focus. If gas is to be used for lighting large rooms where many persons are employed for hours at fine work, the greatest care should be taken that the flame of each burner is perfectly steady.

The argand burner affords a good and steady light.

Each burner should be furnished with a glass chimney, which steadies the light, increases the draught, and favours the complete consumption of the gas. To destroy the yellow glare which is so objectionable in rooms well lit up with gas, each chimney might be tinted with a little cobalt blue.

409. H. Hancock, Esq., F.R.C.S., Surgeon to the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital.—We have many cases of dressmakers and other needlewomen at this hospital. They are for the most part out-door patients. They are usually in an anæmic condition, the result of long confinement at work in close, ill-ventilated rooms, and want of fresh air and exercise. The long hours of work by gas light are especially injurious.

What they chiefly suffer from is atrophy of the nerve; this disease is gradually, and to an unprofessional observer imperceptibly developed; the ophthalmoscope is needed in order to detect its existence in all its early stages.

We treat them with steel and mineral acids, &c., and we specially urge in advanced cases entire rest of the organs, and where possible the patients going into the country; in milder cases we find considerable benefit from getting them into the country from Saturday to Monday.

410. [From the report of this hospital for 1863 it appears that during the previous year 7,531 persons had applied there for relief; of them 95 were dress-makers, 45 milliners, and 120 seamstresses, 3,370 were classed as children, wives, widows, or as having no employment, the rest were distributed among 160 different occupations.]

411. T. Flintoff, Esq., Surgeon to the Association for the Aid and Benefit of Dressmakers and Milliners.—My experience during the many years that I have been connected with the dress-makers and milliners' institution, as medical attendant, is, that owing to the long continuous sedentary employment that the young women are subjected to in the West End houses of business, chest complaints generally prevail, also defective action of the liver, and dyspepsia; hence, in many instances, they are not able to take sufficient to sustain the vital functions properly. From the long and continuous straining of the eyes during working hours they become bloodshot, frequent head-ache is induced, and from this diversion of the proper nervous action to the nerves of the stomach and liver the maladies before mentioned are brought on.

412. E. Johnson, Esq., M.D., Cavendish Place.—I have had for some years, in the exercise of my profession, considerable opportunities of observing the effect produced on the health of the workpeople by the conditions under which millinery and dress-making businesses are carried on in West End houses. No special disorder can be pointed out among them as the result of their occupation, but there is, no doubt, in them all a low physical tone. Amongst the younger girls amenorrhœa is not uncommon, likewise dyspepsia. Much is attributable to the fact of their being in so many cases in the first instance country girls, who have either never worked before at sedentary occupations, or at all events have done so in a pure air and with opportunities for healthful exercise. Such persons suffer much, and often permanently, from the confinement in close rooms, and the complete change in their mode of life. This is more particularly the case with the younger ones, who commence in London at a time of life when they are particularly susceptible of menstrual or other functional derangements. Indigestion is common among them. Their stomachs seem delicate through want of air and exercise. I have every reason to believe that the food is wholesome, and is supplied them in sufficient quantity, generally speaking, and, though plain, is varied, as far as you can expect it should be, from day to day; but their appetite fails and they grow fastidious, requiring some piquant relish to stimulate them.

I have always found employers very kind in cases of illness; but they are so pressed for room that the kindest thing for all concerned is in most instances to get the sick ones out of the house, if possible. The private houses, in which the work is to so great an extent carried on, are very ill adapted for places of work. Girls constantly complain of getting colds in the work-room, owing to their being compelled to sit in a draught, and at the same time speak of the heat and closeness of the room. It is very seldom that any system of proper ventilation can be successfully applied, and the space is necessarily very limited, so that in the season work-rooms and bed-rooms are frequently overcrowded.

I have not met with any cases of ophthalmia, which I should feel justified in attributing to the work of dress-makers. They occur for the most part among the commoner class of girls, the inferior day-workers or mere needle-women. They are in most cases catarrhal affections of the lid, and usually occur in strumous girls, and at most are instances of constitutional debility, developing itself in the weakest part.

There is an affection of one of the internal coats of the eye, "the choroid," observed in mourning workers. The symptoms are, after long work, occasional temporary loss of sight, and dark objects like flies constantly floating before the eyes. This depends on congestion of the choroid membrane.

No doubt in many places in the season the girls' energies are over-taxed, merely by long hours of work, independently of close rooms and want of exercise. It is obvious that overwork is injurious, but the three matters are always so mixed up together in the cases that come before a medical practioner that it is impossible to separate them, so as to apportion to each cause its due share in the result. I have no hesitation in saying that some legislative interference to limit the hours of work would be very generally beneficial, and for young persons, at all events, is almost necessary.

[The following evidence is important as embodying the results of a private inquiry undertaken at the request of Mr. Simon, the medical officer of the Privy Council, by an experienced medical practitioner, who has made the matter an especial subject of careful investigation, and has taken valuable evidence of a purely medical nature*, which obviously could be procured only by a member of his profession, and through private interviews with the employed by themselves. It affords me great satisfaction to perceive that a wholly independent inquiry, conducted in a different mode, and under different conditions from my own, in most substantial particulars confirms the evidence, upon which my report is founded.—H.W.L.]

413. J. N. Radcliffe, Esq., Guildford Street, Hon. Secretary to the Epidemiological Society, and Medical Superintendent of the National Hospital for Paralysed and Epileptic.

The inquiry was conducted towards the close of the summer season of 1863, and its chief object was to ascertain, as far as practicable, the actual condition of health among the employed, while following their occupation, and *holding themselves to be well*, in the higher class ("private") houses of business at the West End of London.

It was necessary that the examined should be in average health, and that they should be persons, whose statements might be trusted implicitly, or would admit

* Want of space has compelled me to omit, with Mr. Radcliffe's sanction, certain portions of his communication, which are less exclusively medical than those which I have retained.

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of ready verification. The essence of the inquiry was the determination of the physical condition of the *healthiest* workers. The pressure of other professional engagements has prevented the inquiry from being fully completed.

20 persons were examined fulfilling the conditions required; none had been engaged less than 18 months in a West End house. Rightly to have estimated the influence of the employment upon the physical powers, some knowledge of the individuals examined previous to their commencing work as dress-makers would have been necessary. Opportunities of seeing three of the examined several times prior to and after the autumn vacation clearly showed that too high an estimate had in the first instance been formed of their usual state of health. It is requisite to note that the statements of the examined respecting their physical condition are at the best imperfect. Regarding themselves as in good or fair health, it was difficult to induce them to converse with freedom on their actual state. Again, for the same reason, questions could not be pushed to the extent necessary to elicit a thorough history of the health-condition of each individual. The statements made therefore represent a higher grade of health than actually exists.

In only one instance were the general assertions of "good health," or being "quite well," and of "suffering little from the work," apparently borne out by a more detailed examination. I say apparently borne out, as the person referred to was seen but once; and twice or thrice when, during the first interview, all derangement of function has been denied, subsequent opportunities of seeing the individuals have shown that there was marked and persistent disorder of health due to employment. In the instance, to which allusion has been made, the person had lived for several months in a highly respectable, though small, West End house of business, which employs eight resident workers. The hours of work never exceed 12 out of the "season," or 13½ in the season. Work usually closes at 5 o'clock on the Saturday, except in the season. The employed live with the employers as one family. The house is in every respect a "home" to them. The food is good, varied, unstinted, and well served. The bedrooms are comfortable. The employers are very kind and considerate, and the house is a "home" for the employed equally on Sundays as on week days.

In the remaining instances the health was more or less disordered. The examined were not ill, yet they were not well. Their physical powers were manifestly below par. Their state is perhaps most accurately described as one of permanent fatigue, more or less marked. They were subject to fleeting muscular pains, particularly in the back, trunk, and lower limbs. Almost all suffered, to a greater or less extent, from back-ache or side-ache. There was a constant feeling of weariness, which was imperfectly relieved by sleep. A common expression was, "I get up in the morning as tired as when I go to bed." Their work deprived them both of the spirit and power for any other occupation. There was considerable nervous excitability, significant of over-taxed mental as well as physical powers. Their spirits were apt to run into extremes, now being unduly depressed, now unduly excited; "a trifle upset and worried" them. They were liable to nervous headaches and tic-doloreux. As more direct results of the confinement and want of exercise, they had feeble although excitable pulses. They were liable to palpitation of the heart. Their extremities, particularly the feet, were commonly cold, summer and winter, from defective circulation. They were martyrs to chilblains. Their feet and legs often swelled towards night, and ached miserably. Their respiration was imperfect, the chest expanding insufficiently, and the lungs lacking due inflation. Their digestion was also imperfect. They suffered often from discomfort after eating, or from actual pain; or they were liable to a sense of craving and sinking. Their appetite was variable, and often squeamish. The bowels were sluggish. Extreme costiveness was the rule. The uterine functions were generally disturbed, the menstruation being irregular, abnormal in quantity, or painful. The examined suffered, in short, from the usual consequences of defective innervation and protracted fatigue, the necessary results of a monotonous and sedentary occupation pushed to excess The effects described were found among the examined in every grade of development. At the best they were never entirely absent. They had gradually grown from the occupation, and the susceptibility to them seemed to increase the longer the employed had been engaged in it.

[From the typical cases which follow I have omitted some of the remarks made by the witnesses as to the health of their fellow-workers; they are to the same effect as the foregoing statement of Mr. Radcliffe. H.W.L.]

Case 1.

A—, aged 20, day-worker, has worked for four years in first-class court dress-maker's house. Lives three-quarters of a mile from place of business. Commences work, both in and out of season, at 9 A.M.; leaves usually at 9 P.M. Before drawing-rooms works until midnight one night, and the next night all through until 9 the following morning. Has complete rest for the whole of the drawing-room day. At other times in the season, perhaps once a fortnight, works until 11 P.M.; sometimes, but rarely, that has happened two or three times a week. Never works at home; is so tired with her ordinary work that she is obliged, as a rule, to put out her own dresses to be made. Goes to bed at 11 P.M., and gets up at 7 A.M.

Breakfasts at 8 A.M.; tea and bread and butter, occasionally an egg. Dinner provided by herself, and taken to house of business; always cold meat; usually a sandwich of beef or ham and bread and butter. No vegetables throughout the working week. Tea at 6 P.M., with bread and butter, provided by the house of business. The tea is not good; tastes as if it contained much soda. Supper at 10 P.M.; consists, when at home, of cold meat or a chop, bread, and stout; when at house of business of bread and cheese and beer (or porter); the latter sometimes not good. When working through the night, cold ham, bread, and tea or coffee at 2 A.M.; and tea, bread and butter at 8 A.M.; the ham very salt, the butter disagreeable, the coffee good.

The work-room small for the number of occupants; very oppressive when the gas is lighted. Fan-tail burners fixed about the level of the eyes when standing.

Suffers much from debility. This first began after two years' residence in London. At times severe pain in the chest and aching in the legs, back, and limbs generally. During heavy work the aching of the legs and ancles has sometimes been so severe that she could scarcely sit in her chair; they became much swollen. Suffers often from a dull, aching pain in the head, with dazzling of the eyes. Often turns quite blind during its continuance; it comes on in the after part of the day, after the gas is lighted, and goes off immediately on leaving work and going into the open air. (Appetite variable, bowels extraordinarily costive, menstruation disturbed and insufficient.)

Is in as good health as most of her companions. Does not consider herself unhealthy. Others suffer more than she; residents more than day-workers. The former are more liable to headache and fainting. Frequently some of them have to go to bed during the afternoon when under press of business. Coughing is very common in the work-room. Many, if they run down a short flight of stairs quickly, cough violently, and are unable to speak for some moments.

Mr. Radcliffe continues:

I saw A— again after a six weeks' holiday in the country, and was astonished at her changed appearance. The pallor of the face had vanished, the pulse was quiet, and digestion normal. She had lost entirely the aching of the limbs and back, her feet and legs no longer swelled, and she had gained considerably in flesh. I scarcely recognised her, and for the first time

fully estimated the extent, to which her physical powers had been depressed by the work of the season, and, indeed, of the whole period since her previous vacation.

Case 2.

E—, a resident at a court dress-maker's. Work commences in the season at 8.30 A.M., and ceases at about 11 P.M. Out of the season seldom more than from 9 to 9. Often ceases at tea time, 5 or 5.30.

She now (at the close of the season) gets up in the morning almost as weary as when she goes to bed at night. Is too tired to sleep soundly; sometimes cannot sleep till late in the morning. Is liable to distressing dreams. Her appetite keeps up with a little pampering, else she could not get on. Her Sunday at home in the country is her salvation; the change gives her a new lease of life for the coming week.

She is very pale, and her face is puffy. Towards evening the legs and feet swell and become painful. She is always weary, and her limbs, and "bones," and back ache a great deal. The back is very painful at times. The stomach is not doing its work well; her food "lies heavy," or it gives rise to pain in the pit of the stomach. She is troubled with much flatulence and occasional palpitation. She is constantly thirsty; tongue contracted, fiery red, with papillæ much enlarged at the tip, and covered with a white fur at the centre and at the base. Bowels very costive; suffers much at intervals from hœmorrhoids. Is "bothered" with a cough, which will leave her when she has her holiday. The respiratory sounds in the subclavicular spaces are harsh and inspiration is defective. The pulse is feeble and frequent, the heart excitable; menstruation irregular, defective, and painful.

Does not consider herself at all a "bad specimen" of a dress-maker; some are more robust than herself, others less. Should not think of troubling a doctor in her present state of health.

I saw this young person again immediately after a three weeks' vacation, during which she had taken abundant riding and walking exercise. The change was very marked. The countenance, though still pale, had lost that peculiar unhealthy pallor which it possessed before she left town; she had gained flesh; the persistent weariness was lost; the digestive functions were doing their work well, and except a slight redness, with enlarged papillæ at the extreme tip of the tongue, there were no indications of previous disturbance; the pulse had gained in volume and diminished in frequency, and the heart was much less excitable. She had "never felt in better health and spirits."

I have selected these examples as showing in the most marked manner short of acknowledged indisposition or acute illness, the influence of dress-making upon the health both of resident and non-resident workers in two of undoubtedly the best regulated establishments at the West End of London. In these establishments the amount of late and night work is smaller, the food better, and the comfort much greater than in many of the first and second class houses of business in the same quarter of the metropolis.

[Mr. Radcliffe added the following case as an instructive illustration of the health-history of a dress-maker under favourable circumstances.]

Case 3.

C—, aged 18 years, a resident hand at Madame —, dress-maker, a respectable second-class house of business; six resident hands, and from 12 to 15 non-resident are employed. She has been in her present situation six months; it is her first situation in town. She previously served a twelvemonth's apprenticeship in the country, but did not live in the house of business. She then worked from 8 A.M. to 8 P.M. At first she suffered much from her head in consequence of the confinement and close work, and her courses intermitted for two months. When she came to town she was ruddy and in perfect health. Where she now lives the resident hands rise at 7 A.M., and commence work, both in and out of the season, at 8 A.M. Work closes out of the season at from 8 to 8.45 P.M., and in the season from 9 to 9.30 P.M.; work is never protracted beyond 9.30. The time for retiring to bed is from 10 to 10.30, but the hands can go to bed as early as they like after work is over. They live at the same table and in the same manner as their employers. The breakfast hour is 7.30, and the meal consists of coffee, bread, and butter; on Sunday bacon or an egg is added. Dinner is served at 1 P.M., and consists of a hot joint one day and cold the next, with whatever vegetables are in season. Beef and mutton boiled or roasted are the staple dishes, but these are frequently varied with fish, veal, and pork; stews and hashes are sometimes substituted for joints. There is always pudding or pies with cold joints. The tea hour is 5 P.M.; the meal consists of tea, bread, and butter. Supper is placed on the table at 10 P.M., and consists of bread, cheese, and beer. Half a pint of beer is allowed for dinner, and the same quantity for supper, but in reality the amount is not stinted. The food is excellent, well cooked, and most comfortably served. No limit is placed on the quantity consumed, and the meals are not hurried. The work-rooms are roomy and comfortable; the bed-rooms perhaps a little deficient. The house is a thorough home for the resident hands.

The first three months she was in town she was exceedingly well. Then she began to suffer from severe headaches. Sometimes she would get up, sometimes go to bed with a headache. Her head troubled her most at the time of her monthly courses. She was unwell a fortnight after she came to town, then lost her courses for five months. At the monthly time in the interval always suffered more or less pain in the back. She attributes the change herself to the close confinement. During the last three months she has been losing strength. The face has become pale. The legs ache a good deal towards night, and swell slightly. Her bowels are very costive. The appetite has kept good. She has palpitation, but no pain, after eating. The pulse is normal. As a rule, she is not much fatigued when she ceases work in the evening. She has not found the hours for work too long.

From the investigation, of which the chief results have been briefly stated, supported by a much larger experience of the physical condition of dress-makers on a sick-bed, I have no hesitation in affirming that the average work-day of 12 hours, including the time given to meals—the *minimum* daily period of work almost universally adopted by the best houses of business at the West End of London—over taxes the physical powers of the employed. So far as my observation extends, 12 hours' daily occupation with the needle (for the interval of meals may be left out of consideration),* cannot long be continued without damaging the health to a greater or less extent.

After observing that the day of 12 hours is constantly exceeded, Mr. Radcliffe continues,—

It is an error to suppose that a stress of work falls in the summer season alone—the season *par excellence*. In all largely employed houses of business there is a winter season, and occasional pushes of work, which tax the powers of the employed quite as heavily as the summer season. In the winter season the hours of work may not be so prolonged, and there may not be as much night-work, but the number of hands employed being, as a rule, fewer, and the work being largely pursued by gas-light, the employed suffer as much, and often more than in the hardest summer season.

On the question of overcrowding and lighting Mr. Radcliffe states that—

The employed in one of the most fashionable houses in town have recently suffered from a pro-

* Mr. Radcliffe considers that the want of a fixed period of relaxation at meal times, the habit of resuming work immediately after a meal, whether it be hurried or not, is a grave evil.—H.W.L.

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tracted outbreak of *itch*, and a somewhat severe irruption of measles. The densely-crowded workroom of another fashionable house is liable to frequent pollution from an adjoining water-closet.

The evil consequences, which the employed experience from the gas, arise almost entirely from the bad arrangement of the burners, and the absence of ventilating chimneys. In one workroom within my knowledge, by the use of capacious ventilating chimneys above the jets, the ill effects, to which at one time the gas gave rise, have been completely done away with.

[Mr. Radcliffe considers that much of the ill health of dressmakers is attributable to the unsuitableness (and in some cases to the bad quality and insufficiency) of the food provided for them, coupled with the frequently offensive mode of serving,* the absence of comfortable apartments for meals and the shortness of the time allowed for them. He mentions a case as coming within his own knowledge, where "the corner of the kitchen (where the meals are taken) is occupied by a sink, and the employed have several times been nauseated while at meals, with sewer air rushing up the escape pipe." The want of sitting rooms "which would enable the employed "to escape after work from the atmosphere "of the work-room," the defective provisions for ablution, and the discomfort of sleeping apartments, the neglect of ventilation, and the excessive overcrowding in both workrooms and bed-rooms, are made the subject of strong comment, as also is the absence of suitable provision in case of sickness.]

The want of domestic comfort (he says) tells most injuriously upon the employed; it intensifies the depressing influence of the occupation and is a fruitful source of moral deterioration. In not a single establishment coming within the scope of my inquiry did I ascertain the existence of any provision whatever for the moral and intellectual well-being of the employed."

[In illustration of the mode of living and diet in West End houses Mr. Radcliffe cites several interesting cases, which I have omitted as being in most respects substantially the same as those which have fallen under my own notice.

He refers also to a statement by the head of a Liverpool house that, since she made it a rule to add bacon, an egg, fish, or cold meat to the breakfast of her resident hands, she has found that, although she originally made the change from a sense of duty, she has been more than compensated by the increased amount of work done in the morning.

The next paragraph, though not connected with any medical question, is too important to be passed over. I have not had any other case of the kind brought under my notice.—H.W.L.]

In one instance I ascertained the existence of a very scandalous system of "truck." A well reputed and first class West End employer is in the habit of paying her hands, both resident and non-resident, only a part of their salaries when due. Any application for arrears is set aside, until they reach a good round sum, and then the employer proffers the applicant an order upon her tradesman, giving her clearly to understand that, if she does not think fit to receive her arrears in articles of dress, her services will be dispensed with. In the case of one out-door worker earning 12*s.* a week, the arrears of salary amounted to 3*l.* In the case of another out-door worker, receiving a similar salary, the arrears amounted to no less than 4*l.*

[The following statement was made to Mr. Radcliffe, by a first hand, who had worked in two of the best houses at the West End, three years in each house.—H.W.L.]

The work done after 9 P.M. as a rule does not pay for the gas consumed beyond that hour. Frequently not half an hour's work is done between 9 and 11 P.M. or later; when an occasional pressure of business arises the hands would work willingly and well late hours. But systematic working after 9 P.M. leads to no profitable result. The whole of the work done after that time could be readily done earlier in the day, if the workers came to their work less fatigued with the over-night labour. The late hours deprive them of all spirit for their work, and they work without that interest in it that drives the fingers along. They work sluggishly and indifferently. Any excuse to idle a moment is too readily seized upon. In the first house in which I was employed, work commenced in the slack season at 9 A.M. and terminated at 11 P.M. In the busy season work would commence not later than 8 A.M., and be continued until midnight, or 1, 2, or 3 o'clock in the morning. It was common to see some of the hands after 10 P.M. sitting fast asleep with their work on their knees. If there were no particular stress of work, the heads of the tables would take no notice. I have seen workers fall dead asleep in the midst of a stitch. If we worked very late, no relaxation was permitted next day, and as a consequence between 3 and 4 P.M., half the workers in the room would be nodding over their work. In this house I have seen in a single day three or four of the hands faint at their work, and hysterical attacks were common.

[Having regard to the house referred to, I think it probable that the statement as to the hours of work in the season is intended to show extreme and exceptional cases. Witnesses, in other respects adverse, state that work there after 11 P.M. is rare and confined to a few hands.—H.W.L.]

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414. Letter from Dr. Tripe, Medical Officer of Health for the Hackney District.

Sir, March 16, 1864.

Hackney being a suburban district, I have not had an opportunity there of ascertaining the influence on health of indoor employment; I have however often had cases in my private practice of indigestion, impairment of the blood-making processes, great debility, and uterine derangements in young females. The few workshops I have seen in my own locality are not properly ventilated, and there can be no doubt that much of the evil resulting from needlework is caused by want of ventilation. But the difficulty is, not to provide means of ventilation, but to induce workers to use them. The poorer classes, including all persons working at sedentary employments, are afraid of what they call draughts, and so shut out all the air they can.

Late hours of work have also produced much evil, but the pressure of business is not so great in the eastern and north-eastern districts, as at the west end of London. There is a great difficulty to be encountered in legislating for stated hours, as the work to be done is in the *aggregate* not more than enough for those employed, and to compel employers to employ more hands would, I fear, reduce the wages to something below starvation point, or at any rate very

* "I mean by the qualification 'for a house of business'" (says one witness) "that in houses of business neither the "quality nor the abundance of food, and I may add, nor the neatness of serving, is such (so good) as would be met with "generally among the class of families, from which the workers chiefly come" (sed quære "chiefly."—H.W.L.).

near it; whilst to limit the age, say to 18 or 19, would throw more work on those above the age, when any great press came in. My patients have told me that a whole room full will be kept up occasionally until 3 or 4 in the morning at the west end drinking strong tea, and then go to bed for three or four hours, but at the same time they say they would rather do this occasionally, than have their pay reduced. There can be no doubt that work of this kind tells most injuriously on growing persons, as they require more rest.

I have also inquired as to the effect on health of the sewing machine, and I am informed that they all feel better, and look better, after they have got accustomed to the work. More ventilation can also be used, and the feelings of prostration, mal-aise, pain of the chest, indigestion, &c., are often cured by the change of occupation.

In the few work places I have entered (for girls) the majority were under 20 years of age. Work girls marry young as a rule, and commence young, 14 or 15, so that a large proportion are between 14 and 18. I am sorry that I cannot give you any more definite information.

Faithfully yours,
H. W. Lord, Esq. JOHN W. TRIPE.

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415. LETTER FROM J. LIDDLE, ESQ., MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE WHITECHAPEL DISTICT.

SIR, 1st April 1864.

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I FIND upon inquiry that some of the rooms are overcrowded and badly ventilated, that the mode of life of the workers is not calculated to sustain health, particularly in the case of growing girls, (the hours of labour being too long, viz. from 10 to 12 hours daily, and the employment being entirely sedentary). That as young men and young women in some establishments work together in the same room for 12 hours daily, with an interval of one hour only for dinner, (but in some instances the young women bring their dinners with them, so that then there is no interval for relaxation and for change of air,) the morals and the health of young females under such circumstances are likely to suffer, more especially as many of the young women are under 18 years of age. In some establishments, besides the hour for dinner, half an hour is allowed for tea.

The wages are said to be from 9*s.* to 14*s.* per week. Some are employed at "piece work," and I am informed that as much as 18*s.*, 23*s.*, and 24*s.*, per week are earned by skilled workwomen (machinists); needlewomen, who are employed at piece work, earn sums varying from 6*d.* and 1*s.*, to 2*s.* 6*d.* per day. Many of the employers of this kind of labour are Jews, and the working days with them are only five days in the week.

In one of the rooms that I visited, where men and women were working together, there was a bed in which two of the young men were said to sleep.

I may add, in conclusion, that it is very difficult to obtain reliable information upon any subject relating to wages, hours of labour, number of persons engaged at work in the same room, &c., unless you go into the room, and make inquiry of persons engaged therein, and even then questions are answered reluctantly and under restraint.

In one instance I inquired of the proprietor how many young women were employed in the work room, and I was told only two; but on going into the room I saw six young women and three young men engaged at work.

It appears from my inquiries, that persons seeking employment as ordinary workers are more numerous than the requirements of the trade demand, so that many young persons are out of employment, but I believe that the reverse is the case as regards skilled workers.

At one establishment I was refused admittance, but I was ultimately shown into a kind of shed, in which it was said that five persons worked.

I am, &c.
H. W. Lord, Esq. JOHN LIDDLE.

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416. LETTER from DR. BALLARD, Medical Officer of Health for Islington.

St. Mary, Islington,
Vestry Offices, Upper Street, N.,
DEAR SIR, June 24th, 1864.

MY opinion coincides with that of Dr. Lankester, that the over-crowding of work-rooms does, at the present time, come properly under the cognizance of a medical officer of health. For although the 29th section of the Nuisances Removal Act is mostly taken as applying to houses in which people sleep at night, there is nothing in the section itself which limits its application in this way. I do not know whether this is the view taken by the magistrates (who are the interpreters of the statute), since, in the way you refer to, we have never attempted to put it into force. Our proceedings for over-crowding have only taken place where rooms have been occupied as tenements by separate families. At the same time, I consider that I have a right, under the statute, to inspect work-rooms which there may be any reason to believe over-crowded. That I have not done so here is not, then, due to a notion that I had no right to do it, but to the multiplicity of other matters which fall within the range of my duties in so large a parish as Islington, and to the feeling that, with my present staff of assistants, and the time which I devote to my official duties, the inspection of work-rooms could only be undertaken at the expense of neglecting other equally important work. And now as to the question of cubic space which ought to be allotted to each occupant of a sleeping-room or work-room, my experience here is derived from what I have observed in the single rooms occupied by several persons together in poor families. And here, in carrying out the 29th section of the Nuisances Removal Act, we have been compelled to limit our demand for space by *what it is found practicable* to carry out with the present accommodation for poor families in London. I have thus taken as my *minimum* of space 300 cubic feet. From an inquiry I instituted in 1859, I find that the other medical officers of health have adopted a similar *minimum*. I addressed a circular to all of them, and obtained 25 replies. I cannot lay my hand upon the original letters, but I have preserved a copy of the important parts of all of them, and if you could call on me some morning you could see it, or have the volume in which it is bound up sent to you, and you can use the replies in any way you think proper. Mr. Simon writes thus—"Taking into account the "means of ventilation usually provided, a family "room, occupied day and night, if affording to its "occupants less space than your proposed minimum "(300 cubic feet) would have an offensive atmos-"phere favourable to the production and spread of "disease." My own opinion is that *a very much larger cubic space than* 300 *cubic feet per head* is essential (with the ventilation usually provided in dwelling-houses) *for the preservation of health* in sleeping-rooms occupied by several persons. And from what I can gather, the general opinion of such of our profession as are best qualified to judge on this question, agrees with my own. M. Papillon quoted by Levy estimates, that for the preservation of health the quantity of air to be supplied for any given time to a single individual, should be equal to eight times that which he would consume in that time. M. Levy estimates the healthy capacity for a sleeping-chamber, not provided with more than the usual imperfect ventilation, at 1,400 or 1,500 cubic feet for each individual. A writer in the Brit. and For. Med. Chir. Rev. (vol. vii., p. 6), says: "unless extraor-"dinary means are taken for the constant removal of "the air by some special apparatus for ventilation, so "that the impure air is carried off as quickly as it is

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C.

"exhaled from the lungs, health and strength cannot be maintained in a space of less than from 700 to 800 cubic feet; and that to live and sleep in a space of less than from 400 to 500 cubic feet for each individual, is not compatible with safety to life, even when there is no extrinsic or superadded cause of atmospheric impurity." I am convinced, and can prove it to demonstration, that this is absolutely true as regards young children, whatever may be the case with those grown up, who have greater powers of resistance against poisonous influences. The Tooting case was an extreme one, but it fell under your own observation. At the Pentonville Convict Prison (in my district), the cell for each inmate measures 800 cubic feet, and the air is renewed completely every 16 or 20 minutes. No zymotic malady ever breaks out there; and the catarrhs, to which the prisoners are subject, have appeared to me to result more from the comparatively low temperature at which the galleries are kept (considering the sedentary life led by the prisoners) than to any excess of ventilation.

Thus much for rooms occupied at night. As to rooms occupied as work-rooms by day, I would argue, *à fortiori*, that the space allotted to each occupant should not be less than that allotted for sleeping purposes, and that it ought rather to be greater. This argument may be based upon the observations of Dr. Edw. Smith, which show that the vital functions are more actively performed by day than at night, the rate of the heart's pulsations and of the respiration being greater, and the evolution of carbonic acid greater during the day than during the night. A limited amount of air would in this way be sooner rendered unfit for further respiration. In a work-room 10 feet high, I do not think it would be any hardship to demand for each occupant eight square feet of superficial space. This would give 640 cubic feet per head—certainly not an excess of space; but with this there ought to be a proper amount of ventilation provided. The only objection I see that is likely to be raised by the medical officers of health in the metropolis to placing the establishments of milliners, tailors, and such-like, where young persons are aggregated in work-rooms, under their superintendence arises out of the amount of work now laid upon them, which has been increased since their appointment in 1855 by the several Acts of Parliament relating to slaughter-houses, cow sheds, bake-houses, &c., all of which come *actually* under their personal superintendence. More and more of their time is thus occupied every year without any corresponding increase in the remuneration made to them by their several vestries and district boards. If the superintendence of work-rooms be added, some rule should be established as to the scale on which their labours are paid for. This is the difficulty, but at the same time, I think, they are the proper persons to superintend these places. Anyhow, the inspectors appointed ought to be medical men, selected from those to whom sanitary investigations are familiar.

I have replied to your letter thus fully because the subject of over-crowding is one that has occupied a good deal of my thoughts, and I have considered it in its most important bearings. I am anxious, too, to give you all the information I possess, and to assist you as far as I can.

I remain, &c.

EDWARD BALLARD.

R. D. Grainger, Esq.

Cheltenham.

417. T. J. COTTLE, ESQ., Surgeon, Inspector of Lodging-houses, &c., Cheltenham, considered that milliners and dress-makers suffered from dyspepsia and chlorosis, as a class, more than other young women, such as domestic servants, and that this was attributable in a great degree to want of exercise and bad air; he had, however, observed it in day-workers as much as in others.

418. J. DAVIES, ESQ., F.R.C.S., Surgeon to the Eye Infirmary, Cheltenham, had noticed the great prevalence among seamstresses generally of the ocular derangement called "hypermetropia," which consists in a difficulty "of focussing" the eye for other objects after several days close application to needlework. He referred to Mr. Soelberg Wells' book on "Impaired Vision" (p. 100), as expressing his own experience.

Stroud.

419. R. B. CARTER, ESQ., F.R.C.S., of Stroud, late Surgeon to the Nottingham Eye Dispensary, has permitted me to take the following extracts from a very interesting letter written by him to me upon the subject of eye disease among dress-makers.

Taking an eye of normal formation and development, there is no reason to believe that the occupation of a dress-maker, pursued under circumstances not excessively unfavourable, would be in any special way injurious. It might become so by being continued over-long without intermission, by unnatural dryness, heat, or other vitiation of the atmosphere, by excess of light, or by reason of the colour of the material worked upon.

After explaining the manner in which these causes act upon the eye, and citing a passage from Dr. Ludwig Böhm's treatise "Upon the treatment of the eye by means of coloured light," Mr. Carter adds—

Black work, by reflecting little light from its surface, and by requiring therefore an excessive general illumination, or the continued maintenance of an exact accommodation of the eye, is often pernicious. But the sum of the whole matter is that the above hurtful influences, being seldom present in excessive degree, or very prolonged duration, are as a matter of fact successfully resisted by the *vis naturæ*. The eye, like every other bodily organ, thrives under the influence of a proper and legitimate *use* of its powers, and will endure in many instances a very great amount of abuse.

* * *

There are, however, a very large number of eyes that differ from the normal standard in being too flat (technically, *hypermetropic*), and such are frequently found in women of feeble organization. In them the retina is too near the lens, and falls within the principal focus of the refracting media. Hence arise great troubles and difficulties.

* * *

People with flat eyes, unless aided by convex spectacles, are totally unfit for continued exertion at any kind of fine work, and the "dress-makers," who suffer from their occupation, do so, as a rule, not because they are dress-makers, but because their eyes are too flat.

* * *

There is no special effect produced, and certainly no tendency, to atrophy of the optic nerve, or to any other particular morbid change that can be looked for with the ophthalmoscope. Generally speaking, the morbid changes would be of the nature of chronic inflammation, and their precise character would depend on individual peculiarities. As a rule, they would be known to exist by functional symptoms, before or quite as soon as they could be discovered with the ophthalmoscope.

Bath.

420. DR. WILBRAHAM FALCONER, Physician to the United and General Hospitals at Bath, informed me that it was among the out-patients of the former institution that milliners and dress-makers were chiefly to be found; he had observed that when girls came in a "languid sapless condition" to obtain advice, then

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they were most frequently of that class. He considered that the work of even 12 hours in the day, including the meal-times, was long, especially for apprentices, who would be from 14 to 17 years old. Many who lived at some distance from their place of work had a very short time for their dinner; the want of fresh air, and the sedentary and monotonous occupation in which they were engaged, frequently in close rooms heated by gas at night, produced the anæmic condition which characterized them as a class. Chlorosis was very prevalent among them, and consumption was under these conditions, if not caused by it, at all events brought into activity.

Leicester.

421. John Moore, Esq., Medical Officer of Health, Leicester. — The number of persons, females especially, employed in boot and shoe factories in this town has increased very much, even in the last two years. We have no statistics on the matter, but I believe that that trade employs more women here than any other at the present time. I am not aware that many very young children are employed, and think that it is not the case. I believe also that regular factory hours, 10 or 10½ in the day are commonly observed, and that the workpeople earn good wages.

The state of the work places, however, is often very bad, more particularly with the men who "finish;" they generally take it out from the factory, and work at home, five or six together, with some lads to help, in small, unwholesome, dirty places, which are made doubly unhealthy by gas, which they use to heat their burnishing irons. There are a great many such.

The females are chiefly employed in large factories, many of which are new buildings, and properly ventilated; but that is not always the case. Many, who work on their own account, are only in a small way, and as these sewing machines can be packed much closer together than the stocking frames ever could, there is more danger now of overcrowding. In small places, moreover, the difficulties of obtaining proper ventilation are frequently so great, as to make it necessary that some limit should be placed on the number of persons, who are allowed to work in a given area. Our Board of Health passed a bye-law of that nature, limiting the number of children in the dames' schools here, and that works very well.

[421a. With reference to the habit of the nailers putting the brass sprigs in the mouth, Mr. Moore wrote to me that the result of a special inquiry, which he had made at my request, was that, although many cases of aphthæ and disorder of the digestive organs occurred, arising apparently from this practice, he had heard of no cases of any very serious character. His information was derived chiefly from cases coming under medical treatment at a provident self-supporting dispensary, consisting of about 4,000 members, and having six medical officers attached to it.—H.W.L.]

Northampton.

422. Dr. Faircloth, Northampton, stated to me that, although he was not prepared to assert generally that the use of the sewing machine was injurious to the workwoman, he had met with several cases of excessive prostration of strength, which he could attribute to no other cause, especially where the double action was adopted, in which the alternate motion of each foot and leg apparently produced an undue strain. He had also noticed that the eye was sometimes affected, but not to such an extent as to create actual disease of that organ. The want of proper ventilation, and the overcrowded state of many of the small workshops, and some even of the larger factories, he considered to be productive of more harm than anything in the nature of their occupation. The work with sewing machines was at all events less prejudicial to health than the use of the "clamps"* by hand-closers, which involved constant stooping. This, however, was rarely to be found now, as for most purposes the sewing machine had supplanted hand-closing.

Bronchitis had prevailed among the men employed in some of the large factories; this was said to arise from excess of ventilation, so to speak, the size and height of the work-rooms making them very draughty. These, however, were, with all their faults, preferable to the smaller work places, which partook more of the nature of mere dwelling-rooms.

The great noise where many men and boys were engaged in one room in rivetting had led in several cases to nervous affections.

He had known seven or eight females or more to work together in the ordinary room of a small house, and mentioned one case of five machines being worked in a room where a child was lying ill of small-pox.

423. G. Cotton, Esq., one of the Medical Officers to the Union, gave me information of a similar nature to Dr. Faircloth. He considered that some system of placing the factories and workshops under inspection by a duly qualified sanitary officer was essential, and stated that both men and women complained very much of the great heat of the gas in such places in winter.

Norwich.

424. [The following statement was given me by a medical gentleman long resident in Norwich, who desired that his name should not be mentioned.]

"I have frequently had occasion to observe the physical condition of females employed in the boot manufacture. I find that I can always distinguish them at once from their appearance so soon as they present themselves as patients; they have a singularly emaciated, chlorotic look and are frequently in a stage of incipient phthisis. Many cases of varicose veins occur among the machinists, the result of congested blood. In this respect those who work in worsted and other regulated factories are in a better position than those in the shoe trade, because the latter have to be stationary, while the former move up and down the room.

"Different causes combine to produce this effect; they are chiefly want of proper ventilation and lowness of diet. In winter especially many suffer from working long by gas light in cold damp rooms, and from being badly shod, badly clad, and badly fed. Some cases have almost amounted to blood poisoning. An enactment, which would regulate the hours, and ensure proper ventilation and cleansing of work rooms, would be very beneficial.

"Very few girls under 14 are to be found in factories; if they work at all, it is at home. Machines are frequently hired by small men, garret masters, who employ five or six females in ordinary dwelling rooms. The machines are supplied either by the manufacturer whose work they take out, or by the agent who sells the machines.

"I have found the eyes affected, and glandular swellings of the throat are common; in fact, all the symptoms comprehended under the term 'strumous.' I have been informed on unquestionable authority, that the quantities of such medicines as quinine, steel, and potass, used in the last few years at the Dispensary have been very much in excess of the amount in previous years.

"One indirect evil of mothers and grown up females being employed in factories is that too young children have to nurse and do house work; and, as a consequence, nearly all the children here are 'wrung;' many have the right shoulder 'up;' the number of them who have more or less curvature of the spine, is scarcely credible."

* A kind of wooden forceps held between the knees and used to grasp the leather, so as to leave both hands free to draw the thread.—H.W.L.

Medical Evidence.

Stafford.

Mr. H. W. Lord.

425. E. F. Weston, Esq., and Dr. Masfen, Surgeons to the Stafford General Infirmary, had not observed any bad effect upon the health directly produced by the machine; the latter gentleman, however, remarked that complaints of headache, loss of appetite, and similar ailments, had certainly become more common among the girls, who worked in factories, than had been the case when they worked at home.

C. Yeovil.

426. Dr. Tomkyns, who had for 17 years been the Medical Officer for the Union, said, that girls often began at 7 years of age to work at gloving at home, in fact so soon as they could sit up and use the needle. He had been told by the parents of the necessity of working "all hours," if they were pressed, for fear of "losing their numbers" (being taken off the books of their employers), and had known of children working as long as it was light in summer, and being called at 4 and 5 on a winter morning, and working till 8 or 9 at night. He had noticed cases of lateral curvature of the spine, arising probably from the child sitting a long time on a stool without any support for the back, but not enough to generalize upon them. He also considered that the hasty manner in which their meals were frequently swallowed, and the habit even among the females of taking beer or other stimulants, in the place of substantial food, to save time, were productive of bad results. He also agreed generally with Dr. Greenhow's* views as to the cause of the great prevalence of consumption. The stooping at the "engine" was also considered materially to injure the digestive organs.

Manchester.

427. Statement of R. T. Hunt, Esq., Surgeon to the Manchester Eye Hospital, and Lecturer on the Eye, Royal School of Medicine and Surgery.

There can be no doubt that long continued fine needlework is very injurious to the eyes. I have seen several forms of amaurosis, which, if not induced by such work, have been much aggravated by it.

One case of complete horizontal hemyopia, under my care, was caused by the young female working at mourning by gas light late at night, for several nights successively. She recovered within the week, when kept entirely from work, and in a dark room. Extreme cases like the foregoing are rare, but instances in which the sight is more or less impaired, so that the female after a time becomes incapacitated for fine work, are not uncommon. That attention to minute work, for a proper time, is not injurious to the eyes is proved in the instance of watchmakers. In 45 years' experience I have not met with a single case of amaurosis, or any similar affection, in a watchmaker, either in hospital or private practice; from this I conclude that fine needlework of itself is not injurious, but becomes so when too long continued, and particularly at untimely hours, by gas, lamp, or candlelight, and in close and heated apartments. That this kind of needlework, by night, is carried on in over-heated rooms, is not so much the fault of the employers as of the young women themselves. Their feet become so cold from long sitting that they do not feel sufficiently warm in a moderate temperature.

428. Statement of John Windsor, Esq., Consulting Surgeon to the Manchester Eye Hospital.

In reply to your note I can confidently state, after an experience of above 40 years as Surgeon of the Manchester Eye Hospital, that I believe, and I have some cases noted in corroboration of it, that persons do not unfrequently suffer in their eyes, in the form of amaurotic and also inflammatory affections, from too persistent use of those organs, and especially when too long exercised under artificial lights.

429. Extract from a Letter from R. C. Delagarde, Esq., F.R.C.S.; Senior Surgeon Devon and Exeter Hospital; and Senior Surgeon West of England Eye Infirmary.

I may just state that our eye infirmary furnishes from seventy to eighty cases a year of a disorder, which, I think, we properly call weakness of vision. The patient looks at small print or fine work and sees it with distinctness at first, but after a short time the eye feels fatigued and distressed. The vision becomes confused and the employment must be given up until the eye recovers, which it does in a few minutes. It seems to be a true nervous affection, easily removed by abstinence from the employment which disturbs the eye, and by the use of the fetid gums, valerian, &c.

The persons most subject to this attack, which if neglected, or defied, would produce retinitis, acute glaucoma, and their consequences, are sempstresses of all kinds, workers in the lace manufactories, girls who make the pillow lace, and pupil-teachers who are working for examinations. The mantua makers however are the chief sufferers. We occasionally have young male subjects,—tailors, shoemakers, engravers, and *cabinet makers*. In many of these cases I have to insist on the trade being changed. In this I have no difficulty, for no tradesman would venture to put a pressure on his apprentice or servant, in this neighbourhood, where every poor person is known to some person of weight and influence. Added to which there is really more genuine personal regard in the provinces than can, in the nature of things, be expected to exist in the metropolis.

In addition to these patients, half as many at least must occur in my private practice. These are of a different class; mostly delicate girls who read or write a great deal, work embroidery in brilliant colours, sit opposite solar lamps, &c. Some are tradesmen or clerks, who work by gas light, of which they complain much. I can myself speak of the annoying flicker of gas, which is much mitigated by ground glass.

EXTRACTS FROM THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND NUISANCES REMOVAL ACTS. (*See* § 208 *of Report.*)

1. Under these Acts (the Local Government and Nuisances Removal Acts,) any premises in such a state as to be a nuisance, or injurious to health, may be ordered by two justices in petty sessions, or by a stipendiary magistrate, to be made safe and habitable, to be paved, cleansed, white-washed, disinfected, or purified; sufficient privy accommodation, means of drainage and ventilation, may be required to be provided; and while any house or building is unfit for human habitation, in the opinion of the justices, the using it for that purpose may be prohibited till the causes rendering it unfit for habitation have been removed.

2. Any pool, ditch, gutter, watercourse, privy, urinal, cesspool, drain, or ash-pit so foul as to be a nuisance or injurious to health, may be ordered to be drained, emptied, cleansed, filled up, amended or removed, and a substitute provided.

3. Any animal so kept as to be a nuisance or injurious to health may be ordered to be kept in a cleanly and wholesome state, and if that be impossible the animal may be removed.

4. Any accumulation or deposit which is a nuisance or injurious to health may be ordered to be carried away.

Nuisances liable to recur may not only be removed, but an order prohibiting their recurrence may be issued.

Notice of a nuisance may be given to the Local Authority by any person aggrieved thereby, or by any of the following persons:—The Inspector of Nuisances, or any paid officer under the said Local Authority, two or more inhabitant householders of the parish or place to which the notice relates, the Relieving Officer of the union or parish, any constable or any officer of the constabulary or police force of the district or place, and, in case the premises be a common lodging-house, by any person appointed for the inspection of common lodging-houses.

The following bodies are respectively the Local Authority in the under-mentioned Districts for the purposes of these Acts:—

1. In the metropolis the vestries and district boards acting in execution of the Act for the better Local Management of the Metropolis.
2. Where the Public Health Act, 1848, is in force, the Local Board of Health, and where the Local Government Act, 1858, has been adopted, the Local Board.
3. In corporate towns (except the City of London, Oxford, and Cambridge), the Town Council.
4. In the City of London, the Commissioners of Sewers; and in Oxford and Cambridge, the Improvement Commissioners.
5. Where Local Improvement Acts are in force, the Commissioners or Trustees for the execution of such Acts.
6. The Highway Board, if there be one.
7. The Nuisance Removal Committee, which may be chosen by the vestry under the Act where none of the above-mentioned authorities exist.

But such Highway Board and Nuisance Removal Committee can act as the Local Authority only in cases where they have appointed and are employing a Sanitary Inspector on the 6th August 1860. Where a Highway Board or Nuisance Removal Committee have not made such appointment before that date, they cease to have any power as Local Authorities for the execution of the Nuisances Removal Acts.

8. Where none of the above-mentioned authorities exist, the Board of Guardians for the union; and if there be no such Board, the Overseers of the Poor.

Guardians may appoint a Committee or Committees to act in execution of the Acts in and for one or more of the parishes in their union. (Sec. 5, 23 & 24 Vict. 7.)

SCHEDULE (*referred to in the Report of the Commissioners*, § 209.)

Form of Notice.

Take Notice, That on the day of an Act, called "The Lace and Hosiery Warehouses Act," was passed, and that before the day of you, being the owner or occupier of a lace [*or* hosiery] warehouse within [*here state the place over which the jurisdiction of the local authority giving the notice extends*], must have your lace [*or* hosiery] warehouse registered, and that the register is to be kept at [*here state where the register is to be kept*]; and that if you do not have your lace [*or* hosiery] warehouse so registered, you will be liable to a penalty not exceeding shillings for every day during which it shall not be so registered after the day of next; and that on your applying to [*here give the name and address of the person to keep the register*], he will register your lace [*or* hosiery] warehouse free of all charge to you.

Dated

The Straw Plait and Bonnet Manufactures.

Mr. J. E. White.

D.

REPORT upon the STRAW PLAIT and BONNET MANUFACTURES and some MISCELLANEOUS EMPLOYMENTS, by Mr. J. E. WHITE.

To Her Majesty's Commissioners.

Gentlemen,—

The employments resemble others already reported on.

1. The employments to which the following evidence relates so closely resemble others of which full accounts are already before you that it will be unnecessary for me to make any very detailed remarks. I propose to draw attention to facts falling under some only of the several heads on which you have as a rule directed inquiry, and relating to parts only of the employments.

Straw plait. The plaiting branch.

2. The straw plait manufacture, which is the principal employment treated of, consists of two distinct branches. Straw plait making in its strict sense is confined to the making of the plait itself, an employment carried on upon just the same system, in places of just the same kind, and, though not exclusively, by persons of like age and sex, as the pillow lace making.

The making-up branch.

3. In like manner, the making up of the plait into the articles for which it is used, viz., bonnets and hats, and which is best described as the straw bonnet and hat manufacture, corresponds closely as to system, places of work, and persons employed with the employment of lace finishing as described at Nottingham, and some branches of wholesale millinery treated of in the inquiry into the manufacture of Wearing Apparel. Indeed it appears to fall as properly under that head as under that of straw plait; so much so that an account of the former employment would appear incomplete without including one of the latter also.

Resemble lace and millinery work.

4. So far as I can judge, any practical conclusions formed with reference to the employment of pillow lace making would be equally applicable to that of straw plait making, and any with reference to those of lace finishing and wholesale millinery equally applicable to that of making up the plait.

Plaiting schools.

5. Children generally plait in schools, a task of so many yards being set to them by their parents, and the duty of the mistress is to act the part of an overlooker in a factory, and see that the proper amount of work is done. A person who makes this her business can attend to many at a time, and enforce an attention which the mother, who has other engagements, might be unable to secure. Girls leave plait schools when they get big enough to work steadily without constant supervision, usually at about 13 or 14, after which they work at home, like pillow lace makers.

Boys plait.

6. Boys are brought up to plaiting as well as girls, and continue at it usually only till they are of sufficient age to obtain more suitable employment. In some schools which I visited apparently about a third were boys, but most of these were mere children. In some places even men plait.

Blocking, dyeing, &c.

7. A few boys are employed in the bonnet manufactories in miscellaneous ways, helping the men who block, &c., and in independent works, such as bleaching and dyeing the plait. I visited the largest works of the latter kind, and found only a few youths and men.

Sewing.

8. Plait is sewn by children at home, and in some cases under small employers, and also in schools, but in the regular bonnet factories or warehouses no children, and but a few young persons appear to be employed. In these all but a small portion are females. Several of these establishments are of considerable size, employing 200 or 300 persons. One employs 350 females. I was, however, unable to obtain accurate returns, or make much inquiry as to those places, owing to the fact that the time of my visit to the district unfortunately fell just after the end of the season, when the larger factories had to a great extent ceased work and had dismissed the greater part of their hands for the few dull weeks of the summer.

Importance of the manufactures.

9. The manufacture in its two branches, viz. the plaiting and the making up, has very largely increased of late years, and is now of considerable importance. It includes a large foreign trade, and employs a very large number of persons, estimated to me by a leading manufacturer at a guess at 50,000 or upwards, or even double. According to the last census the real number appears to be not far less than 50,000, of whom upwards of 44,000 are females. But the gentleman referred to included some other employments connected with it, such as making bonnet and hat blocks, dyeing the plait, preparing the straw by sorting, cutting, bleaching, and making up into bundles, &c.

The straw plait district.

10. The straw plait district has been described to me, by persons acquainted with it, as extending over a great part of Hertfordshire, excepting the part adjoining Middlesex, and spreading on the east across the northern part of Essex nearly to the coast, and round by the edge of Cambridgeshire, over a large part of Bedfordshire, and into the eastern part of Buckinghamshire. The plait is made chiefly in the villages scattered over a great part of this district, and, in the thickest seats of the manufacture, in almost every cottage. The great centres and markets, and the places where plait is chiefly made up, are Luton and Dunstable, though not entirely excluding other towns, such as St. Albans and Hitchin. In Luton there is a plait market every Monday, when the streets are thronged with buyers and sellers, and on Saturday the streets are full of women and girls bringing in bundles of bonnets and hats, made up at houses in the town, or in the villages round, which they carry for sale to warehouses.

11. The above is said to be the only part of the kingdom in which straw plait is now made, with the exception of a very little in the north of Ireland, where an attempt has lately been made to introduce it in the place of the sewed muslin work, which of late has very greatly decayed.

12. The above account of the straw plait and bonnet making district, as furnished to me on the spot, is remarkably borne out by the returns of the last census. From these it appears that of the total 27,739 females of all ages in England and Wales engaged in the straw plait manufacture, 27,286, or nearly the whole, are furnished by the four counties which contain the district above spoken of, viz.

Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire, and Essex, and a part of the adjoining county of Suffolk, in which a small number of straw plaiters is found; and that of these upwards of 20,000 are furnished by Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire alone. The Straw Plai and Bonnet Manufactures.

13. From the same source it appears that of the total 16,489 females of all ages in England and Wales engaged in straw hat and bonnet making, 7,563, or towards half, are furnished by Bedfordshire alone, and 1,874 by Hertfordshire. The remainder do not appear to be centred to any extent worth noticing in other straw plait making counties, Buckinghamshire having only 348, Essex 122, and Suffolk 186. Some are engaged in bonnet manufactories in London, and the rest are probably scattered in establishments of a like nature or in houses of a millinery character in other towns. The Luton district alone, which includes Dunstable, contains 4,150 female straw hat and bonnet makers of 20 years of age and upwards, or more than a fourth part of all the female straw hat and bonnet makers of all ages in England and Wales, and this exclusive of those in the district under 20 years of age, whose numbers are not given. Mr. J. E. White. D. The straw bonnet making district.

14. The following extract, taken from the tables of the last census, shows a remarkable disproportion of the sexes as to number in the Luton and Dunstable districts, which first shows itself between the ages of 10 and 15 years, and which arises, no doubt, from the great demand for female labour for the staple manufacture of the two towns. Great excess of female population.

Sub-districts.	All Ages. Both Sexes.	All Ages. Males and Females.	Under 5 Years.	5—	10—	15—	20—	25—	30
Luton - -	21,419	M. 9,338	—	1,209	1,091	940	841	678	—
		F. 12,081	—	1,235	1,327	1,682	1,487	1,061	—
Dunstable -	9,293	M. 4,028	—	538	499	388	295	251	—
		F. 5,265	—	547	569	647	580	437	—

Thus between the ages of 10 and 30 there are in the Luton sub-district 5,557 females against only 3,550 males, and in the Dunstable sub-district 2,233 females against only 1,433 males. After the age of 30 the disproportion gradually falls off. If the population of the two towns only at different ages, without including that of the country portions of the districts, were given, the disproportion would probably be shown to be still greater. In summer, at the end of the season, large numbers of females go home into the country districts, as many probably as 1,000, it is estimated, thus leaving the town of Luton in one week.

15. The effect of this large importation of young females is of course important in its bearing upon their physical and moral condition when away from their place of work. The overcrowding of lodgings from this cause is spoken of by the town surveyor of Luton as an evil which the authorities cannot reach (b. No. 48). Cf. also my Nottingham Lace Finishing Evidence, p. 236. Its effects.

16. It should be remarked that though the term "straw plait" is commonly used, in consequence of straw being the material most in use, other materials, such as crinoline, wood, &c., are employed in the same way or for the same purpose. Much of this "fancy" work, I was informed, is made up in the east of London. Other materials.

17. With the evidence on straw plait I have included that relating to two or three other miscellaneous employments closely analogous in system to this and the lace manufacture, and which would more properly form a supplement to the evidence already furnished on the lace manufacture. These are the manufacture of lace, crochet work, and sewed muslin and linen in Ireland, *i.e.*, so far as relates to the embroidery branch of the latter manufacture. The making up of sewed muslin and linen into articles of dress has been already treated of in my report and evidence on Wearing Apparel (B. No. 7). Lace, sewed muslin, and crochet.

I.—Age at which Children and Young Persons are employed.

18. Children begin straw plaiting work at a very early age indeed, so early that it seems impossible to believe that their employment can be thought of any real value. It seems worthy of notice chiefly as showing the general disposition of parents to turn their children to account at the earliest age physically possible, if not for the sake of any present appreciable advantage, yet with the hope of making them earlier a source of profit, as stated to me of hand-loom weavers by one of themselves (See Hand-loom Weaving Evidence, b. No. 42). I have seen children of only three years old, indeed one between two and three years old, set to work, and it is stated by several witnesses that children usually begin plaiting,—"people reckon to set children down to plait,"—at four years old, and some younger, as at three or three and a half. Indeed I have seen an infant of a year and a half fingering straw in a straw plait school from the force of imitation, and as a means of keeping it quiet, but, of course, not forming any plait. Infants work.

II.—Sex; Number of Girls and Women; and III. Number of Children and Young Persons employed.

19. Owing to reasons above referred to I am unable from my own inquiries to form an estimate of the numbers of the given age and sex who can properly be said to be employed in these branches of manufacture. The following table, however, drawn up from those of the last census, will point out some important features. It may be remarked that in each successive period of five years after the

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age of 20, here omitted, the number of females engaged in each of the two manufactures rapidly diminishes.

ENGLAND AND WALES.—OCCUPATIONS OF MALES AND FEMALES.

	Occupations.	All Ages.	Under 20 Years.	20 Years and upwards.	Under 5 Years.	5—	10—	15—	20
Females.	Straw plait manufacture	27,739	10,271	17,468	—	1,594	4,257	4,420	—
	Straw hat & bonnet maker	16,489	4,642	11,847	—	103	1,267	3,272	—
	Total Females -	44,228	14,913	29,315	—	1,697	5,524	7,692	—
Males.	Straw plait manufacture	2,128	1,561	567	—	667	673	221	—
	Straw hat & bonnet maker	1,687	277	1,410	—	4	64	209	—
	Total Males -	3,815	1,838	1,977	—	671	737	430	—

Over nine-tenths are females.

20. From this table it will be observed that of all the persons in England and Wales engaged in the straw plait manufacture, 92·8 per cent.,—and of all those engaged in straw hat and bonnet making, 90·7 per cent.,—are females, and that scarcely any young boys are engaged in the latter of the two trades.

Estimate of children and young persons.

21. In order to estimate from this table the probable number of either sex under the ages of 13 and 18 respectively, it is necessary to take into account that it is chiefly elder girls and youths who are employed in straw hat and bonnet making, and the youngest boys in plaiting. Judging as nearly as I can on this principle and by what I have seen, I apportion the numbers roughly as follows:—

	Children under 13.		Young Persons.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Straw plait manufacture -	1,200	4,150	280	4,350
Straw hat and bonnet making -	25	600	90	2,250
Total - -	1,225	4,750	370	6,600

This gives a total of 5,975, or in round numbers 6,000 children, and 6,970, or in round numbers 7,000 young persons.

Others not included.

22. To these must be added for present purposes the children under 5 years old who are in real fact employed on straw plait work, and probably many others not returned in the census as so engaged. Also I am not aware whether in the census classification the terms straw plait and straw hat and bonnet maker include workers in other materials of the kind referred to above (B. No. 16).

Hired and independent workers.

23. Of the numbers above estimated however, it is a portion only who are employed for wages for the benefit of other persons. No doubt most of the children and some of the young persons, whether plaiters or sewers of plait, are employed for the benefit of their parents either in schools or at home, and that, as unhappily shown in other cases of a like kind already brought under your notice, without much practical regard for their welfare of body or mind. Such, too, is the case with the little sewed muslin workers in Ireland. But a large portion of the young persons apparently begin at an early age to plait or sew at home or elsewhere on their own account, paying their friends for board.

24. A few children work for wages on the premises of regular employers as sewers, and it may probably be assumed that the large number of female strangers resident in Luton and Dunstable, as already mentioned, or the greater part of them, do the same. But there are no plaiting establishments of any kind except the schools. This work is of a kind which admits of being and is done more advantageously on the system already described. Plait sewing also is done to a large extent at the houses of the workers, but the practice and opinion of manufacturers seem to show that they prefer to have the sewing, at any rate of the better class of work, done as a rule on their own premises and under their own control.

IV.—STATE OF PLACE OF WORK.

Schools very crowded.

25. The crowded state of the plait schools strikes me, from my own observation, and has usually been remarked upon to me by persons acquainted with the district, as the worst feature of the manufacture. The schools are in some cases not simply devoted to plaiting, but are a combination of infant and plaiting schools. Infants from one year of age upwards, not engaged in plaiting, are thus exposed to unnecessary danger to health. A school is usually a small cottage room, not exceeding 12 feet square, sometimes less, of the usual height of cottage rooms, and in some cases little more than six feet high. The better the mistress, *i.e.*, the more successful she is in enforcing work, the more popular will her school be, and the greater the danger to health.

Cubic space.

26. In a room little more than $10\frac{1}{2}$ feet square, and between six and seven feet high, the number of children attending on the day of my visit was 41, and there have been 60. The air space would be $18\frac{1}{3}$ cubic feet for each of the 42 persons, or with the larger number only $12\frac{2}{3}$ for each, or less than half

what a child would have if shut up in a box three feet each way. The window in this school was shut on a hot summer day. (b. No. 1.) Measurements which I took on other schools show allowances—one of only 18, and another of 24½ cubic feet of air space for each person (b. Nos. 12 and 6.)

27. The children, it is said, can sit closer than they do even in the lace schools, as they have no pillow to occupy room.

28. As to the effect of such crowding on health, I beg to refer to the statement of Mr. J. Moore, surgeon, in my Lace Finishing evidence. (First Report, p. 241.)

Factories.

29. The factories and warehouses in Luton, where I visited some of different classes, are clean looking, roomy, and comfortable, and all the larger work-places there are spoken of as such by the town surveyor. (b. No. 48.) The Board of Health at Luton appears creditably active in exerting itself to secure a proper state of work-places of all kinds, as well as dwelling-places, in the town. A general look of comfort prevails, which is quite pleasant to see, and the health of the town stands very high. The great prosperity of the town and the high wages no doubt contribute considerably to this result.

Warehouses and small sewing rooms.

30. Some of the buildings in Luton have the appearance of regular factories, and two use steam power for a limited purpose. Others are like the smaller Nottingham warehouses, and there are also smaller sewing rooms in or attached to private houses, both in the towns and villages, of which I also visited specimens.

V.—Nature of Employment.

Plaiting while walking, &c.

31. Plaiting employs the fingers only, and can be done apparently equally well standing or walking about as sitting. In one way this is beneficial, as it makes it less confining. I found a young child of five years old standing up plaiting in a school as a rest. On the other hand it has the disadvantage that a child can be kept almost constantly employed, as much on the way to and from school or meals as when at school. In passing through the country villages, whether about meal-times or in the evenings, it is rare to see a girl out of doors without her plait in her hand, and working away busily as she walks, no doubt to get on with the task set by her mother. Young boys, too, may be seen plaiting out of doors, but not to the same extent.

Clipping.

32. Clipping off the loose ends of straw forms part of the employment, and I have seen infants of two, three, and four years old in a school, with their scissors tied to their bodies, doing or trying to do this.

Sewing.

33. Sewing the bonnets is done with the hand, and is said to be hard work, and, as I was told by workers, to make the back ache. Sewing machines cannot be used for sewing the plait, but are, in one or two cases, for sewing the linings, &c. In some cases part of the work consists of trimming with ribbands, &c.

Sewed muslin, crochet, and lace.

34. Crochet work and embroidering muslin and linen were both very large employments in Ireland, but have greatly declined in the last few years. There are different kinds of Irish lace, but the chief part of the work consists in embroidering patterns with a needle or hook on net stretched on frames. There are three factories, and a few smaller work-places, for lace of this kind in Limerick. Six or seven years ago, there were 1,500 persons in the Limerick lace factories, but owing to change of fashion or some other cause, the number now has greatly diminished. The leading factory which I visited employs just at the present time only about 80 females. Both lace and crochet are, I am informed, made in the numerous industrial and convent schools. In some kinds of work the manner of making lace and sewed muslin so closely resemble one another as to be capable of no real distinction.

VI.—Hours of Work.

Night plaiting schools.

35. Some plait schools are only day schools, *i.e.*, from breakfast to dinner, and from dinner to tea, but some have an evening school also from 6 to 8, or 6 to 9. The youngest children as a rule do not go in the evening, but some as young as seven, and even as five, do. (b. Nos. 30, 31.) Evening schools are spoken of as objectionable morally for elder girls, and physically for young children.

Sewing room hours.

36. The usual hours in factories, warehouses, and sewing rooms are from 8 or 9 in the morning till 9 in the evening, or in the busy three months till 10. But the workers are paid by the piece, and the demand for labour being great, and wages good, they are said to be very independent, both as to the hour of coming or going to or from work, and the time which they take for meals. It appears, however, that work is occasionally considerably later in some of the smaller work-places. It is liable to sudden pressure from changes of fashion, season, and accidental circumstances, such as a general mourning, &c., and for completion of orders, as in millinery trades.

Sewed muslin workers.

37. The Irish sewed muslin children work what a mistress calls "long hours indeed," and are treated by their parents little better than some of the little English hosiery seamers. (q. v.) Work goes on at school in winter usually till 10 or 9 p.m., and at home often till midnight, sometimes later. "It's mostly "always that I set up sewing till 12 at night in winter time," says a girl of 12. (b. No. 58.) One of 10 and another of 11 do the same. (b. Nos. 56 and 60.) One, now 13, has at times worked from 6 a.m. till 2 a.m. No wonder that they rise so early and sit so late to finish their task, for, if it is not done by when they return to school, "they *must* be 'bit' (beaten) then," says a mistress. (b. No. 55.) "She'd "a-beat us with a 'sally' rod." (b. No. 51.) And if a girl falls asleep at her work at night, "Ma "would wake me," (*i.e.* says the mistress, "Would give her a slapping to make her sit up and finish "her work.") "Often get slapped." (b. No. 60.)

VII.—Meal Times.

Kept back at meal times.

38. Children at plait schools are often kept back at meal times, if they have not finished the proper portion of their task, just as in pillow lace schools. In one Irish sewed muslin school the children in winter have no meal time between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. In another only some get out to dinner in the same period. Dinner time seems comparatively little regarded in Ireland.

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Sticks used.

VIII.—Treatment.

39. In several plait schools I noticed formidable looking sticks, which the mistresses say that they are obliged to keep, and sometimes to use. It appears that formerly much severity has been used (b. Nos. 24, 25), but I did not find any cases of late bad treatment. A room, however full of very young and fidgety children, to be kept at work, sometimes with infants to be kept quiet also, must be (as some mistresses have told me it is) and as I judged in particular from the anxious manner of one who kept one of the larger schools, very trying to their temper; and if a stick a yard long, as it often is, is at hand, blows seem a not unlikely result. The number of scholars obtainable is likely, as remarked, to depend upon the amount of attention enforced. As regards the treatment of the sewed muslin girls, *see* above, No. 37. Some mistresses, as I am informed, have been very severe, but I was told that of late this has been much less the case. Trade has fallen off.

IX.—Wages.

Children earn little.

40. The younger children earn, of course, very little at plaiting or plait sewing, and few have any idea what they do earn, or seem to understand whether they earn anything, knowing only the fact that "mother sells the plait." It appears, however, that some children can earn 3*s.* a week or so, according to age and quickness, and many, of course, earn from that down to nothing.

Sewer's wages good.

41. Sewing plait is regarded as a higher employment than plaiting, and the wages are remarkably good, many young women earning 1*l.* a week, and some considerably more; and good hands at one good house average 18*s.* Indifferent workers and those at small work-places appear to get as much as 10*s.* or 12*s.*

42. The Irish sewed muslin workers earn very little, *e.g.* 2*s.* or 2*s.* 6*d.* a week at the best, and children 9*d.* or 1*s.*, some much less, *e.g.* 1*d.* a day, or nothing. "Stoppages from the pay" by agents, on the ground that the work is not done well enough, are much complained of, especially when trade is slack, and work not needed for the market. It is stated that the sewers sometimes thus, in fact, work not only for nothing, but for less, having to pay for spoiled muslin and cotton.

X.—Influence of Employment upon Physical Condition.

43. The Irish sewed muslin girls, like so many other needle-workers, are stated to suffer much in health and eyesight from their long continued close work. "The doctors allow that it is the sitting so "long which causes so many to die of decline here." "Their eyesight fails very early if they are brought "up to the sewing from quite children." "On Mondays their eyes do not look so weak." (b. No. 50. See also Nos. 51, 54, 55, 62.)

44. As regards straw plaiters, I have obtained but little evidence as to the effect of their employment upon their physical condition, and I made but few inquiries. Bad effects are attributed to the habit of drawing the straws through the mouth to moisten them, *e.g.* excoriated mouths. (b. Nos. 39 and 24.) Many of the children were too young to give answers of any use on points of health, and the elder workers are exposed to no peculiar influences beyond those common to other employments already brought under your notice. The small amount of air space, however, usual in plait schools, seems plainly inconsistent with a fair chance of health for tender children.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
J. Edward White.

Lincoln's Inn, 2nd August 1864.

EVIDENCE upon the STRAW PLAIT and BONNET MANUFACTURES and some MISCELLANEOUS EMPLOYMENTS, collected by Mr. J. E. WHITE.

NORTHCHURCH.

Mrs. Wimbush's, Straw Plait School.

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1. With the number of children attending on the day of my visit, viz. 41, and including the mistress, the allowance of space is 18½ cubic feet for each person. The number has been about half as large again, viz. 60, and the allowance of space proportionately smaller, viz., about 12⅔ cubic feet for each person: a child shut in a box 3 feet each way would have 27 cubic feet, *i.e.* more than double. This calculation is made from the exact measurements of the room, including two slight recesses, but it will give the clearest idea to describe it simply as nearly square, measuring 10 feet 6 inches the shortest way, and 6 feet 9 inches high. Though it was a bright hot summer day the window was shut, but the door open. The air was, of course, close and heavy, with a strong smell, as I found particularly when stooping close amongst the children to talk to them. The face of one girl, with a weak chest, was running with perspiration, but her little sister is usually affected in the same way, and I did not notice it in others, so that the effect seems attributable to constitution, though no doubt developed by the state of the room.

2. *Mrs. Wimbush.*—My usual number of children is about 40, boys and girls, and their ages from 4 to 14. I have had 60 in this room, but would rather have 40 than 60. All the year round they come at 9 a.m. and leave at 8 p.m., going away an hour for dinner at 1, and an hour for tea at 4. People reckon to set children down to plait at four years old, or soon after. I have one that is more like a baby than anything, you would not think her three years old; but she only comes an hour now and then; it would be

too much for her to sit all the while. Another, Theresa Seir, between four and five years old, only comes for the morning and afternoon school, not after tea. After about 12 or 18 months they come the three times in the day. I keep them to work, and have to learn them too when they first come. That is the hardest work that I have, and almost wears my patience out. They have the stick at first. This little boy, now eight, who has been here four years, is the worst, and wants the stick very often. If he has not done his proper work I keep him from dinner, and he has to eat it here. Plait is not fit for boys' work, and they don't like it at all. I tell them it's only till they are big enough for other work. The children have so many yards set them to do, and their mothers sell the plait. Several do two score in a day, I don't care if they will do that. Out of 1*s.* that they earn, about 3*d.* goes for the straw. Each pays me 3*d.* a week.

That girl (No. 3) is always in a perspiration like you see her, and so is her younger sister: it must be from weakness. In winter we are obliged to keep that door into the outer room shut, because if the children's fingers are cold they cannot work. We took this house for the purpose of keeping a school, instead of having the children, as most do, just in their own room.

There are two other plait schools in the village, both smaller than mine, but they have about the same hours and plan of work.

3. *Emma Graham*, age 14.—Am very hot. My chest hurts me in front.

4. *Sarah Wellin*, age 8.—Have been here since five years old. Did three score (yards) yesterday, 2½ of them at home after work at school. Do not know how much mother gets for my plait. Do not know A or B; go to Sunday school.

Mrs. Brackley's, Straw Plait School.

5. *Mrs. Brackley.*—I have 15 children here now, the youngest 6, the eldest 13. There is school three times a day, viz., from 9 till 12, from 1 till 4, and from 5 till 7. Up till 7 or 8 years old, the children do not come to me for the evening school. If they have not done their work in time, they have to stay to finish it. I have to use a stick.

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Mrs. Ann Tompkins's, Straw Plait and Infant School.

6. In this cottage I found 40 infants and their mistress in a room containing 1,005 cubic feet, each person thus having an allowance of about 24½ cubic feet of air. This is taking the extreme measurements, without any deductions, viz., 11 feet 2 inches by 10 feet 8 inches by 7 feet 9 inches high. The window was open, it being summer, but still the air was offensive. The infants ranged from between 1 and 2 up to about 6 or 7 years old. The younger were merely being taken care of, the elder employed on straw plait, and two or three in sewing. An infant under two was fingering some straws in imitation of his neighbours. As some were too young and timid to understand or answer questions rightly, I took the mistress's account of these, and she bore out the answers of those who made any. I saw the children at work, and the little clippers had their scissors tied to their waists. The mistress had beside her a stick full a yard long, which on my entry she put out of sight, but she was too old to seem able to hurt them seriously with it. The work, no doubt, is done chiefly to occupy their time, as it would seem ridiculous to suppose that the result is thought of any real value for its own sake, but it shows for what the children are destined at the earliest profitable age.

7. *Mrs. Ann Tompkins.*—The children come here from about 9½ a.m. till 12½, and from 2 till 5 p.m., but some parents can't keep them so much as an hour at home at dinner time. I do not know if I have had more here at once than I have now. I like to have 3*d.* a week, for which I take care of them and teach a little reading, but I do not understand straw plait, so do not teach it. The children who are doing it here now learned before they came to me, some at home, and some go in the morning to a straw plait school, and come here in the afternoon. Another person in the village has a school like mine, and I know of five plait schools. (Names five, but did not know of Poulton's, which I visited.—J. E. W.)

Children are taught plaiting usually at 4 years old, some at 3½, and they can clip the loose straws off younger, viz., when about 3½ or 3. Lizzie Ibbins there, who is between 2 and 3 years old, is clipping some plait made by her sister elsewhere. Lizzie Cook, who was 3 last month I think, can clip her "ten" (yards) in the day, which Lizzie Ibbins has never done yet. George Tompkins, aged 3½, a relation of ours, is the youngest plaiter here, but he can only do a yard or two in the day. Sarah Bransome, who is in her 4, goes to a plait school the first half of the day to learn, and works here the rest. In clipping, the scissors sometimes hurt their fingers, and some have to put two in to be able to hold them. They are very troublesome, and I have to use the stick a great deal more than I like.

8. *Mary Scrivener*, age 4.—I am in my 5 (years). I can do "five" (yards) in the morning from 9½ till 12½, and "five" in the afternoon from 2 till 5. I have my five to do, and if I have not done it, I have to stop till it is done or to do it at home. I earn no money, but aunt sells my plait. I have no mother.

9. *Sarah Bransome*, age (query 3 or 4? The child says "4," the mistress thinks that she is not.—J. E. W.) I go to Mrs. Parks in the morning to learn plait. I can do "ten" in a day.

10. *Jane Fowler*, age 4.—Do "ten" in a day, have done 12.

11. *Alfred Ward*, age 5.—Plait three or four in the morning, and three or four in the afternoon.

Mrs. Poulton's, Straw Plait School.

12. This school is for real work, and when full must be even more wanting in space than that just described. The room is in the middle only 6 feet 5 inches wide, but has two shallow recesses; is 11 feet 2 inches long, and 8 feet high, and allowing for the recesses, contains 669 cubic feet. The mistress and 30 children would have a fraction over 21 cubic feet of space each. If there were ever, as one boy stated, 36 children, each person would have a fraction over 18 cubic feet. The children had not all returned from dinner at the time of my visit. Of 12 girls and 4 boys present, none of the boys and only three of the girls had ever been at a week-day school, though all went to Sunday school.

13. *Mrs. Poulton.*—Though my place is called a school, I do not teach plaiting, but merely keep the children to their work, and see that they do the number of yards set to them by their parents, which is according to their age and the kind of plait. They are taught by their friends before they come to me. I used to teach them some reading too, but found that too much, and do not do it now. The youngest that come are usually about 5 or 6 years old, but I have one now who is under 5, and some do learn as

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early as that. There are both boys and girls, but more of the latter; about 30 altogether when I am full. I do not think that there have been as many as 36, as the boy said, here at the same time. They are ill and away so much. As many as 30 can sit in the room at once, but some have to sit quite close into the fire, as close as you are now (a foot or two). There is always a fire in cold weather, as they can do no work scarcely if their fingers are cold. The curtain over the door is to keep the draught from those who sit near it. I am obliged to make them sit pretty close, and I always tell them that it is the best way. They are sure to fall out more if they do not. The room is counted eight feet high, which is higher than what you get usually. (I did not measure the height, but as near as I could judge it was eight feet.—J. E. W.) They pay 2*d.* or 2½*d.* each a week, and in winter 3*d.* is the proper pay. They come from 9 a.m. till 5 p.m., going away an hour or an hour and a half for dinner, and in the winter half-year they come again from 6 till 8 p.m., but the little ones don't come much in the evening, as it is so late and cold. These are the usual hours at other schools in the village. Many will do a score yards in a day, and sometimes two score, but they do not like to do so much often. About 30 yards seems counted the most proper day's work, to take the bigger ones. Few stay older than 13. They are paid so much a score. My boy there, aged 9, gets only 4*d.* a score, but most would get 5*d.*, and perhaps a penny or two more earlier in the year when trade is better. At about 10 years old I dare say that some would manage 3*s.* a week. The straw cuts their fingers and mouths too, as they draw it through their mouths, because it breaks off if it is not damp.

14. *David Goswell*, age 6.—Came here last August, (it is now July,) and plaited at home before. Can do a score in a day, and have done a score and a half. Have sat plaiting till 7 p.m. at home.

Was never at the reading school on a week-day. Know what "prayer" is. Mother taught me "Our Father," and I can say it all through.

15. *Mary Robins*, age 7.—Sarah, my sister here, will be 5 in a month or two, and she plaited at home before she came here. She can do "ten" in a day. My finger is bleeding from being cut with the splint.

16. *Sarah Smith*, age 6.—Have been here a year. Sometimes plait fifteen in a day.

17. *Caroline Giffard*, age 13. — Have done eight score in a week. Sometimes plait for two hours at home in the evening, after coming from school. Go home an hour for dinner.

Was never at the reading school. Can read. (Only the shortest monosyllables.)

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18. — *Tompkins*, straw-cutter.—I have three men and a boy of 15 cutting straw. They have no set hours, but come and go as they please. The boy belongs to me. Boys are no good at it till 14 or 15. If they were younger they certainly might cut themselves with the knife, but the reason why they would not do is that they would spoil the straw. No girls in the place work at cutting.

EATON BRAY.

19. *Ruth Stombridge*, age 12.—I began plaiting when I was 3 years old; know I did because mother says so. At the plait school that I am at now I go only from 8½ till 12, and from 1 till 4½, but mother sets me the same to do as I did at a school where I stayed till 9 o'clock, viz., 30 yards, 10 in each of the three school times. Have just left that school because the man had the small-pox two doors off, but other girls stay on. There were 30 girls there, some about 4 years old. We sit very screwed at school. Get 10*d.* a score, and dare say I clear about 5*s.* a week after paying for straw. Have two sisters younger and a brother older than I am who plait. He goes to the writing school in the day, and does 10 yards afterwards, which takes him till 10 o'clock at night. There are, I think, seven plait schools in the village, three of them large. All but three of them have night schools, one till 8½, the others till 9, and their hours in the day are the same as where I am.

Was never at a reading school. Can read the Testament, but not without spelling.

20. *Anna Gadsden*, age 12.—Stay on at the school which Ruth Stombridge has just left. The youngest girl that goes there in the evening is about 10.

Was never at a reading school in the week. Can spell a little.

EDDLESBOROUGH.

21. *Fanny Pepyt.*—My boy David, now 5, began to plait when between 3 and 4 years old; I learned him. About 4, or from 3 to 4, is the common age to begin, but some don't begin quite so soon. The little one there is just over 3; he must begin soon. David is at the "natural" school, and can read two or three "synnables." The little ones don't get to the plait schools before about 9 in the morning, and stay till 12, and go again at 1, and stay till about 4 or 5. Children go to the evening plait schools from 6 till 8 o'clock. It is not healthy work if they sit at it too much.

Mrs. Turry's, Straw Plait School.

22. *Mrs. Turry.*—The children in my school, about a dozen, are from 3 years old up to 11. Some begin plaiting a few weeks before they are 4, but 4 is the age of most for beginning. They come here from 8½ a.m. till 12, and from 1 or 1½ till 4, and those who have more to do till 5. The little ones do not have work to do before and after school worth mentioning; it would make them ill. There is no place drove like this for plait. The children just get a run to stir their legs, and are at it again. My daughter Mary, now 14, plaits from 9 a.m. till 10 p.m. That is about the regular thing in the place for girls of her age. She clears about 4*s.* a week. She does about six score in a day, and the straw costs her about 2*d.* or 3*d.* a score. She will not be much quicker when she is 20.

There is another plait school in the place, with about 30 children. My two young ones went there. Evening school is from 6 o'clock till 9, but it is only the big ones, *i.e.*, those from 7 years old upwards, who go to that.

The drain outside my door smells very bad at times.

TODDINGTON.

23. *Letter to me from the Rector of Toddington.*

Toddington Rectory,
August 1, 1864.

Dear Sir,

I regret that an unusual amount of parochial business should have prevented me fulfilling my promise about the baneful influence which the straw plaiting in this parish has upon the education of the children. I have been resident here for two years, and, so far, have been quite unable to get anything like a moderate attendance at our National school. The parents of the poor children only send their little

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ones to school when there are few orders from the plait dealers. Whenever there is a great demand for plait, every child that can plait is made to do so. In order that they may become plaiters, they are sent to plaiting schools at a very early age, about 5 or 6. There is no attention paid to their education in any other way. The plaiting mistress is frequently as illiterate as the children, and in many cases bears such a dubious character as to render it most unadvisable for young girls and boys to be put under her management. Children are crowded into these plaiting schools, which consist generally of a small badly ventilated room. It is necessary there should be a considerable amount of heat for them to work the straws with their hands. The health of the children is not improved, though I do not consider the injury done to health anything to be compared to the injury done to morals. A very small proportion of the children of the poor of this parish are sent to the National schools, which are maintained at a considerable expense almost solely by three individuals. The consequences, as I am firmly persuaded, of all I have told you are these. Hardly one young man or woman can write even her own name; the marriage registers can prove this. Very few can read, judging by the congregation at church, very few of whom use a prayer book. Vast numbers of young men and women are to be seen and heard loitering about the lanes at night, and especially on Sundays. Their morals are at a very low ebb. A large average of the women have illegitimate children, and some at such an early age as quite to startle even those who are at home in criminal statistics. I greatly feel the necessity of something being done to keep the straw plaiting within bounds, and sincerely hope something effectual may result from the consideration taken in this matter in Parliament. I have seen a great deal of England, and have spent some considerable time, from a month to a year, in many parts, north, south, east, west, but nowhere have I met with such lamentable ignorance as I meet with here, and an ignorance which very little on the part of the clergy can be done to counteract; ignorance which I can attribute to nothing else than straw plaiting.

I am, yours faithfully,

JOHN CLEGG.

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24. *Mr. William Horley*, postmaster.—I am the registrar of the Toddington district, which includes six parishes lying in a line, of which this is the centre, the furthest point being four miles from here. The population of the six together, including the hamlets, is rather over 5,000. I visit each parish once a month, so that a child may never get six weeks old unregistered, and I go constantly into the people's houses. Nearly all the females in the district, married and single alike, make straw plait, except a few who sew it; and boys plait equally up till about the age of 11, or whenever they can get other work, and when they have no work they return to plaiting again. They can't abear it, but they are obliged to do it. In some parts men plait too.

There are, I believe, in every parish one or more plaiting schools, according to the population, with much the same hours in all as in the schools here. These are from 8 a.m. till 12, and from 1 p.m. till 5, and in the winter half year again from 6 p.m. till 9. The children at the plaiting schools are most of them between the ages of 4 and 12. They are set so many yards by their mothers, and the mistresses who get the most work out of them are most patronized. There are many unfeeling mothers, and those are said to be the hardest who have not been brought up to plaiting themselves, *e.g.*, servants and others who settle here from a distance. I do not hear so much complaint now as I did about the children being thrashed by the mistresses; but there used to be strange stories about it when I was a lad, and you would see boys and girls too with bumps and cuts and bruises. I think, therefore, that there is not so much of this now, though the mistresses keep a stick; but the children are made to do the work all the same, and are kept back at dinner time if they do not. I see sometimes that they do not all go out together from the schools. When children get to be 13 or 14, they get to plait for themselves at home, and pay their friends so much a week, say 3*s.* or 4*s.*, for board.

The rooms are small, and the children are packed as close as herrings. The commonest size is about 12 by 10 feet, and I do not know any in this place 12 feet square. In some of the smaller villages the houses are bigger, but they are often poor old wattle and dab places. The fancy mistresses, *i.e.*, those who are sought after because they get the most work out of the children, will have the most crowded rooms. In some places they have to sit so close into the fireplace that the fire cannot be lighted, so they have coal or wood in earthen or even tin pots, which they call "dicky pots," and I have seen the children carrying these along. Great girls and women put them under their clothes, and children may be seen with them in their laps. These make a disagreeable smell, and I should think that the fumes must be unwholesome. The mere loss of saliva too, caused by constantly drawing the straw through the mouth, must be injurious, and it does not tend to cleanliness. Formerly each worker used to have a pot of water to dip the straw in; but now that so much double straw is used, the spittle perhaps sticks it better. Some, however, will work as dry again as others.

I have understood that the work is carried on in just the same way all the country round, chiefly through Hertfordshire, and right across into Essex.

The work, however, is more injurious to the morals than to anything else, particularly owing to the night schools. It would be a very good thing to stop these, and I do not see why Government should not do so. The bigger boys and girls are thrown indiscriminately together, even the lads after coming home from plough, and they make such a noise about the streets, and get into a way of pulling and tearing one another about, which leads to harm. Besides this the girls and lads get out together with their plaiting into the fields, and they have no instruction or means of amusing themselves, such as newspapers, &c. This is especially the case in the smaller villages, where the proportion of illegitimate births is the highest. Throughout my district it is about 10 per cent.; but in one small village, speaking however from memory of the return which I made and without reference to my books, out of 12 births which I registered in one year, five were illegitimate. The plaiters are untidy women, though such fine girls in dress, and often neglect their domestic duties, such as washing, mending, &c. I see on going into their cottages that they are not the tidiest people.

Owing to the plait schools children can't be got to attend regular schools, though in this place there is a Wesleyan as well as a National school. The late minister of the parish tried to get them by only charging 1*d.* a week, and even allowing some to come free, and his wife gave things away to induce them to come, and he had a mistress to teach straw plait. But even so he could not keep the school up, for as other things were of course taught, the mistress could not get so much plait out of the children as a regular plait mistress. I have often thought that we ought to have the factory rules here.

When trade is good, as it has been the last three or four years, children will make 6*d.* a day, or perhaps from 3*s.* to 4*s.* a week, and most grown up plaiters 1*s.* a day, though many will make more, up to 8*s.* or 10*s.*, and some 12*s.* a week. A wife and children will thus earn a good deal more than the husband. Farm wages are now 9*s.* for common labourers, and were 10*s.* or 11*s.* I have a farm myself.

Besides the plaiting, another branch of work, viz., sewing, has grown up here within the last three or four years. They work in sewing rooms, of which there are now several in the place, and there must be quite 100 girls and women so engaged. A girl of, say, 12 or

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14 years old will go as apprentice, giving her service to some one for, say, three months for teaching her. The masters of these rooms get out plait from Luton, because the sewing can be done cheaper here. At these rooms they work from 8 a.m. till 9 or 10 p.m., going out for dinner and tea, and on finishing or making-up nights sometimes work up till 12 or 1. I see them out in the streets late at night. The hours, however, depend on the state of trade, and the rooms are nearly shut up just now. Sewing work will not sell in summer.

Plait, however, sells all the year round at some price, and in busy times many women and big girls will sit up at it all night. Buyers come round and buy it, and the people are foolish enough to keep selling it in little quantities at a time, and so get less than the proper price, perhaps only 10*d.* instead of a shilling. Sometimes they take a piece to a shop two or three times a day, *e.g.*, at dinner and tea time, to get paid for it; but I do not know of any system of truck payment now. The buyers have a profit, too, on the straw which they sell; but they will buy from any one, whether the straw is bought from them or not.

The mortality is high amongst infants and old people, but I have not noticed any special cause of death amongst those of the working age. Consumption is high in certain cases, but I think chiefly from its running in the family or from the people in small places intermarrying so much. Scarlet fever, by which all those deaths were caused last year, did not originate in any straw plait schools.

25. *Mrs. Horley.*—I have done straw plait and am familiar with the work. Children are put to it much too early. There are not many who let their children pass 5 years without beginning, and a good many begin at 4. The mistresses will not take the teaching, so the mothers have to do that. The children are not hurried so much just at first, being sent to school, say only from 10 a.m. till 12, and again from 2 till 4 or 5, but in twelve months or so, or perhaps in six months, the mothers get to know how much they can do, and set them regularly to it. Some mothers are very brutish. I say that children ought not to be drove to school by candle light, when they ought to be in bed. Eight hours is enough for a child, and they hadn't ought to do more, poor things. But if they do not finish at school the number of yards set to them, their mothers make them do it at home, so it would be all the same. If they think that a child can earn 6*d.*, they make it. Children have been kept at work at home very late, up till 10, 11, and 12 p.m. You can hear them out in the streets holloing and playing on a cold winter night at 9 or 10 o'clock, so that no doubt they have been at work all the time before. It's ruining the children, when they are driven so. As they grow up they do not care so much about their parents, and leave them. The parents do not study their children's welfare, but only seem to see how much they can get out of them, and as I say sometimes, would sooner see their children work than do so themselves. It is a great pity that they do not see it in another way. Of course all are not alike or so exacting.

People have even offered to pay the children's schooling, but could not get them to come, because the mothers will not lose a penny. They say that they cannot afford to lose the time, and will tell you how many children they have to keep, but they do not say how much these are earning for them. It is true many of them do not look much better for all the money, but it is all nonsense to say that they could not afford to let the children go to school a bit. They could if they liked. If they would only let them go two hours a day it would only take 10 hours a week from work, as there is no school on Saturday, and it would do the children a deal of good. But you can't beat this into them.

I know that children have been whealed at school, and used to hear complaints of their being bruised, but for the last two or three years plait has gone pretty well and been of a kind that children could make money at, so their parents have been better satisfied with their earnings and the children have had an easier time of it.

Mr. G. Philpotts', Sewing Room.

26. *Mr. George Philpotts.*—I have had a sewing room here several years, but now several other persons in this village have, and sewing is being taken up in most of the villages round in the same way, because there is more than can be done in Luton and Dunstable. Within the last few years manufacturers have gone everywhere to get it done, and some plait has been sent as far as Bedford to be made up.

My business is chiefly in hats, and simply making them up for a manufacturer, *i.e.*, only the sewing work, not pressing, stiffening, or trimming. I employ about 20 persons, girls from 15 or 16 up to young women of 20 or towards 25, all working with the needle. They work by the score (yards of plait), though in some places they are paid by the hat or bonnet, and come or go as they please, and generally go to dinner and tea. The room is open from about 8½ a.m. till 9 or 10 p.m.; we like to get closed by 10 p.m. if we can. They seldom come earlier, though occasionally the room may be opened at 7 a.m., and sometimes they work later at night. I work simply for orders for a manufacturer, who has a good many shipping orders also, but my regular time for sending in the goods to him is Thursday and Monday. I give the workers as much as they say they can do, and I expect them to finish it, otherwise I cannot fulfil my order for the manufacturer. Sometimes they will idle a day or two, and then have their work to make up by the time; indeed I have known many leave two-thirds of their work till the last day. Thus on the finishing nights, *i.e.*, twice a week, there will generally be half a dozen working till 12 at night here, but on Saturday we like to close then, whether or no, but it is not often that they work much after that on any night. I have said many times that I wish we had to close at 9 regularly. I am sure that they would do as much work, for it is not those who stay the latest that do the most. It is generally the lazy ones who get behind; some are always late. For special orders, as for a public mourning, we have been obliged to work later. From about Christmas till the end of May, and from August till November, we are busy, but the busiest time is just before Whitsuntide. There are two other sewing rooms about the same size as mine in the place, and two or three smaller, some perhaps with a half a dozen or half a score workers. Altogether there will be over 100 sewers in them, and the hours about the same as in my room.

Much common kind of work is done in Luton by families who sew, block, and finish and all, and sell the articles complete. I have seen hats made in this way which were sold at 4*s.* a dozen, material and labour included. At such work very young children are employed, from 6 or 7 years old. But the number who work for warehouses there is so large, that in 1861 it was reckoned that there were 3,000 females strangers to the town living there for the work.

[The daughter spoke of their having worked till 2 or 3 a.m., and indeed all night.]

TOTTENHOE.

27. *Fail* (?) *Miller.*—My mother keeps a plait school in this room; nearly 20 children, I think, boys and girls, but they are away now. Each has so much plait set to be done in the day. They used to

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do a little reading here, but do not now. They are about from 5 to 14 years of age. School is from 9 a.m. till 12½, and from 2 till 5, but not any in the evening. There is another plait school in the village, where there is school only in the evening, viz., from 6 till 9.

[A young man was clipping plait in the room.]

BERKHAMPSTEAD.

Mrs. Norris', Straw Plait School.

8. The room is of an irregular shape, but equal as nearly as possible to 12 feet square, and only 6 ft. 3 in. high. With the average number of children the allowance is only 43 cubic feet for each person. It has been as low as 29.

29. *Mrs. Norris.*—My average number of children is 20, but I have had 30. Most of them plait, but the youngest do nothing, and are only sent to be kept quiet. They begin to plait when about 5 years old. School is from 8.45 a.m. till 12, and from 1 till 4. Four are waiting behind now (4.20 p.m.) to finish their work. The little one there, 5 years old, is standing up to work because she is tired of sitting, and will soon be going. 4.30 p.m. is quite the outside that I reckon to keep any. The fever took off a good many about here a few months ago.

Mrs. Hancock's, Straw Plait School.

30. *Mrs. Hancock.*—I keep only a night plait school viz., from 5 p.m. till 8, and have usually about 10 children, all from 5 to 10 years old. Some of them go to other plait schools or to reading schools in the day time before they come to me. If they have not done their work I have to keep them perhaps a quarter of an hour over their time. I have the big stick to frighten them, but do not like to use it. One boy, 10 years old, does eight yards each evening here, but he is very quick. My girl, who is 11, cannot do five yards of the same plait. It is worth about 7*d.* a score. Sometimes half the money goes for the straw, and I should think that with children's work that is about the average.

There are a number of plait schools in the town; I should think almost a dozen. The day school hours are from 9 till 12, and from 1 till 4. At these the children usually have to read either once or twice a day for a few minutes. About 5 is the general age for children to begin plait here, not much younger, though one or two may at 4. At about 14 or 15 they leave school and work at home.

Two of my children, girls, one nearly 5 and the other 11, go to a day plait school where there are about 30 children. They go from 9 till 12 and from 1 till 4. The eldest plaits here in the evening too till 8, but she cannot make more than 1*s.* 4*d.* a week after the straw is paid for.

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31. *Sarah Ann Meagher*, age 7 yrs. 1 mo.—Go to Scott's plait school three times a day, viz., from 8½ till 12, from 1 till 4, and from 5 till 8 p.m. Mother sets me five yards to do in each school, one yard at dinner and one at tea time. Often I have to get up in the morning at 7 or 6½ and begin work, because I have so much to do. Sometimes I begin at 6½ three days a week for it, but I never did any after coming from school at night. If I do "five" mother says I'm good girl; she doesn't hit me, the mistress does sometimes.

[I met this girl with another plaiting along the street on their way from school at tea time.]

Mrs. Gates', Straw Plait School.

32. At this school only a few were present, but of these only two answered to the question of having been at a reading school, one for a year, one for two.

33. *Martha Gates.*—I keep a plait school for my mother, and have usually abont 14 children here. I teach them reading and hymns as well as keep them at work. The youngest, Harriet Gates, now 4 years and 5 months old, comes for both school times, viz., 9 till 12 and 1 till 5; I have no school in the evening. Only two or three of them, I think, have been at the reading school, and those but for a short time. Besides the two who have said that they went, one may have been for two or three weeks perhaps.

34. A girl at another place afterwards told me of having been at school where a child of *two* years old plaited in last winter twelvemonth. On asking the name, I found it to be the child Harriet Gates, who was then nearly 3.

Mrs. George Clarke's, Hat and Bonnet Manufacturer.

35. *Mrs. G. Clarke.*—About six or seven girls and young women usually work in my house making hats and bonnets. One of my daughters does the millinery part, such as trimming, when it is wanted. They reckon from 8 till 8 the time; but if they are busy they work till 10, 11, or 12 p.m., or all night, just as things are wanted. It is to their own object whether they work late or not, as they are paid by the score. They seldom, however, work past 12, and are seldom late for so much as a week together; it is only for an order. Sometimes too, if wanted, they will come in at 6 a.m. if it is summer, but not in winter. Some think it quite a treat to sit up all night if my daughters are doing so, but I don't hold to working all night; it ruins the health. But look at dressmakers, how often they have to sit up all night. The youngest girl that I have had was 13. They are apprentices for six months or so. One sat up only two nights either in her apprenticeship or since. If I employ married women they take the shapes home and do the work there.

Children here begin plaiting very young, at 3 or 4 years old usually, I should say. It is easy work if they are not drove too much. Children come home from school at 8 p.m. It is, I think, only those old enough to work for themselves who sit late at night, but many of these do, and if you go into houses at 11 at night you see girls of 14 or 15 or so working. Indeed on Wednesday night some will sit till 2 a.m. Perhaps a mother may give a younger child a halfpenny to work a little longer in the evening.

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36. *Letters to me from the Vicar of Abbots Langley.*

The Vicarage, Abbots Langley,

My dear Sir, Monday, August 1.

I have taken great interest in the "plait question," as it affects the working of our parochial system, and shall be very glad if any information I possess can be made available for your purposes. I enclose a slight report put out two years ago, and venture to add from myself some few conclusions at which I have arrived. I should say that I do not live where plait exists in its intensity.

1. Plait is not the unmixed evil which some of my neighbours consider it.

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2. It is preferable to the field work at Bedfordshire (as less unfeminine) and to the lace work of Buckinghamshire, as more prosperous.
3. It has not had a bad effect on the county as increasing illegitimacy. Compare Herts and Westmoreland.
4. It is not unhealthy, nor is it even sedentary.
5. It saves the family from much pressure when the husband (say in the winter) is out of work.
6. The proportion of children in parochial schools, about one-seventh of the population, is not small. The Government inspector is satisfied with the general condition of education.
7. Plait affords an opportunity to the aged and widowed, &c., of eking out a parochial allowance.

I write thus much because I believe these advantages are often overlooked. As Diocesan Inspector I am aware of the difficulties it presents in the way of education. I quite admit that it causes a disinclination for domestic service.

J. E. White, Esq., &c. &c. I am, &c. RICHARD GEE.

37.

The Vicarage, Abbots Langley, Herts,
MY DEAR SIR, September 10, 1864.

I THINK that I may say that the circular was addressed by the Straw Plait Committee to *all* the plaiting parishes. There is an indistinctness with us in the use of the term "parish." It may mean each separate incumbency, whether newly formed or not, or it may mean the old mother parishes. Thus, Watford is either one parish or three, according to which of the two senses is employed. I think it safest to say that we consulted a third of the county; Herts being divided into twelve deaneries, and we worked four of these. There are, I believe, 149 *incumbencies* in Herts. We did not extend our inquiries further, because we believed that they ought for completeness to be carried into Bedfordshire, &c., and this we had neither leisure nor commission to do.

I am sensible of the evils or rather the dangers of plait. They may, most of them, be traced to the disinclination which it causes in young women to go into domestic service. They stay at home independent of their parents as regards earnings, and therefore control. They put what they do earn upon their backs, and become vain and over-dressed.

We still talk of having in my parish a plaiting class of adults, to meet once or twice in the week, and to be "read to and sung with" while the plaiting proceeds.

Our real difficulty lies with the plaiting schools. They are miserable crowds of huddled children, who plait for eight hours together, accomplishing a certain task in the day, and going through the form of reading,—actually wherever the prayer book may open,—on assembling and on leaving. It would be easy for me to promote these schools, to procure them books, and to recognize them as schools. I hesitate to do this, for fear of displacing the National school, which *now* is well attended.

Wigginton near Tring is a solitary instance, as far as I know, of a clergyman's making his parochial school a plaiting school. The children have been dispersed from illness, but it is open to me as Diocesan Inspector, and if it seemed to you worth while, I would make an appointment with the incumbent and yourself that we might go down together some Tuesday.

Does your Commission extend to children employed in paper mills? We have some hundreds so employed in this valley. Yours, &c.

J. E. White, Esq., &c. &c. RICHARD GEE.

38. To the Chairman presiding at the Meeting of the Herts Diocesan Board of Education, held at Hatfield, May 28, 1862. (The documents referred to in the foregoing letters.)

SIR,

I HAVE pleasure in making you some report on the part of the Committee appointed in February, to inquire as to the difficulties supposed to be thrown in the way of education by the prevalence of straw plait in certain districts.

It will be in your recollection, perhaps, that the rural deans in the plaiting districts, and the Diocesan Inspector, were requested to form the Committee in question.

These gentlemen have all readily undertaken the duties assigned to them. Some delay has been caused by the absence from Herts of two of their number; still they have corresponded with each other, circulated inquiries among their clerical neighbours, and held a meeting at Watford upon the subject.

I present with this paper a copy of the questions circulated. It will be seen that the questions were directed to draw out the opinion of the clergy as to, (1), the injury or benefit generally to their parishes caused by the manufacture; (2), its effect on the chastity and morals of the people; and (3), its prospects commercially—that an idea might be formed of its probable increase, continuance, or decrease.

At the time that the Committee met at Watford answers were produced from 35 parishes, and subsequently from three others. Of these, five parishes,—all in the rural deanery of Watford,—declared the inquiry to be inapplicable to them.

It may be stated at once that the prosperity of the trade seemed to increase with the distance from London. In the parishes nearest to the metropolis the manufacture appears to be rapidly on the decline. Its extinction is reported in one or two parishes. Near St. Albans, Hemel Hempstead, Berkhampstead, and Tring there seems, to say the least, to be no token of decay or withdrawal.

Thirteen parishes declared the plaiting to be on the whole a benefit rather than an injury.

Ten parishes, on the contrary, pronounced it to be rather an injury.

Ten parishes again leave the question as doubtful.

It should be stated, however, that many have understood the inquiry to be restricted to a *pecuniary* benefit or injury.

Twelve parishes consider plaiting to have a bad effect on the *chastity* of their neighbourhoods.

All agree in saying that a *material* difficulty in the way of education is caused by the straw plait.

The Committee were also favoured at their meeting with interesting papers from Hitchin, on the proportion of children in schools in which plaiting is taught solely, or in which it is taught in combination with reading and writing, or from which it is altogether excluded. The numbers scarcely appeared to the Committee to bear out the supposed intention of those who had taken the trouble to draw them up, as it seemed that so large a number of scholars could be obtained where plaiting was not allowed.

Thus—In 31 schools	from which plaiting was excluded, there were		2,336	children.
33	„	in which plaiting, combined with reading, &c.	1,015	„
19	„	in which plaiting was solely taught	274	„

The Committee at present venture only on the following suggestions which they are aware will seem to the Board to be wanting in originality and precision.

A. As regards *children* engaged in plaiting.

1. They consider it doubtful whether plaiting has not been too rigorously excluded from some National schools. It is obvious, however, that mere permission to bring their plait in the afternoon would not enable a national school to compete in attractiveness with a plaiting school in which plaiting was taught, and a task of work exacted.
2. They think that in some parishes a lower kind of school, supplementary to the National school, might be established, in which plaiting was actually taught and allowed for the greater portion of the school hours.
3. They think that the existing plaiting schools might be influenced for good by the clergy who could see their way to extend to them their patronage.
4. That the Sunday schools in these districts are entitled to peculiar care and attention.

Even these general suggestions appeared to the Committee to require modification according to circumstances, especially as to the probable continuance of the manufacture.

B. As regards *adults* engaged in plaiting,—though it may seem that their case hardly comes within the province of the Board,—the Committee report that carefully collected information from St. Albans assures them that the evils of plait in towns is much lessened where the plaiters assemble in rooms, such as are there generally well arranged with supervision and *vivâ voce* reading. It would appear to be an interesting experiment to open some such rooms in country villages, and to watch whether a better tone might not be given where now much unsteadiness and lightness are deplored. Should the Board

be willing to continue the Committee in existence, its members would be happy to prosecute their inquiries, in the hope of arriving at some more definite results. I am, &c.

RICHARD GEE,
(Rural Dean of Watford, acting as Secretary to the Committee.)

QUESTIONS CIRCULATED IN THE FOUR DEANERIES.

1.—Does plaiting prevail in your parish?
2.—If so, of what kind (whether straw-plait, loom-work, Brazilian leaf, &c.) Is it done at home or in workshops?
3.—In your opinion is the occupation on the whole a benefit or an injury to the neighbourhood?
4.—Does it interfere materially with education? Do you admit it into the National school? If so, for what proportion of the school hours? Would you give the numbers on the school books, and the average age of the first class?
5.—Do you consider that plaiting has had a bad effect on chastity and general morals of your parish?
6.—Do *men* plait with you, and do you consider their so doing objectionable?
7.—What do you consider to be the prospects of the manufacture eventually? Does it hold out a hope of employment for some years to come, or is it on the decline? Do children plait more or less than they did? What would be the earnings of a plaiter (of average skill) at 10 and at 20 years of age?
8.—Does the "truck system" exist in the payment for work by goods from the shops supplying the material?
9.—Have you tried any special means for the amelioration of this class of work people?
10.—Have you any general suggestions to offer?

39. *Letter to me from H. Veasey, Esq.*

Woburn, Bedfordshire,
SIR, August 31, 1864.

YOUR inquiry respecting straw plait schools has awaited reply to admit of further observation.

The district immediately adjacent is not manufacturing, and young children are engaged in the plait under cottage teachers. The work is wholly voluntary, and rather resembles a plain working school. Overcrowding prevails occasionally, but as plaiting admits of out-door exercise, the children commonly execute much work as they walk in the open air.

Excoriated mouths, chiefly at each angle, are common, from a practice of drawing the straws through the mouth, and a weakly attenuated aspect may partly arise from this habit, and partly from bad air. Brimstone and vitriol are, I believe, used to prepare the straws, possibly something worse.

Regretting to serve the cause of humanity so feebly. I am, &c.

H. VEASEY, F.R.C.S.

LUTON.

MESSRS. MUNT AND BROWN'S, STRAW BONNET AND HAT MANUFACTURERS.

40. *Mr. Hunt*, manager.—I have been in the trade quite 30 years, and am thoroughly acquainted with it. It has increased very much indeed of late, and is becoming each year more and more a large foreign trade, goods being sent largely to foreign markets, such as Australia, Cuba, &c. This town has grown very much in consequence, and buildings are springing up very fast. In 1841 the population was 9,000; in 1861, 17,000; and is now probably near 20,000. Probably three-fourths of it are engaged in the trade in one way or other, as the population consists almost entirely of the trading and working classes. The work done in the town by females is sewing the plait; the blocking is done by men, and a few boys are employed in tying up and in odd ways. It may be taken as a rule that 250 females keep about 20 men employed in blocking, &c. The growth of the trade has so taken up the labour in and near the town that it has pushed the straw plait making further off, and now for nearly seven miles round the females are almost entirely occupied in sewing the plait.

There are a number of large manufactories in the town, all conducted on much the same system and with the same hours as our own. We employ on the premises about 200 females and 15 men and boys. We are able to do with a smaller number of men because we use steam machinery for pressing, which enables two men to do the work of 20 without it. One other manufactory here uses steam machinery for the same purpose. The doors are open at 8 a.m. for any to come in that like, but usually they work only from 9 till 9, and for about three months in the spring till 10, but that is the latest. They take dinner and tea as they please, usually going for about an hour at 12 for dinner, and half an hour for tea. We tried having meals on the premises, as one or two other factories did, but we have given it up. It is better for the health of the workers to go home for meals. All the females but about three are over 18 years of age.

Besides those who work in the large factories, there are great numbers employed in smaller places; and even private families sew, block, and finish bonnets and hats entirely at home. In such places persons, I believe, are employed much younger, and work longer than in the large factories. Children can do inferior work where the same shaping is not required, but persons cannot do work like ours well enough till they are nearly grown up. We give out orders to 300 and sometimes up to 500 outworkers, and besides this buy largely from others.

On the whole I believe that there is no class of work so suitable for females and so healthy, or in which they get such good wages as in that in bonnet manufactories here, so far at least as I have been able to learn by inquiries as to the condition of females engaged in factories of other kinds. With us good hands get on the average 18*s.* a week, middling hands 12*s.*, and some 25*s.* or more. Many work here who would not think of leaving home for work of other kinds, *e.g.*, farmers' daughters.

The number of females who come to live in the town for the sake of the work is very great. They lodge in the town, and many people let apartments for the purpose. Perhaps 500 such females will leave the town this week (early in July), and 1,000 next, and will come back in August. At the last census there were, I believe, nearly two females to each male in the town. (Query. At certain ages only? Cf. B. No. 14.—J. E. W.)

The firm has a factory also in Dunstable, where I live, which is also under my charge. About 350 females and 40 men are employed in it, and for the same hours as in our Luton factory. In Dunstable the work is done almost entirely in large manufactories, and there is scarcely any work done in houses, as here. In our factory there sewing machines are used for binding and trimming, but no power is used. Luton and Dunstable are the only two towns with large manufactories, though hats are made up also at St. Albans.

MESSRS. WILLIS AND CO.'S, STRAW BONNET MANUFACTURERS, CASTLE STREET.

41. *Mr. Willis.* — We employ rather over 200 females on these premises in making up bonnets. None of them are under 13, and only about five per cent. of them under 18. Their work is all needlework. The blocking, stiffening, &c. is done by men, and there are perhaps 20 boys, but none under 13,

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employed in odd ways, tying up plait, &c. They are not tied to hours, as they work by the piece, and come and go for meals or other purposes just as they please. From 9 till 9 may be called the day; perhaps half are here by 9.30 a.m., but they do not like coming early in the morning, and would prefer coming from 10 till 10. For orders they may occasionally have to stay beyond the time, but never late. There are a number of large factories in the town of the same kind as mine, eight or ten say, and the system of work and hours are much the same in all as in ours. I should say that in these better factories the workers are none of them under 16 years of age, but most of them from 18 to 30. But there are an immense number of persons in the town and in villages round who employ small numbers, some only tens or fives, and some of these no doubt work at younger ages. Dunstable is the next largest place of business, but there it is all done in factories, conducted on just the same principle as those here, and at St. Albans there are places of much the same kind. These three towns are the only three important depôts of the manufacture, *i.e.*, places in which goods are made up, and to which buyers of them would come. Luton does by many times the largest business. It is impossible to say whether more of the making up is done in factories and warehouses or out in private houses, as this work now forms a very large trade in the country villages round.

The straw plait making district extends over Hertfordshire, except just the southern part towards London; along the eastern portion of Buckinghamshire, across into Bedfordshire up to near Bedford, into the edge of Cambridgeshire, and across the north-western half of Essex. In the Essex district only the plait is made; there are no sewing factories.

The plait making and the making up are two entirely distinct branches of the trade. Nearly all the population of this town are employed in or in connexion with the latter, and there must be at least many thousands of females engaged in it in this town. It is impossible to form any idea of the number of persons employed in the whole trade, but it may be said roughly that one sewer would sew up as much as four plaiters could make, so that the number of plaiters must be very large indeed. Perhaps altogether there may be 50,000, or possibly even 100,000 persons engaged in the whole trade. Every person in connexion with it, especially the making up, is well paid; indeed I believe that it is one of the best paid employments. Many young women make *1l.*, or 16*s.*, or 17*s.* a week at it.

I am disposed to do what I can to help such an inquiry as this; but as regards my factory and others of the same kind, the workers are so free and of an age to be so independent that I really do not see that it applies at all. But there is a great objection to the employment of children as carried on in the village straw plaiting schools, which I have known for many years, and should say is excessively injurious. The children are sent to the work at a very early age, when they ought to be at school, and are very much crowded together, 20 or perhaps 30 in a cottage, according to the size of the room. Most of these children are between the age of 7 and 12. They are set a certain number of yards, say 20 or 30 in a day, and are obliged to do it. If they have not finished the proper amount by 12 o'clock, they must do it before they get their dinner. The only reason for their being sent to school to work instead of doing it at home, is that more can be got out of them so. The mistress gets perhaps 3*d.* a week each for seeing to this. I used to have occasion to travel over the plaiting districts. I should say that the rooms are more crowded than the lace schools in the neighbouring districts, because there are no pillows to take up the room.

42. At a small warehouse, employing about 30 females from 16 upwards (Mr. Cotchin's), I was informed that the workers usually stayed from about 9 till 9, or as long as they pleased between 8 a.m. and 9 or 10 p.m., never later than 10½ p.m., and never coming earlier than 8 a.m.; an hour being usually taken for dinner at 12 and for tea at 4.

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43. *Mr. Charles Lutes.*—I am engaged as blocker in one of the largest bonnet manufactories here (Vyse's), and have worked in another of them (Gregory and Cubitt's), and have been acquainted with persons in nearly all in the town, of which five are quite large. I was also engaged in an establishment of the same kind in London, and it was conducted in much the same way as those here. The greater part of the workers in the factories are females, but usually all over 14 years or so of age, unless one comes in younger with a sister. Boys only tie up plait and do odd things. From 9 till 9 are the usual hours, and sometimes in the first half of the year, which is the busiest, they work till 10, but seldom later than that. The latest that I have known at my present place is 10.30 p.m. When I first came to the town warehouses were open till 12 p.m. quite commonly, but there is quite as much or more done now without working so late. In autumn the hours are pretty steady and short. The females work by the piece, and go to meals as they please, usually about an hour for dinner, and a bit for tea; or if they feel tired they can sit and work at home. I have worked in a factory in Cheshire, and should say that the girls here are much more independent and comfortable. Few fair female workers make under 10*s.* a week, and most from that to 1*l.* A girl could not be got under 8*s.* I should think. If they do not like one place they can easily go to another.

The factories are generally healthy places. The worst time is in the winter, when there is gas and they cannot have the fresh air in so well. But they can go home if they please. The Board of Health regulate the bleaching and dyeing places, and will not allow them to be in close parts of the town. The Board is very expensive, but I suppose it is good.

A great number of persons in the town employ a few girls or women in their houses in sewing bonnets. I employ a few in my own, but none of them children. They work about the same times as in the factories. It is only now and then that they are later. Some of the large manufacturers have factories or sewing rooms out in the villages also. There are very few young females in the town but what are employed in the trade some way or other. Some families here and most who sew in the country buy their own plait, and work it up and finish it entirely themselves, and bring in the bonnets, &c. and sell them to the warehouses, being in fact complete manufacturers on a small scale. They know what shapes are being made. There is a plait market in the town on Monday, to which the plait bought up by the buyers in the country is brought in.

Mr. W. Tapley's, Straw Hat Maker, Back Street.

44. *Mr. W. Tapley.*—There are a great number of persons in the town, several hundreds I should say, who like myself employ a few females in making bonnets and hats. We sell to the warehouses, and are called "makers up." Some employ only three or four, others five or six, others more. I employ about a dozen females, from 10 years old up to young women. About a dozen is a common number. I stiffen and iron the hats myself. In addition to the sewing the plait, there is the lining, trimming with chenille, ticketing, &c. The sewers' workroom generally forms part of the dwelling-house, as mine does,

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or is attached to it. It is often a room over a wash-house, and men do the ironing below. In this part of the town in particular, which is a poorer part, there are a great number of such small employers. Some of them send out work into the country by carrier, to be brought back next week sewn, but not stiffened. Besides those who employ girls, families make up for themselves. I should say that every cottage in this street, right and left, makes up so. Even little tradespeople's wives and children do it, and it is a great assistance to them.

The hours depend upon the state of trade. For about three months in a good season my hands work about from 8 a.m. till 10 p.m., and for six other months till 9 or 10 p.m. They are busy usually for about nine months of the year, and are generally off entirely for a few weeks or a month or two, as they are now. But last year they were away only a day and a half; it just depends upon circumstances.

Fashion has a great deal to do with the amount of work. I have been in the trade 20 years, and never known two years alike. Royalty always puts us out, *e.g.*, the Duke of Wellington's funeral and Prince Albert's, and the Prince of Wales's wedding did. So much is wanted at once that there is a dull time afterwards.

When my hands are not very busy they go away about a couple of hours for their two meals, but, when busy, they take less, *e.g.*, perhaps half an hour for dinner. If they come earlier they go away for breakfast, and if they stay late they bring a bit of supper. Sometimes to oblige me, when I am busy, they work longer hours, *e.g.*, come at 7 or 6½ a.m. and work till 10 p.m., and some will be up till 12 or till 1 a.m., but it is optional with them. I leave them to my daughter, and go to bed, and tell them that they may do as they like. But this would be only one or two nights in a week, or perhaps a week in a month. Work is generally pressing about a fortnight before Easter. It would be an extreme case for them to be up all night in any sewing room, and only for an order, and I should make them a pot of coffee or something, and pay them more. But I never did have them up all night; I should lose more than I gained. But if I have an order, say 20 dozen, I give it out to the room and expect all to buckle to, without distinction of age. But there is no compulsion. I would sooner leave compulsion to the parents. I very much object to the hands working beyond 10 p.m.; but when there is money to be earned you can't restrain them, with the parents at their back encouraging them on. It is a rule throughout the trade to work by the piece. The little ones work for their parents, and if they work longer than usual the parents take it all. There is no custom here of allowing children what they make by working longer. But when they are grown up, *i.e.*, when about 14 or 15, they pay their parents, say, 5*s.*, 6*s.*, or 7*s.* a week for board, and have the rest for themselves. If any work all night at their homes it would be only on Thursday and Friday nights, and under their parents. Those who work for me earn about from 5*s.* to 13*s.* a week. One who is 15 never makes less than 8*s.*, and since Christmas has averaged 10*s.* She comes the first and sits to the last. It is not usual to take work home with them at night. I do not like it, as I lose in the long run, as they cannot work afterwards; but sometimes, if very busy, they ask to take a score home.

When children sew at home their mothers set them a task, say three score yards to finish in a day, and when they are busy they may push them on a bit. I could tell of numbers of families round this part of the town where girls of 10 are sewing plait, but I should say that they do not begin much under 8. It would be quite exceptional to find a child of 5 or 6 at it, even in this poorest part of the town, and it could only be at sewing rubbishy stuff. I know one of 9 years that sews four score a day.

I am not much for legislation as a rule, and I think that the only thing in the trade that needs it is the country plait schools, where the children are so crowded together. Also we want some protection as to measures. The plait is often short measure, *e.g.*, only 16 or 17 yards instead of a score, as it is supposed to be. This comes very hard on us little men, for I not only get less plait, but, as I pay the workers by the number of scores of plait which they make up, and have to pay the same whether it is a full score or not, I lose both ways. Some pay by the hat. We have formed a plaiters' association for our protection, and send an agent out into the country to measure specimens of plait; but we want a little assistance, and it would be a protection to us if it was fixed by law that a score should be 20 yards.

45. In another small room of the same class as the above, but at the other end of the town, I was informed by the wife of the master (Mr. Cooper, Albert Road) that in the busy time the workers, none being younger than 16, usually stayed about from 8 a.m. till 10 p.m., and that in the busy three months 10 p.m. was reckoned the usual hour for leaving off in warehouses.

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46. *Mrs. Elizabeth Sharpe*, Back Street.—My child Jane began sewing plait of herself when about 4 or so; she took to it of herself. When about 5 she could do three or four score in a day if we would let her, but I do not like to do so; it is not good for children.

She goes to Sunday school and two nights a week, but has left off going on days. The eldest girl in a family, as I always say, is ruined, as she has so much to do.

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47. *Mrs. Barford.*—My child Mary Ann, now 11, sews five score a day at home here, and could do that in seven or eight hours, if she stuck to it. She began when 9.

[The girl could read, but spelled two syllable words.]

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48. *Mr. Sandoe*, town surveyor.—The Board of Health here, of which I am the officer, are very particular in enforcing all proper requirements for securing the public health. They regulate the width of streets, the spaces between houses, and insist on all habitable and working rooms being of proper size and height, properly ventilated, and provided with proper closets or conveniences. We insist on a minimum height of 8 feet. Of course they have no power to limit the number of persons who may work in a room of a given size. Indeed, one great difficulty which we cannot reach is the crowding in lodgings, owing to the number of girls who come in from the country for work. We are very particular also as to the bleaching and dyeing works, of which there are but very few of any size, and insist on their being airy. The great difficulty that we have is with the small places; for people will do work of this kind even in their house or garden. But all the large work places are healthy and have plenty of space. A large part of the town has been built within the last few years; indeed I believe the greater part within from 10 to 15 or 16 years. The town is healthy, and stands very high in the registrar's tables; but as there is

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no medical officer of health here, I am unable to give the precise comparative rate of mortality. The people are able to and do live well.

In the greater part of the small houses in the town the families are engaged in making up bonnets and hats, and quite little children, *e.g.*, from 6 or 7 years old, are employed at their homes in sewing plait. This, probably, is particularly the case in the poorer parts of the town. Some persons employ just a few hands, say 6 or 10.

[Note.—For a further statement as to the above manufactures, see Appendix, p. 14, Nos. 74 and 75.]

SEWED MUSLIN.

Sewed Muslin.

Ireland.

Mr. J. E. White.

DONAGHADEE.

49. In this little town, on the north-east coast of Ireland, I visited several sewing schools, *i.e.*, houses in which girls sew or rather embroider muslin and linen under the charge of a mistress. They correspond very closely with the pillow lace and straw plait schools in England. The ground area is at times crowded in the same way; but as the houses possess the advantage of being cabins of one story only, and open to the roof, it is impossiblefor the amount of air space per head to be as small as in some of the English plait schools referred to. But however much space there is to spare, the children sit huddled close together, just in front of the mistress; as represented, because they like it, but probably to be more effectually under her eye. Some are poor, untidy places, most with merely mud floors, on which the children sit with merely a narrow piece of board or small patch of rug to keep them from it, or sometimes very low stools. In one I saw a tray for the chickens, which run in and out. The children go to the schools for long hours, *i.e.*, a day of about 14 hours, with a deduction of about two. They are kept up late at work at home sometimes, in the same manner as the hosiery seamers.

M. A. Tosh's Sewing School.

50. *Mary Ann Tosh.*—I keep a sewing school, and have now about a dozen girls, most between 10 and 15 years of age. Last winter I had two dozen, and I have many a time had more than 30 in this room alone, but 30 have to sit as close as they can. That's just the way they do in schools usually. If they are too throng, a few would go into the bedroom, which opens into this room. They have boards or little carpets on the floor, or sometimes little stools to sit upon, but in summer they would sooner want the carpets. For the first six months the girls work for me for my teaching them, and afterwards, when they work for themselves, they pay me 1½*d.* a week, or in winter, on account of the lights wanted then, 2*d.* Girls work in schools because they would not work at home, and being together they encourage one another. I set them a task of so much to do in the day.

At this time of the year (May) they are here about from 8 to 8, with an hour away for dinner, but all do not keep one time. Them that come earlier would go out to breakfast at 9, and sometimes they come as early as 7 and 6 a.m. In winter they begin at about 8 a.m., and go home from 4 to 6, betwixt the lights, and work at home, and come back and work here till between 9 and 10 p.m. If they have not done their task here they go to meals all the same, but you give them charges to take work home with them, and then, perhaps, they will light a candle, and sit late or rise earlier. Some rise by candle light in winter, and work before they come here.

The work comes from Glasgow by Belfast, and is given out to the workers by means of agents, of whom there are four or five in this place, and is taken back again to them finished, if it is a large piece usually on Saturday, or if small quicker. Sometimes the agents send a piece and want it finished in a day or a couple of days, ready for market. Then, may be, the girls will have to work in meal hours, and want the meals, or if the work is wanted next morning it may be that you have to sit up all night. I have seen us at work in here till 12 and 1 and 2 at night. When one and another sit together they do not get drowsy, but the work goes on. I am glad to get rid of the little ones as soon as their task is done, but after twelve months or so a girl becomes useful. These girls, who are13 and over, often stay late. But the girls are like wild deer to rise and leave their work; leaving it raises the spirits of all, young and old.

There are several other sewing schools in the place, the larger having perhaps 20 or 30 girls. Their regulations as to hours are the same. None of them are large in summer, as girls are away at other work. Where I was a woman had 200 girls in two rooms; we had about the same hours as I have here, but whiles we went at 7 a.m., and she would keep us as long as you could see to put in a needle. We had the work for ourselves, and paid her 2½*d.* a week, and in winter 3*d.*

Some of the girls under me here used to go part of the day to the reading school, but necessity causes them to quit it.

Sewers are paid in money, but it is very little now. Speaking for myself, where I made 1*s.* I can now only make 4*d.*, and, working all hours, scarcely make 2*s.* a week. Girls of about 13 or 14 make me ashamed, as they can earn as much. They are souppler at it, and are more in heart in it. The little ones make, perhaps, 1*d.* a day at the outside; those girls of 11 years old there would not make more though working all day. But young girls' work, when it goes in, very likely does not count at all. The agents take off money from the proper price of work, sometimes half of it and more, and sometimes return the work and make you pay for the muslin and cotton, though you may think the work passable. It makes no difference whether the worker is little or big, the money is often taken off from both alike. We often wonder what it is taken off for. I understand, of course, that if the work is not done right it will not pass in the market. Since the damp came on the trade they will scarcely pay the money at all.

It is very unhealthy work from the sitting so long. Scarcely any girls have any health at it. They are subject to pain in the side, and especially in summer to pain in the head. I have heard that the doctors allow that it is the sitting so long which causes so many to die of decline here. My girls do not sit outside the door to work; they would be "all in a merry wig," and looking about; they would like that. They generally like to sit on the ground instead of on stools. When they sit so high, and too constant, they get a pain in their side; that's why. At night, when the candles are lighted, they sit higher, to be nearer to the light. One large dip candle will light half-a-dozen girls.

It is very severe work for the eyes by candle light, and is very troublesome to them at the time, particularly the white linen, which dazzles the eyes, and is more severe than the green (greeny white ?) muslin. When they sit too constant their eyes grow dim. On Mondays their eyes do not look so weak, as they have had a little rest. We burn candles, not gas. I think that gas would be too strong for the eyes, they being so weak. Their eyesight fails very early if they are

brought up to the sewing from quite children, and a great deal of them become weak-sighted by when they are grown up. Some lose their sight by not putting glasses on. They think that it would make them look getting old, and might disappoint them of a husband.

[The room is 11 feet 4 inches by 9 feet, but open to the roof.]

51. *Martha Nevan*, age 13.—Went to a sewing school at 7 years old. In summer we worked from 8 a.m. till 8 p.m., and in winter from 8 a.m. till 4 p.m., and again from 6 p.m. till 9 p.m. We had an hour for dinner at 2, and breakfast before we went; but we did not get out at all between 8 and 2. No, sir! we didn't ask. If we'd not done our task, the mistress sometimes kep us in at night till 10, but never kep us from a meal; and sometimes she'd a-beat us, sir, with a rod, a "sally" rod.

In summer I sit at work from 6 a.m. till 8 p.m., and in winter from 8 a.m. till later in the evening. Sometimes it has been till 10, 12, and 2 a.m. If I begin at 6 in the morning in winter it is at home, not here. I have worked from 6 in the morning till 2 the next morning, but not very often, and was off a bit, stopping about an hour twice in the day.

Sewed Muslin.
Ireland.
Mr. J. E. White.
d.

When you sit so long your eyes grow weak. I have had weak eyes for two or three years, but I can see well.

Have been at three sewing schools in the place besides this, and had about the same hours at all as here, and all girls, both big and little, had the same.

52. *Jane Wallace*, age 16.—Have sewed on till 2 a.m., but at home, and begun again at 7 a.m.

53. *Eliza Johnston*, age 16.—Have sewed till between 2 and 3 a.m., and begun again at 7 a.m.

[Another younger girl had never sat at work later than 11 p.m. Each said that working long days, viz. from 7 a.m., they could earn about 2*s.* a week.]

Mrs. Rankine's, Sewing School.

54. Though only 10 children were in school at the time of my visit, they were huddled as closely together as possible in the part of the room just in front of the mistress. Several had coughs, and one flannel round her neck; it was May. All said that they went to Sabbath school; two, that they could read well, and the others that they could read a little. Their ages ranged from 8 to 14.

55. *Mrs. Rankine.*—About 7 is the usual age at which I take little girls into my school, though some come older, up to 10. Very few go to any school younger than 7. They stay with me as long as they like, *e.g.*, till about 14 or 15, which are the eldest here now, except two women who work with them. This one, aged 20, pays me just the same as the girls do. Many of the young women goes out to schools; it's heartsomer for them when there's a few together than sitting at home. Girls serve their time to me for the first six months. I have about a dozen, sometimes more, sometimes less; and I have seen me having 30 at a time. There are generally more in winter time than in the summer. Though there are so much fewer now, they sit close together, as close as they can, just the same; they like it best. The little ones would rather sit low down on the floor as they do without a stool, but sometimes I put them a bit of a carpet. They don't sit outside at all in summer. I set the little girls a task to do. If they do not do it they must be "bit" (beaten), but I would be afeard to do it to the big ones. If they don't do their task in the day they must sit up at night at home, for if they come back in the morning and it is not done they *must* be "bit" then. So they rise early in the morning to do it, and are many a time up by 5 and 6 a.m.

My girls' regular hours are in summer from 7 a.m. till 8 p.m., or while they can see, and they have an hour for breakfast at 9 and for dinner at 2. In winter they come in the morning at 9 or 10 or so, but don't go out in the middle of the day much, because the day is so short. Some goes out to dinner and some not, just as they have it to get. They go away at 4, and come back at 6 and sit till 10, but all go away then, unless a neighbour chooses to sit and work on later. It's long hours for little children to sit,—long hours indeed. Young women sit about the same time; in winter time generally till 11 p.m., sometimes till 12 or 1. I have seen us sit all night, *i.e.*, only our own family. We sat regularly all Friday night when business was better. At this work it's very hard to get through with honesty.

A child when out of serving her time can earn perhaps from 9*d.* to 1*s.* a week; for a young girl from 9*d.* to 1*s.* is the common thing. Indeed 1*s.* is the height that any young child can make if the work is good, and about 2*s.* is as much as I or a grown person can make, or perhaps 2*s.* 6*d.*, according to the sort of work. Some at finer work can earn more, but I think that none can get more than 3*s.*, if that, working all the week from earliest to latest; and very little indeed it is.

There are heavy stoppages from the pay if the work is not done sufficient; and the agents can find fault for very little by times. From little children's work money is very often taken off. I have very often seen them take in sixpence worth of work, and get, say, only 4*d.*, and many a time they take in a piece and doesn't get a farden for it. There's faults on both sides, I warrant. Agents is very hard to please, and little girls is careless. Sometimes it is difficult patterns that they get, and they can't do them so well.

It is very tiresome sitting from morning till night. Indeed, they all get tired of it, but, poor things! they must sit. It cramps us, and gives us pain in the side, and generally in the breast. A great many girls dies in Donaghadee of consumption. It is the sitting that does it. That youngest girl, 8 years old, and out of her time, has boils in her ear, and cannot hear. She brought it out of the measles, and has never been well since. It's a disease in this town at present for girls to have the throat and head bad.

It's very hard on the eyes, especially the white linen; two little girls yonder are on that.

56. *Mary Ann Brown*, age 10.—Generally sit sewing (at home) till 12 at night in winter time, and rise about 7. Sometimes I sew before I come here in the morning. Get about 1*s.* a week.

57. *Jane Brown*, age 9.—Sit sewing with my sister (No. 56) till about 11, not later. ("She would get "too sleepy with it," said the mistress.)

58. *Jane Brown*, age 12. (No relation to the above.)—Generally rise in the morning now, to do my task, sometimes at 6, sometimes at about 5. It's mostly always that I sit up sewing till 12 at night in winter time, and rise about 7, to help mother, &c., but I don't do any work till I come here at 9 a.m., or sometimes about 10.

M. Wilson's, Sewing School.

59. *Mary Wilson.*—I have kept a school of 50 sewers in a larger house. Now I have about a dozen, most of them small girls, the youngest 8. I have seen them sewing at 7 years old, but very few. More come in winter. There are not so many do the work at all now as formerly, and where a girl got 1*s.* 6*d.*, now she can get only 6*d.*

They come now (May) at 6 a.m., and leave at dark, and have two hours out for meals. In winter they come as soon as it is clear, and leave at 9.30 p.m., and are also away from 4 to 6 in the afternoon. Most breakfast before they come there.

Some of their eyes is very weak that works at it.

60. *Agnes Brown*, age 11.—Rise now at 6 and come

Sewed Muslin. Ireland. Mr. J. E. White. d.

here and work till dark. In winter I rise about 8, and sit sewing with mother and sisters till 12 most nights. One of my sisters, who is two or three years younger than I am, only sits till about 9. She makes about 1*s.* a week, and I sometimes 1*s.* 6*d.* Sometimes I fall asleep at my work at night. Ma would wake me. ("Would give her a slapping to make her sit up and finish her work," said the mistress.—J. E. W.) Often get slapped. Sometimes my back aches when I sit long.

Know the letters (most of them, not all). Always go to the Sabbath school.

[Ragged and bare.]

Jane M'Ilman's, Sewing School.

61. *Jane M'Ilman.*—Have usually nine girls from 8 years old upwards. In summer school is from 7 a.m. till 8 p.m. or dark, and in winter from 9 till 9. In winter they have no dinner hour, and do not get out from school at all till 4, and then do not come back till 6 p.m. Children's going out for two hours together so allows those that keeps them a little liberty.

[At another house, spoken of to me as a sewing school, I was informed that only a few neighbours came in to sit, not paying or having work set.]

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62. *Rev. John Hill*, rector of Donaghadee.—This town was a noted, indeed the original, seat of sewed muslin work in this country, to which it was introduced, I think, some 60 or 70 years ago. The manufacture, which a few years back was carried on very largely over the north of Ireland, has lately, from different causes, particularly the American war, greatly fallen off; but the greater part of the poorer female population of this place are still engaged in it. Here, as in other places, they work almost exclusively in their own or neighbours' dwelling-houses, though one manufacturer here employs young women on his premises.

Girls begin the work at an early age, from 7 upwards, and it is difficult to keep girls of the poorer class at the day school after 8 or 9 years of age, though some go to evening schools. Their health also suffers from the confinement at a sedentary work for long hours in small and sometimes crowded rooms; for the young children often work at sewed muslin schools, to which they are put by their parents, so as to be under the charge of other women to teach them the work, and to keep them more closely to it than the mothers themselves can do. Such a woman receives the benefit of a girl's work for a short time, perhaps the first few months, in return for her teaching, and afterwards a small sum, usually 2*d.* a week, for her superintendence and house-room, &c. The profit of the child's work goes to the parents. It is now very small, for a young child probably not more than 1*d.* a day, and elder workers, who some time back could make 1*s.*, now do not make more than 4*d.* The work is collected for the manufacturer by means of agents. The payments are made in money, and the price fixed by the manufacturer is frequently attached to the work. In one case an agent kept a shop and insisted on making payments in goods, but I understood that this was contrary to rule, and it is not a system. The workers, however, are much in the power of the agents, who supply them with work, and they frequently complain that unfair deductions from the proper price are made. It is of course almost impossible for the manufacturer, where the workers are so widely distributed, to know what each worker really receives.

Consumption is very prevalent amongst the female part of the poorer classes here, and has become more so since the trade has been depressed; but, in judging of this, their bad clothing and poor living must be taken into account.

LACE.

Lace. Ireland. Mr. J. E. White.

LIMERICK.

Messrs. James Forrest and Sons', Lace Manufacturers.

63. *Mr. Baly*, manager.—Our lace is made by embroidering net or muslin with the hand and needle. The net is stretched upon a frame, and the pattern formed by drawing a thread through with a needle, or mounting muslin on it and working it on. A few are engaged in drawing out patterns to be copied, cutting out, &c. All employed are females. The youngest get about 3*s.* a week, the others up to 6*s.* or 7*s.*

The trade depends greatly upon fashion, and in the last few years has fallen off very much. Six or seven years ago we had 500 persons in this factory, and the former owner had had 600 or 700. When we had 500 persons there were other factories in the town with considerable numbers, and there must have been at least 1,500 females in the lace factories in Limerick. For the last two or three years the trade has been particularly bad, and at the present time we have only about 80 persons in the factory. We used to take children from about 11 years old upwards, and teach them, but now seldom have girls under 15, not finding children suitable, though we have one or two employed in odd ways. It was, I believe, customary at some of the other factories to bind girls as apprentices for some years, but we do not. The factory was built for assembly rooms. Only one room is now in use, but both are lofty; the lowest is, I should say, 18 feet high. There are now two other lace factories here, but I know of none in any other part of Ireland. But lace is made in convent and industrial schools in several parts of Ireland. Some of the sewed muslin work, of which there is a great deal in the north of Ireland, is much of the same kind as some of our lace. It is called *appliquée* work, and is made by muslin applied to net and embroidered.

We used also to teach girls crochet work. There was formerly a great deal of this work done near Cork as well as near here and in other parts of Ireland. But this trade was sunk by so much inferior work being made, and it is now nearly done up.

In this factory the day is from 9 a.m. till 7 p.m., or, if they do not take a dinner hour, till 6, and they prefer the latter arrangement. It is seldom now that there is work beyond the proper time. Years ago, when there was more demand, they may perhaps have worked for some special purpose till 11 or 12 at night; but then they get more pay, and we give something to sustain them. It is chiefly the better and more experienced workers who stay late. For about three months in last summer they worked over their time as long as it was light enough, perhaps till 9.

Education has been increasing very much indeed of late years, and a great number of girls are taught in the convents. But still an inquiry like the present is very necessary, and I am very glad to see it. It is necessary that the young people should be looked after, and there is no necessity that children should work as they do.

64. *Margaret Brown*, age 14.—Here 5 years. Work from 9 till 6 always; never beyond. All leave at the same time. Stop a quarter or half an hour for lunch. Get 2*s.* 6*d.* or 3*s.* a week.

Lace.
Ireland.
Mr. J. E. White.

Can read a newspaper, write badly, and was at compound addition when I left school. Left off Sunday school three months ago; I neglected it. Will go in summer.

65. *Mary Ann Hinkey*, age 11½.—Cut out muslin with scissors. Was at school every day till I came here just lately. Can read, write, and do long division.

d.

Messrs. M'Lure and Carman's, Lace Manufacturers, Clare Street.

66. The factory consists of three adjoining uninhabited dwelling houses communicating inside. The work is done in just the same way as at the factory just described, but nearly all the workers were away on the occasion of both my visits. The rooms had a neglected appearance, and a fire-place was bricked up.

67. *Mr. M'Lure.*—We employ about 120 persons here, females from 12 years old upwards. A young girl comes as apprentice for seven years. The hours are from 7 a.m. till 6½ p.m., with two hours for meals. All are away now for their breakfast hour, viz., from 10 till 11 a.m. We have had as many as 548 persons working in here.

68. *Kate Fahan*, age 17.—Was apprentice here for seven years, and began when going in 8. Get 3*s.* 6*d.* a week. Am at work now (breakfast time) because I shall not take breakfast to-day (*i.e.* out of religious observance of an eve, J. E. W.)

Mr. Robert Honour's, Lace Room.

69. Some women embroider lace on frames, as in the larger factories. The work place is an untidy room in a dwelling house, corresponding to Nottingham lace mistresses' houses.

70. *Mr. Robert Honour.*—I generally employ about 20 women here, or at the most 25 or 30, on lace for a shop here. There are scarcely any learners in the trade now, because there are so many more persons know how to do the work than there is employment for. In the lace factory here in which I served my time there were 553 persons employed. My hands work by the piece, and generally come in summer from 6 or 7 a.m. till 6 or 7 p.m. Sometimes they work by candle light, but not often, and very seldom beyond 8, except for some special purpose, such as a wedding, and then perhaps till 12.

CROCHET AND HAIR NETS.

Crochet and Hair Nets.
Ireland.
Mr. J. E. White.

CORK.

Mrs. Donovan's, Crochet Manufacturer, French's Quay.

71. *Miss Davidson*, manager.—We have no work room or school, and do not employ any persons on the premises, but get the work done in the country by means of agents, who bring in the work when done and take back the money, and we also buy from the country. We supply the thread and patterns, and the value of these is deducted from the price which we pay for the lace. About 1857 was the best time in the crochet trade. We have paid 500 girls from Cork alone in a week, besides workers at a distance. The difference of fashion put crochet down. The work used to be done chiefly all over the county of Cork, and we used to send carts round to collect it. Now we have some done in the north of Ireland, and in convents. The agents are usually poor girls who have been workers. They teach the workers any new pattern, but do not keep schools; or the workers learn it from one another. A pattern is very quickly learned. Some will learn one standing in the passage of the house here. Few, I think, now give their whole time to the work. Three sisters who work hard for us get about 2*s.* 2*d.* a day between them, and about 7½*d.* of this comes off for thread, *i.e.*, each earns about 3*s.* a week. That, or from that to 5*s.*, may be as much as can be usually earned with hard work. In the convent schools the girls are only allowed to work a certain time in the day. The money earned is paid, I believe, to the Superiors. They do crochet and hair nets also, and work at home afterwards. A great many girls in Cork work at home at hair nets; indeed there are more doing this than anything else that I know of. I know of no places where they work on their employers' premises.

72. *Mary Croly*, crochet worker.—Suppose I'm about 18. Have been at crochet 9 or 10 years. Learned at a crochet school, a large room in a shop, where there were a great many girls, 100 I should think. There are no crochet schools now, but girls get together in houses, half-a-dozen or so together, as they can work quicker so. Have often got up at 6 on a summer morning and worked till 9 p.m., but never longer; but lots of girls work all day till 11 and 12 p.m.; when crochet was good some would stop up till 2 a.m., but I think not later. Each worker carries her work to a crochet shop from which they have got the work out. When crochet was good I would think nothing of earning 8*s.* a week, but now I can only earn 3*s.*, working from 7 a.m. till 8 p.m. This is not clear, but there is perhaps 6*d.* off for thread. Gives mother what I earns.

Left school to go to crochet, and have never been to any school since, only to a chapel every night. Had learned very little. Can read very badly.

Industrial School, 2, Lavitt's Quay.

73. *Miss Turle.*—This is a charitable institution, established by a religious confraternity, which has 2,000 young females connected with it. We teach girls plain and fancy work of all descriptions, such as shirts, children's small clothes, crochet, embroidery, hair nets, &c. They work here from 9 till 6. Sometimes there are 30 or 40 girls working in the rooms here, and we give out work of the same kind to about 150. Conventes employ persons and give out work in the same way. The articles made are sold to shops, and what is made here goes to the support of the institution, and if there is any profit over it is given to the poor. There must be at least 800 or 900 girls and women in Cork making hair nets, but this is almost entirely done at their homes; there are no persons who employ any under them for profit. This

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d.

work has taken the place of crochet, on which the greater number of those who now make nets were formerly engaged. A girl may learn net work, so as to earn money at it, in a week. Some begin at 8, 9, and 10 years old, and all ages upwards. Crochet takes rather longer to learn. What they call tambour work is done in the same way.

Appendix to Evidence on the Straw Plait and Bonnet Manufactures.

74. *Letters to me from the Rector of Ampthill.*

Ampthill Rectory,
October 21st, 1864.

Sir,

I must apologize for having so long delayed to reply to your inquiry respecting the employment of children in straw plaiting.

It is my decided opinion, founded on an experience in this parish of 18 years, that some legislative interference for the protection of female children from the *avarice* of their parents is loudly called for.

The great majority of parents among the lower orders here, send their girls at five or six years of age to small schools, kept by women for the most part uneducated, and often of indifferent character. In these schools, the children are crowded (from 6 to 15 or 20) in a small close room, for six or eight hours a day, receiving no kind of instruction but that of plaiting straw.

From these schools they are taken at 11 or 12 years of age, and sent to very similar schools in which bonnet-sewing is taught. In these places they are brought into contact with elder girls, too often of bad character, from whose converse and behaviour they receive their first impressions of evil, impressions too seldom effectually counteracted by the Christian teaching of the Sunday school and Church services, should they be permitted to attend them.

There are seven or eight of such plaiting schools in this town, and about the same number of places where bonnet sewing is taught. Many of the girls who attend the latter come from the neighbouring villages, and often return home as late as 9 or 10 o'clock at night.

In order to obviate as much as possible the evil resulting to the children from such sad neglect of all Christian education, and, let me add, from such incessant toil in one species of employment, some 15 years ago, I raised subscriptions and obtained help from the Committee of Council to build a good infant school and a *plaiting-room*. The children who attend the latter, are expected to go into the National school adjoining from 9 till 12 daily for reading, &c. They then plait from 12 till 1, and from 2 till 5; and the elder ones, if their mothers wish it, from 6 till 8.

But when "plait is going well," as has been the case lately, some parents will take them away, and send them to schools where they plait *all day*.

Indeed, the majority of parents, having no regard for education, and very little thought about their children's health, whether of mind or body, decline to send them to my school at all. It will hold 40 well, but at this present there are not 20 in daily attendance.

For these reasons among others, I should rejoice at some interposition of the Legislature, to secure for the children of our poor in this county the benefits conferred on their more fortunate brethren in the factory districts.

I am, &c.
George Maule.

J. E. White, Esq.

Ampthill Rectory,
November 2nd, 1864.

Dear Sir,

I am unable of my own knowledge to vouch for the accuracy of Mr. Charles Knight's Statistics,* but from my experience in a smaller sphere of the evils attendant on the straw-plaiting and bonnet-sewing system, I should be inclined to put great confidence in them.

The young women who remain at home, and gain a livelihood by straw-plaiting, pay their parents for their board, and so become very independent of control; they too generally fall into idle, gossipping habits, spend all their surplus earnings in dress and finery, and too often enter upon evil courses.

The bonnet-sewers are exposed to still greater dangers. They work in numbers of from 8 or 10 to 20 in small, low, ill-ventilated rooms, utterly unfitted for such a purpose. In such places, children of 13 or 14 fresh from school, and comparatively pure, meet with young women often of bad character and loose conversation. After working all day, they frequently continue till 9, 10, or 11 at night, and then have to find their way home through the streets, or perhaps a mile or two to an adjoining village, in the dark or by moonlight, and in all kinds of weather. The consequence is, that their health or their morality too generally suffer.

Wishing you all success in your inquiries,
I am, &c.
George Maule.

J. E. White, Esq.

The Straw Plait and Bonnet Manufactures.

Beds, Herts, and Bucks.

75. An account of the straw and plait manufacture, published in 1860, enclosed to me with the above letter for my use, reached me after the body of the Evidence was in the press, and where I had no means of verifying any of its statements by further references. It, however, corresponds closely with the account already given in the foregoing Report and Evidence. The picture which it gives of the habits and moral condition of the workers is unfavourable, and much of the same kind as that given of the Nottingham lace finishing warehouse females in the Evidence on that subject. On this point it refers to the then last Report of the Registrar General, viz., for 1857, as showing that "in Luton, of 750 births 77 were illegitimate; as at St. Alban's of 353 births 38 were "illegitimate." It is represented that, "according to the statistics of the (then) last census, Bedford-"shire, despite its great educational endowments, stood lowest but one of the counties in England, in "the number of its week day scholars." With regard to the importance and extent of the manufacture, which of late years have much increased, the account states that "in 1851 it was calculated that "the yearly returns of the trade were about 900,000*l.*, and the persons employed in it about 70,000."

(* That is those quoted in the account enclosed to me.—J.E.W.)

REPORT upon the HAND-LOOM WEAVING and HOSIERY Manufactures in Ireland and Scotland, by Mr. J. E. White.

To Her Majesty's Commissioners.

Gentlemen,

Subjects. 1. The evidence subjoined relates to hand-loom weaving and incidental employments to which it gives occasion, as carried on in Ireland and Scotland, and the small portion of the hosiery manufacture in the same countries, not included in the evidence on that employment in England which I have already had the honour of laying before you. The two employments are so essentially the same in all important points, that they may properly be treated of together.

Hosiery. 2. As regards the latter employment, hosiery, so little variety of feature from what is already described presented itself, that I need add nothing by way of explanation, and but little by way of remark, to what is furnished by the evidence itself. But it will be convenient to remark here, that the Extent. manufacture is carried on in Scotland to any important extent only in the town of Hawick, where it is confined chiefly to one particular class, woollen, and also in or near Dumfries, but only on such a moderate scale, and on a system, as I had reason to believe, so similar, as not to make me think it desirable to visit that neighbourhood; while in Ireland, as far as I could learn, it is confined to one small place, and may be regarded as altogether unimportant. The remarks, therefore, which follow, will apply mainly to hand-loom weaving.

Hand-loom weaving. 3. With regard to the extent of the inquiry which I have made into the latter employment, I should remark that it was, as will be observed, somewhat limited; and that I have personally visited only a few of the vast number of places in which the employment is carried on, selecting those which appeared likely to present specimens of most of the different kinds of work, and accepting mere general statements from competent persons with regard to several other districts. Several causes contributed to make this course appear desirable, and in particular the close resemblance of the employment in its main features to that of hosiery, of which the English evidence already before you gives a somewhat detailed account, and the fact that, from the inquiries which I everywhere made, from persons likely to possess a general knowledge, there appeared a strong likelihood of my finding no important difference in other—near or distant—places, but on the contrary, a precise resemblance of system and detail to what I found in one or other of the places which I did visit, and have recorded as regards them.

Continuance of hand-loom weaving. 4. As weaving is a uniform and comparatively simple operation, to which the use of power seems so well adapted, and in which, therefore, it might be thought that hand-labour must be unable to compete, and therefore probably be soon given up entirely, it may appear strange that hand-loom weaving should still, as it does, form an employment in which very large numbers of persons, indeed the populations of entire districts, are even now engaged. Few, probably, who have not given special attention to the matter, would be prepared to find the extent to which this is the case.

Probable for some time. 5. A point which naturally presented itself to me at the outset as important, was to ascertain how far this condition of things might be owing to permanent or to merely passing causes, it appearing to be of little use to set forth the particulars of an employment, supposing it of a kind which in the nature of things must soon cease to exist. From all that I could learn or observe I was led to conclude, that hand-loom weaving is in many places rapidly declining, and must in all, sooner or later, and probably at no very remote time, cease to be an employment of any importance. In some places, however, it is the rate of wages only, and not the amount of work or number of workers, which has declined; and it even appears that of late the demand for linen has not only kept up, but increased the number of hand-loom weavers. The balance of evidence also seems to lead to the conclusion, that a considerable number of persons will be engaged in the employment, at any rate for a number of years, chiefly in country districts, where labour is plentiful and cheap, and also in kinds of work which can be done by children and females.

Cheap labour. 6. The question seems to turn but little upon essential difficulties in the successful use of power for the purpose, but upon the comparative cheapness of the two modes of manufacture. Hand-looms are very cheap, and labour abundant. But as the increasing use of power diminishes, as it is constantly doing, the field of hand-loom employment, and the supply of persons brought up to it, and who are therefore willing to work at however low a rate, falls off from want of inducement for fresh workers to take up the trade, the price of such labour will probably increase in a more rapid ratio, and the balance become so decided in favour of power, as to make its use almost universal. It must be observed, however, that hand-loom weaving has already survived the introduction of power to a much greater extent and for a far longer period than would probably have been anticipated years ago, and it may in like manner still hold out far beyond what is even now expected.

Employments incident to both hand and power loom weaving. 7. Some branches of employment which are treated of in the evidence as connected with, or arising out of, hand-loom weaving, are and may remain equally incidental to the manufacture or completion of fabrics made by power, and are of a kind and carried on in places which, even in the case of the latter, just as in the case of hosiery made by power, do not fall under existing regulations.

How far a domestic employment. 8. Hand-loom weaving resembles the English hosiery manufacture in being to a great extent a domestic employment carried on in dwelling houses or small shops attached to them, and in villages and scattered country places as well as in towns; and also in Scotland, though not in Ireland, in its tendency in large towns to be transferred to large shops or factories. In some cases these large workplaces form part of premises in which power also is used for the manufacture, and therefore fall under the factory regulations. In dwelling-house shops four looms seems the most usual number; sometimes there are only one or two or three. Several factories have from 100 up to 500, and I visited one with 300 and no power.

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Vary.

Carried on in England also.

9. As may be expected, the kinds of material used and of the fabrics made vary considerably in different districts. The effect of this is, while certain general features remain the same, to cause considerable difference in certain places, not merely as to the age of entering employment but even as to the classes of occupation for which there is occasion. This will be seen more in detail under the appropriate heads

10. I may observe that, in the course of this inquiry, and from other sources, I have found reason to believe that hand-loom weaving is still carried on in certain parts of England, but I have no accurate information as to its extent or system.

I.—Age at which Children and Young Persons are Employed.

Children weave.

11. The age for beginning weaving varies with the nature and width of the loom and fabric. In some kinds of work it is put at from 12 to 14, and in other lighter or easier kinds, at from 10 to 12. Some, however, have begun at 9, and in cases so exceptional as to be of no importance, except as indications of the disposition of parents to employ their children as early as is physically possible, at 8. It seems, however, to be thought that children ought not to begin younger than 12.

Winders and sewers.

12. They begin to wind at from 6 years old upwards, but are not thought of much use under 8. Most discontinue it by 13. In certain needlework, viz., sewing sacks and handkerchiefs, some work at home at ages from 6 upwards, and a girl of 7, whom I found at work, had been at it two years.

II.—Sex, Number of Girls and Women.

Female weavers.

13. As a rule, females are not employed in the large shops or factories, though a few are both at looms and also as winders or helpers, and many weave in small private shops; indeed, in some country places, their proportion appears considerably to exceed that of the males, who are useful for, and can earn more at out-door employments. The other home work is done chiefly, though not entirely, by females.

III.—Number of Children and Young Persons Employed.

Number large but indefinite.

14. From the scattered nature of the work I am quite unable to form any estimate of the number of children and young persons engaged. In parts of Scotland the number brought up to the hand-loom is said to be rapidly diminishing, while in a district in Ireland the work is of a kind which is thought especially suitable for the young, and in which therefore many of them are engaged. But work at the loom is by no means the whole employment, winding, sewing, &c., occupying a large number.

Great extent of districts.

15. The entire population engaged must be very large indeed, as, so far as I could learn by general inquiries, it is spread more or less thickly over the populous part of Scotland south-east of the Grampians from Aberdeen or at least Brechin to Ayrshire and the south-west, as well as over the district near the Tweed and towards Carlisle, and over the north-west of Ireland as far inland as Armagh. Within these limits there may be districts in which there is probably little or no work of the kind, but at any rate it prevails round a great number of centres thickly scattered over the parts of the countries referred to.

Special districts.

16. Dundee, and its neighbourhood for many miles northwards, is a great seat of the manufacture of coarse fabrics of flax, jute, and hemp, and the linen manufacture extends from thence at least as far north as Brechin; fine linen is also made throughout the whole of Fifeshire; near Stirling is a great woollen district; Hawick and adjoining parts are noted for tweeds; Glasgow for mixed and coloured fabrics; Paisley for shawls; and the south-west, as far as Carlisle, is also represented as still largely, though to a much less extent than formerly, occupied by hand-loom weavers. The Irish manufacture is principally of linen. Other materials, however, are woven, and in Dublin, as I am informed, a class of silk is manufactured on much the same system as in other hand-loom districts.

Sewers.

17. I was informed that in some poorer parts of Dundee sack sewers were to be found in almost every house. In Ireland the manufacturers of Lurgan state that within a radius of a few miles from there some thousands of females from 8 years old upwards are employed in sewing linen at their homes. Of these, probably one in three may be adults, mothers employing such children as they may have suitable for the work. This proportion however is little more than a guess, and is merely stated as the only means of giving any idea of the extent of the employment.

IV.—Hiring of Children and Young Persons.

Workers boarded.

18. Those who work for manufacturers are paid by them at so much a web, or whatever the work may be. Others work merely for parents. Winders are sometimes boarded and paid a small sum in return for their work. In Ireland many are taken from the work-house for this purpose. The practice of hiring and boarding journey weavers appears to have much declined. So far as I could learn, intermediate employers between the manufacturer and the worker are extremely rare, the business when distant, being done by means of agents. There is no such class as the English bag hosiers.

V.—State of Place of Work.

Space

Cleanliness.

Want of fresh air.

Damp.

In bedrooms.

19. The greater size of the looms, which measure several feet each way, does not admit of any crowding as in hosiery shops. Some of the larger workshops, however, are low and dirty, and loaded with the fluff which flies from the yarn, and many of the smaller workshops are, besides this, made with windows which do not open at all, or have only one pane which does. Many also are extremely damp, the floors being the natural soil, and water in wet weather rising in the treadle holes where the workers place their feet, having even to be bailed out. Damp air, however, it is said, enables a weaver to make better work and give greater satisfaction to his employer, and on this account less care is taken to avoid it. Looms are often in sleeping rooms, and I have been where the ground surface has been almost entirely occupied by beds and looms.

VI.—Nature of Employment.

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20. Weaving, as is well known, is a sedentary employment, much of the same nature as stocking-making. In both the worker sits working a machine by treadle. The weaving machine is called a loom, the hosiery machine a frame. The work is wearisome from the monotony and confinement more than from the muscular exertion, though in working quickly this is considerable. Winders sit on a small stool and turn a light wheel with one hand, unless they are too little to reach sitting, in which case they stand.

Sedentary work.

21. Sack-sewers in the same way sit, but if they are very young have to stand to reach. One end of the sack is tied, *e.g.*, to a bed post, to tighten it out, and it takes the full swing of a small child's arm and considerable exertion to draw the large needle through the coarse material. I noticed a thick leathern palm used to protect the hand. The handkerchief sewers in Ireland sit in their rooms or at their doors doing common needlework, or hemstitching, which is a great employment about Lurgan, and consists in drawing aside the threads of the fabric near the edge of the handkerchief with needle and thread at equal intervals, so as to form a kind of pattern. Children are also employed by weavers to help to fasten the threads for starting a new web; but this is only for a few hours at a time, and then, say, once a week.

Sewing.

22. Females, the greater part of them adults, are employed by manufacturers in warehouse-work, of the same kind as in hosiery, and also, in the case of linen sold white, in laundry work.

Warehouse work.

23. An employment much of the nature of lace clipping, and carried on by young girls under small mistresses in private houses in the same way, is found in Scotland, but has been greatly diminished by the use of clipping machines. The work is cutting off spare threads to show out the pattern woven on the loom, just as in lace.

Clipping.

VII.—Hours of Work.

24. In some large shops or factories the weavers work the factory hours, or not more than an hour longer. In others they work from 6 a.m. till 8, and in summer till 9 p.m. Whether they can work longer depends, I am informed, on whether the foreman will consent to keep the shop open or burn gas an hour later, which seems seldom to be the case. The weavers, however, working by the piece, do not work longer than they please even within these limits. In the small dwelling house shops the usual supposed weaver's day is, in summer from 6 a.m. till dark, and in winter from 8 a.m., or rather earlier, till 9 or 10 p.m.

Hours in factories.

Longer in small shops.

25. Most, however, as is the case in many of the larger shops also, do but little on Mondays, or after Saturday morning, and towards the end of the week many work longer, as till midnight, or early morning, and sometimes all night. But there seems good reason for the opinion expressed that, owing to their irregularity and loss of time, weavers on the whole do not really work anything like the hours which they profess, except to make up arrears of work, or where they must support a large family. In a shop in a large factory in Dundee, towards mid-day on Monday, out of 42 weavers I found only 10 present. In the larger shops nearly all the weavers are adults, and a large proportion in the smaller.

Loss of time.

26. But where young weavers do work they sit the full day like the others. The length of time, however, for which they are kept at work depends chiefly on the consideration of their parents, and but little is sometimes shown. I have given particulars as to the hours of adults, because the hours of their winders, usually their wives and children, or sometimes infirm old people, necessarily depend upon them. It appears that winders, as usually employed, are able to get but little before the weavers. A man will have the winding done, as much as possible, by his own family, instead of paying strangers. It should, however, be remarked that usually the winding which the weavers have to find, is only that of the weft, the warp being supplied to them by the manufacturer ready wound. But the manufacturer often gives this out to be wound by women and children in the same way, though when he has power, all or a great part of the winding is done in his factory by it. Weaving is happily distinguished from hosiery by not requiring any needlework to complete the article before it is returned to the manufacturer on Saturday, which, as shown in the English hosiery evidence, presses so hard upon the little seamers. Young children, however, are kept at work for long hours by their parents in sewing for manufacturers. The apparently unnecessary practice in Dundee of giving out work late one day to be returned next morning, naturally leads to much of it being done at night, and young children are kept at it till 9, 10, or 11, and others, it is stated, have to sew thus after returning from their full day's work.

The young work as long as adults.

Winding.

Sewing.

27. In Scotland, both in weaving and hosiery, children, it is true, are often employed for only a moderate time at manual work, but the remainder is so occupied with school and the preparation of tasks, as to make a very severe day.

Work and school.

28. It appears to be a rule that in a time of bad trade the hours in small shops are lengthened, and they are in all cases much more irregular than in the large factory shops.

Bad trade, long hours.

VIII.—Night-work.

29. As shown above, the weavers' natural day, in winter lasts some hours into the night, and is occasionally prolonged through it. The manufacturers of Lurgan state that at times a system of double weaving, *i.e.*, of employing the looms all the twenty-four hours round by relays, prevails to a considerable extent; the relays being arranged according to the circumstances of the family.

Relays for the twenty-four hours.

IX.—Meal-Hours.

30. It is not usual to have stated meal-hours, but the practice seems to be to take about an hour, sometimes three-quarters, twice in the day, rather late, viz., about 9 and 2, though in many cases a very scanty time is taken.

No fixed meals.

X.—Holidays.

31. A half or short day on Saturday appears usual in both weaving and hosiery, and in shops as well as warehouses. The small amount of work on Monday is already referred to. As to other holidays I made no particular inquiry, but in Scotland the fast days, I have understood, give holidays in addition to what are usual elsewhere. In one place I saw numbers of young people out on holiday from a neighbouring weaving town where it was a fast day.

Regular and irregular.

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XI.—Treatment.

Little room for ill treatment.

32. Children usually either work at home or are in the same shop with a parent or relative, so that they are not likely to receive any improper treatment. I was not able to meet with any of the children or young persons who are stated to be boarded and employed by strangers, nor did I hear anything with regard to their treatment.

XII.—Accidents.

None.

33. None seem possible.

XIII.—Wages.

Wages low.

34. Children earn at weaving from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* a week and upwards. At most kinds of common work it seems that females earn nearly the same as males, and young persons from 15 or 16, if fair workers, nearly the same as adults. Men's earnings, however, are low, and in many kinds of work, and even in a large city like Glasgow, do not average more than from 6*s.* to 8*s.*, and out of this there is a considerable deduction for working expenses of several kinds; often charged where rent of a loom is included at 1*s.* a week. These are the wages earned by weavers in small shops, but though the factory wages are higher, averaging, in a large hand-loom factory at Glasgow, 11*s.* 6*d.*, the weavers prefer their own small shops. In Ireland, payment in grocery and goods instead of cash is spoken of (No. 11). In some cases, but not in all, persons engaged in the manufacture of flax and jute fabrics, from present temporary causes, earn higher wages; some women being able to earn 9*s.* or 10*s.* Some of the little sewers make 3*d.* or 4*d.* a day. Some who are boarded as winders, &c., if taken from a workhouse, are paid from 5*s.* to 10*s.* a quarter, but some are "picked up cheaper" elsewhere, or for nothing but their food.

XIV.—Influence of Employment on Physical Condition.

Bad effects.

35. The principal bad physical effects attributed to the employment by a medical gentleman of large experience (No. 5), are a generally depressed state of health, scrofulous diseases, and consumption, swellings and breakings out on the legs from the long continued sitting, aggravated by the damp of the shops; the poor living also heightening the tendency of the employment. Females, he remarks, are most affected, owing to their greater weakness, and in particular to the interruption of functions peculiar to them. Weavers themselves attribute what they call "asthma," and rheumatism, to the damp of the shops, and complain of the wearisome and depressing nature of their work. Winding, if long continued, causes aching in the side and chest, and is said to make children grow up crooked if they sit at it, but I have not been able to obtain medical evidence of this fact, though there is some negative evidence the other way. A parent states that, if they stand long, it makes their legs swell.

XV.—Moral Condition.

Want of education.

36. I did not examine a sufficient number of children and young persons to enable me to test for myself the actual state of their education generally, but there is sufficient evidence to show that it is very indifferent, and their opportunities of availing themselves of instruction small. In Scotland, many combine school with work; but a manufacturer at Hawick (No. 35) states his belief that education and moral feeling are going backwards. Parents regret the small amount of education which their children can receive. In Glasgow, the father of nine children, some grown up, a man of superior intelligence, and one who sets a high value on education, states that only two of them were ever at school, and neither for a year, but he expresses strongly, what no doubt is a general feeling, his determination not to apply for instruction for his children if it must be granted in the form of relief to a pauper (No. 42). Some others have never been at school, or in a place of worship. The early age at which work is begun, and the long hours in some parts of it, and the uncertainty and irregularity in others, and in many cases poverty, to a great extent practically cut off the young from any effectual school instruction.

Moral effects.

37. The moral effects of a few young children of either sex working in the same shop with a number of men, and of children at an older age, though still young, being comparatively independent and able to live as well as work away from the control of home, are probably, as stated, bad.

XVI.—General Remarks.

Winding by machinery.

38. It seems probable that winding, which is the occupation at which the greatest number of the youngest children are confined, might be done to a great extent without their help by means of machinery, and it is so done to a considerable extent. This, however, would probably be convenient only where the workers are near the place where the power is employed. But it appears probable that hand-loom weaving will continue longest just in these places, viz., in the country, where the workers are scattered at a considerable distance, and that therefore in these winding will continue to be done as now.

Probable effects of regulations.

39. There seems no doubt that the views expressed by one manufacturer (No. 35) as to the effect of the factory laws in stimulating inventions and promoting the use of means for saving children's labour are correct; and that therefore any regulations which might affect the amount of young children's labour available for their present employment would have a like effect, either directly or indirectly, by tending to a greater concentration of the business.

Favourable opinion of manufacturers.

40. It will probably be thought worthy of notice that in two such essentially manufacturing towns as Dundee and Hawick, one also a seaport, in both of which trade is represented to be now particularly prosperous and employment full, persons with ample opportunities of judging of the advantages and disadvantages of both regulated and unregulated labour, as exhibited in these places, particularly some of the manufacturers in the latter town, express a strong opinion in favour of regulation, especially as regards the employment of children.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
J. Edward White.

Lincoln's Inn, June 1864.

EVIDENCE UPON THE HAND-LOOM WEAVING AND HOSIERY MANUFACTURES IN IRELAND AND SCOTLAND, COLLECTED BY Mr. J. E. WHITE.

IRELAND.

PORTADOWN.

1. The place of work at which the following statement was taken, is one of several outlying country cottages, and is a specimen of such places as far as I have seen them.

2. *Thomas Foy.*—I have four looms in my house, worked by my own family, as is usually the case. There are scarcely ever more in any one place. In summer we begin at 5 or 6 a.m. and work till dark, about 8 or 9; in winter begin at 7 or daylight and work till 11 p.m. We may as well burn lights late as rise early in the morning. We are scarcely off at all for meals,—I suppose not over an hour altogether. If we take more, we either are in a hurry or must work later at night. I do this myself, and should not like it if my children did not do the same. The winders cannot forecast much. They get a few minutes to spare now and then, but generally they must work as late. We fetch them to work just as soon as they are able,—to work just like ourselves and keep one another going. My girl there, Mary Jane, aged 9 years 4 months, winds constant; another of 8 can wind for one or two; and Susan, aged 7 years 2 months, has wound a bit; but they are not fit for very much, especially at the fine yarn, which takes the most care, under 10. My children did not begin weaving till they were nearly 13, but one, aged 12, has wove handkerchiefs with me helping her. Heaps of nights we have to stop up the whole night through to get a web out, and you cannot do without a winder or some one to attend you, generally the winder. Many a one does that. I do not know whether my daughter, aged 15, has sat up all night; she is not so strong.

Many a one suffers severely from the wet: it's very bad for the stomach and bowels, and gives pains. In wet weather the water rises in the treadle holes, and we have to set the treadles higher, just as you regulate them for the little ones with their short legs. But I never let the water rise for any length of time, and bail it out. As soon as the flush of water goes away the water sinks in the hole. I have sunk a "shore" round the end and side of the shop and filled it with stones, but the water still rises, so it must come from the front, as the roadway is above the level of the shop.

My house with the loom shop costs me 14*d.* a week, but the looms are my own, as it paid better to buy them for about 3*l.* each than to hire them at 2*d.* a week or 8*s.* a year. Besides this I have to find the shuttles and gear, which makes about 6*s.* each more. Money also is sometimes taken off. My son had 2*s.* taken off out of 18*s.* for the interest of the money, because he kept the web too long, *i.e.*, he took five weeks to finish it when it might have been done in a fortnight. The reason was that cotton, which is used for the selvages, being so dear, the manufacturer gave bad cotton, which he knew, and the threads kept breaking so that my son got out of heart and went and wrought out a bit. I believe that we should do much better in factories, and wish that I had gone and got my family in. It would have been worth 200*l.* to us by now, my brother says. There is no loss of time there such as we have. There is a day lost in going to get the stuff out from the manufacturer and nearly another in putting it into the loom and starting.

The greatest loss of the business that I see is the children not getting taught. Sometimes mine go to Sunday school, sometimes they don't; they have got no proper clothes. It is very fair that in factories they should be obliged to be taught.

Mr. Henry Cinnamon's, Linen Manufacturer, Portadown.

3. *Mr. Hy. Cinnamon.*—I only sell linen in the brown made by weavers at their homes, and therefore employ no one on my premises. Where manufacturers sell it white they employ women and girls at their warehouse to wash and smooth it. A weaver's day in the country here is from 14 to 16 hours, viz., in summer from 5 or 6 a.m. till dark, and in winter from 8 a.m. till 11. They stick very close and take only, say, a quarter of an hour for breakfast and half an hour or only 10 or 15 minutes for dinner. Most children are in the looms by 11 or 12 years old, many by 10, and I have known it as young as 8, as the work in this district is very light, as handkerchiefs, &c., though not quite so light as the Lurgan work. As soon as they get into the work they usually work as long as the elder, though some are indulged. Sometimes the weavers have to sit up working all night and day both. The winding is done by children or old people. If there are none such in the house children are hired, not to come and work by the day, at least I know none so, but to live in the house. They cannot be got from the workhouse for under 5*s.* a quarter and their board, but if people can pick up children from the country they get them cheaper, some giving them food only, and others perhaps 3*s.* or 4*s.* a quarter just to keep them from being naked. Children at the loom can make 2*s.* 6*d.* or 3*s.* a week, and for adults from 8*d.* to 1*s.* a day is the common earnings; 6*s.* or 7*s.* a week is the outside, except for the very best work, at which a few get 10*s.* Where a loom is hired there is a drawback of 1*s.* a week for the wear and tear, &c. The greatest part of the looms are bought by the weavers by instalments, or, if not, are let to them at about 8*s.* a year.

I think that more work will come to be done by power looms, but so fine a skin (polish) cannot be put on by them as where the hand loom is used, and the weaver keeps smoothing the surface; and also inferior and cheaper material can be worked on hand looms. Power looms require good material; if it is not good the stoppages caused by the breaking of the thread are so frequent as to take away the advantage of the power. On the whole there is not much difference in the profit in the two ways, except that as a power loom will do two webs where a hand-loom can do one, money is turned twice instead of only once in the same time.

The great difficulty with a hand-loom manufacturer is the not getting his webs returned, because most weavers weave for four or five different offices, and so keep back the work of one to do some for another. Often the webs cannot be got back without process. I have webs out now that have been out 12 months, but what good should I get by such measures? So it is best to save trouble and expense. I have been speaking of not only this place but the district for some miles round.

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Ireland.

Portadown.

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4. *The Rev. Charles Alexander*, rector of Portadown.—(*Gives the same general account as Nos.* 3 and 5). There are looms in almost every cottage here. Children generally work very hard for their parents, and I have seen lights in the work-rooms very late, *e.g.*, 12 and 1 at night. Children begin to wind at, I should say, from 6 to 8 years old, and to work at looms at from 10 to 12. Besides this, girls have to fetch the yarn from the different offices, which, in wet weather especially, is heavy and unsuitable work for them. The children, the little girls in particular, are very much cut up by the work, particularly from working on the mud floors with their feet in the damp treadle holes.

But one great mischief of the work is that none but the very youngest children, almost infants, can be kept at school. Few, I should say are over 10. I know of scarcely any school where they get up to the first-class grade. Those who do come are on and off and very irregular. It is only the children of the richer farmers who can be said to stay. The children become very independent from working so early, and if fault is found with them will often hire a loom and work away from home. It was very much the custom for farmers to be a kind of manufacturers also, engaging hands to do their farm work, with a stipulation that in certain parts of the year they should work at looms for them, but this is much gone out. The looms are sometimes let by the manufacturer, sometimes bought by the weavers.

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5. *Alexander Bradon*, M.D., and M.R.C.S., &c., medical officer of the Portadown Dispensary.—For more than 30 years I have been the official medical attendant of the poor in this district, which comprises a population of, I believe, full 16,000 persons, more than half of whom are scattered over a wide extent of country. There are three steam factories here, but with this exception the employment of nearly all the working classes is weaving linen on hand looms; which is carried on in winter even by the families of farmers and those who at other seasons are engaged on the land. I believe that no country district in the kingdom is so largely engaged in hand loom weaving as this immediate neighbourhood. My experience decidedly is that the occupation as carried on tends to depress the health and to produce scrofulous diseases of the joints, consumption, and other complaints. Many persons cannot continue the employment, and I am often obliged to tell people to give it up. The prevalence of some of the diseases is attributable no doubt in part to poverty and the want of proper food and care, but, I think, only in part. I was formerly in an entirely agricultural district where the earnings of the working classes were less than they are here. Apart from the habits of life and employment there is nothing in the nature of the district itself calculated to make consumption common. It is not so amongst those who are better off and can take more care of themselves. The neighbourhood, though low, is in itself wholesome, I should say, and there are some very long-lived people in it. The health of females suffers most; their system is in itself weaker and less able to withstand injurious influences, but I have particularly noticed one effect of weaving to be an interruption of the functions natural to their sex; and this when it happens is a first step towards undermining their constitutions. The women of this neighbourhood feel that the work is bad for them and express themselves so. Their habit of living so much upon tea is also bad for them; more vegetable food would answer much better. Nor do weavers ever run to flesh as agriculturists sometimes will: indeed you hardly ever see a weaver fat or muscular. One inconvenience from which they very frequently suffer is swellings and breakings out on the legs, resulting from the coldness of the limbs consequent upon long continued sitting, often increased by the dampness of the floors, which spreads a general feeling of dampness over the legs. Water very often rises and stands in the treadle holes beneath their feet. When I ask what has caused such and such symptoms, it is a common answer, "Indeed, Sir, it's sitting over "a damp treadle-hole." Though a damp air is of course bad for their health, the yarn does not snap so much in it, and they say that they can make better work and please the manufacturer better, so they are less anxious to avoid it. The country here is very flat, and till an alteration in the level of the river and large neighbouring lake (Lough Neagh), some few years ago, was so little above the level of this and the river that in the winter months flats of several square miles were under water, which is now scarcely ever the case. I was consulted as to my opinion before the drainage and as to my experience a couple of years after it, when on looking at my books I found that the yearly fever cases were reduced to about a-third, and this reduction seems permanent and likely to be so.

Children are employed at winding, but not under 9 years of age, I think, and after two or three years are put to the loom. There are very few cases of spinal disease; if it were often caused by the winding position it must have attracted my notice, which it has not. Probably their position is not retained constantly enough to produce any effect of this kind. I should say, too, that children are not kept at the looms for very long hours, but others, including growing up young women, are often most diligent, and work much at night. When I am out I have often seen lights in the workplaces at 4 o'clock in a winter morning, and these same people will work on till 11 and 12 at night.

It is not only at home that young people work. They will often leave their father and mother and work and "diet," *i.e.*, board and live, with some other person. This particular district did a great American trade, and has suffered accordingly; men tell me that they cannot now make more than 1*s.* or 1*s.* 2*d.* a day, though formerly families made between them from 25*s.* to 2*l.* a week. So much work is now done so cheaply in the factories, and it is probable that all will be. This, however, will, I think, be rather an injury than a benefit to the health of the workers, at least according to the plan followed here, where young boys and girls have to work three hours before breakfast, leaving home unfed and ill clad, as they are, so early on cold mornings.

LOUGHGALL.

Loughgall.

6. This place, a few miles from Armagh, and called, I was told, "the Garden of Ireland," probably gives a favourable specimen of an Irish country weaving district. The village has a general appearance of comfort, and the refreshment rooms, provided, I was told, by the owner of the principal estate for the use of the poorer classes, seem to show that their welfare is studied. The reputed weaver's day, too, seems shorter than elsewhere. But the details which I obtained in visiting weavers' houses, both in the village and outlying, show that both the hours of work and the ages at which it is begun are frequently less favourable to the young than would be inferred from the statement No. 11; which indeed is only what I have usually found in comparing general opinions expressed by persons in respectable positions with the facts ascertained on more minute inquiry from the workers.

7. *Amelia Cairns.*—My son and daughter here, now 17 and 19, began weaving when about 10. Indeed they are up much later at night than they ought to be, and have no stated hours. They begin work at about 6 a.m. in summer, and lose no time, and leave off at 6, 7, or 8 p.m., sometimes at 11 or 12, and

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many a time, if there is necessity, work all night; but they have not kept so close to it this half year back, as wages are higher, and they can afford to spare more time. In winter they would have to sit till 9, which is the proper time, but many a time, even last winter, my daughter was at work till 10 or 11, in fact had to sit just till the work was finished. I wind for them. At one time they went to a manufacturer's to wind the warp for him.

There are plenty of poor children here who have to begin winding at between 6 and 7 years old as mine had, and to work at it all day, as they cannot be spared; they may perhaps get a run, but if they do, it throws the weaver behind. An older winder might get a little before hand. One loom is enough for one to wind for for a constancy. I had a little one, only 6 years old, that could not sit on the stool, but had to stand to reach the wheel. At whatever time the weaver had done the winder would have done too, but could not give over before. You heard no complaint from them. They might say that they were tired, but you were obliged to keep them to it.

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8. *Jane Fay*, hand-loom weaver.—My boy John, now 6 years and 2 months old has just begun winding for me. Children do begin at about 6 years old. He is lazy now, but by when he is 8 he will be able to keep me going entirely, and when he can I shall make him. For my work it would take a child of 8 or a woman as long to wind for me as me to weave. In a day of from 6 a.m. till 7 p.m. I could make 1*s.* 6*d.* now.

9. The boy above-named was not actually winding when I entered, but at my request he went to the wheel and wound a "pirn" with speed and fairly even. In a small farm-house, a girl of 13 weaves, and her sister aged 7 winds for seven or eight hours a day. In several houses the looms were in bed rooms, and one room, in which a women was weaving and another winding, had three beds in it.

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10. *William Graham*, hand-loom weaver.—Most of the weavers here work about 12 hours a day, and those who work longest, 14. I could find them weaving at 10 years old at the present time, girls and boys both. The web is easier done than it was, and they can learn in a month; formerly it was much longer. Children work the same day as the rest. For myself it is just on and off for meals as hard as I can, but the younger ones get perhaps half an hour twice in the day. Some girls will work on till 11 at night, and lose time and have to pull it up, and for dress they will work harder than the men.

My boy there, now 10, has wound for me for two years. It takes him close work all day to keep up with me, and I cannot say he is off at all, except just for breakfast and dinner, and perhaps to carry a can of water. If he is away at all I have to wind for myself. I have seen them winding as young as 7, but it is too much for them. They have to stand the whole blessed day because they cannot reach sitting. There is plenty of the little ones that swells in the legs from the constant standing. The yarn cuts their fingers in passing quickly over them.

Indeed, it is very tiring work, weaving. You're all go, not a bone of your body as is not. I could wring my shirt out if I've been any way to call weaving. I have often seen them having a pain in the shoulder. I have one which came upon me when a boy. I am certain that I was not more than 11 when I began. It is not rheumatism, but pain from heavy weaving. It has never really left me, though I have been at out-door work for 15 or 16 years, and only lately returned to weaving as my wife is ill and cannot mind the children. It would take heavy work for me to make 8*d.* a day, though I could make two and a half loose webs like this, *i.e.*, 200 yards, in a week.

My boy who winds has not been at school ever and does not go on Sunday, but I will fit him out for it if I can.

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11. *Mr. W. Hallagan.*—I have been bailiff of a large estate here for 35 years, and am engaged in the same way for other properties spreading over the country for five miles round and in some directions much farther, and have a large farm of my own. I also collect the rates for three divisions of the Armagh Union. I am thus probably better acquainted with the district than any man in the neighbourhood.

Hand-loom weaving of coarse linen is carried on over the whole district, as well in the scattered farms and cottages as in the villages. There are just one, two, or three looms in a house, at most four, which are either in a dwelling room or a shop set apart for the purpose, but there are no larger shops. The rent of a cottage with one or two looms, kitchen, sleeping room, and garden is from 30*s.* to 2*l.* a year. A good usable loom can be bought for 1*l.* and one was sold the other day for 12*s.* at a private sale. The work instead of diminishing has increased of late owing to the dearness of cotton and the consequent increase of wages in linen weaving. Some employers carry on business both as farmers and manufacturers and some also keep shops. The weavers are paid not only in money but also in flour, meal, and such other necessaries as they may stand in need of for their house, *e.g.*, tea, sugar, grocery, drapery, &c. If a cottager is strong he owns his looms himself; if not, he is supplied with them by the manufacturer at a rent of 6*s.* or 7*s.* a year each. One manufacturer has 300 looms scattered over the district in this way.

More girls than boys weave, because boys are of more use out of doors. They begin nicely at from 12 to 14 years of age, but neither are fit for the work before that. Some however begin as young as 10. Children or infirm people do the winding, or if there are none in the family, boys or girls are got from the workhouse for the purpose, and are in such request that many farmers who apply for them there cannot get them. They are not allowed to leave the workhouse till 12 years old, as they are kept at school till then. They have a suit of clothes given them at leaving the workhouse, and are fed and boarded where they live, and paid 8*s.* or 10*s.* a quarter, which is about the regular fee. Other children begin to wind at eight years old. The winders cannot get before the looms, and it requires them to be very attentive to keep close up with them.

Weavers begin in summer at about 6 a.m., or some, who are greedy or have large families, at 5, and work till evening, say 6; and in winter work from 8 a.m. till 9 or 10 p.m. They do not work long days here.

There are great opportunities of schooling in this neighbourhood, and great attention is paid to children, but of course as soon as they begin to wind they cannot go to day school, though they go on Sunday.

All the linen weaving districts are very prosperous now, and people can live much more comfortably by weaving than by small farming. It was usual for weavers to go out to work in summer, but now even those who formerly were begging for labour cannot be flattered out. Men are very scarce and cannot be got for public works such as road cutting, &c., under 8*s.* or 9*s.* a week. A good weaver can make 1*s.* 6*d.* a day and a woman or girl as much as a man. Three or four years ago not more than half that amount could be earned. I know of no distress; people are not leaving, and he must be a very lazy person who is in want.

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LURGAN.

12. Lurgan is a thriving town about 20 miles to the south of Belfast, and the centre of one of the principal hand-loom weaving districts in Ireland. This district is the seat of the cambric manufacture, embracing, as I am informed by one of the principal manufacturers engaged in it, "nearly all, or "nineteen-twentieths of the entire manufacture of that fabric," and other fabrics, such as damasks and diapers, are also made. The small looms in use for much of the work are of course more suited for children, and they are employed in weaving at an early age. By the kind arrangement of Mr. J. Hancock, a magistrate, of Lurgan, to whom I am much indebted for his assistance in this and other ways, several gentlemen engaged in or connected with the linen manufacture of the district, including two of the principal manufacturers, Mr. John Henning and Mr. Watson, to both of whom I had been previously introduced, met me in Lurgan on the 19th of May (1864) for the purpose of learning from me the objects of this inquiry and imparting to me such information as might be in their power. The results of what passed at this meeting are contained in the subjoined statement (No. 13) drawn up from minutes read over by me at the time to the gentlemen present and approved of by them. It may therefore be taken as embodying a considerable amount of practical experience. Of course the details were supplied some by one person, some by another, but if any statement was made as to which any gentleman appeared to entertain a doubt, the point was discussed, and the general conclusion taken. I should add that I afterwards returned the statement when fully written out, as well as the preceding portion of this paragraph, to Mr. J. Henning, with a request that he would point out any correction which he might consider necessary, and would submit the paper to any other of the gentlemen from whom the information was obtained, if he thought desirable or had opportunity. In a letter, a part of which is given in No. 14, he stated that he thought that the figure which I had put for the ratio of hand-loom to power-loom workers was much too low, and I have therefore substituted a general expression and given his figures separately. He adds that a statement as to a late rise of wages, which I have now omitted as unimportant, did not appear correct. These are the only exceptions to which his letter refers, but as it enters somewhat into detail, it is convenient to merely point out the exceptions as above and give the remainder only of the letter.

13. *Statement by Manufacturers of Lurgan.*—The district of which Lurgan is the centre extends over the country for eight or nine miles round. In this district the number of persons employed on hand-looms is several times larger than that of those employed on power-looms. It is the general opinion that in the course of time hand-looms will be superseded here by power, but hand-loom weaving will form a considerable employment for many years to come, and particularly in this district, in which the work is of a kind more suited for the young than in any other. As their labour is of course cheaper, power cannot compete with the same advantage as in other kinds of work in which more skill and strength are required. There are also certain kinds of work, such as damask and some very fine fabrics, to the manufacture of which power has not yet been as well adapted as the hand-loom is. Hand-looms also are better suited for working up materials not strong enough to be worked with advantage by power. Much of the work of the district has now become of a kind even more suited for the young than it was, and consequently children are employed in weaving at a younger age.

With a few exceptions, in which the work is of a kind on which the young are not employed at all, the looms are entirely in the cottages of the weavers, and, as a general rule, belong to them, and are worked by their families. A loom of the common kind can be bought for from 15*s.* or a guinea up to, if new, something over 2*l.* Several hand-loom factories or shops were tried some years ago, but owing to the trouble of inspection, or some other reason, were not found to answer, and have been given up, so that the practice is not likely to be revived.

Children on the average begin to work at the looms at 11* years old, but some begin younger, as at 10 and 9, and even at 8 has been known. They are not, however, properly fit before 12. They begin to wind on the average at 8 years old, but some begin at 6 and 7. One winder can wind for say two looms, but this depends on the fineness of the materials. Some weavers do their own winding. The age at which a child goes to the loom depends a great deal upon how soon he or she can be spared from the winding, owing to the coming up of other children, &c.

The usual weaver's day is from 6 a.m. till 8 p.m. in summer, and from 8 a.m. till 9 or 10 p.m. in winter. At odd times, perhaps once a week, it is longer. They will be off the loom about an hour and a half in the day for meals, &c. Generally as wages sink the hours of work are lengthened, so as to make up the deficiency. In a bad time, such, for instance, as there was two years ago, the looms are kept going all the 24 hours round by means of relays. The division of the hours would depend upon the capabilities of the workers. At some other times, too, such as before rent is due, or when money is much needed for any purpose, this double weaving prevails to a considerable extent, the weavers taking in work from more than one manufacturer at a time. It should be counteracted as far as possible by manufacturers taking care that the weaver whom they employ is not taking work for any one else at the same time.

In good times the earnings are from 5*s.* or 6*s.* up to 12*s.* a week, and in dull times down as low as 3*s.* From 6*s.* to 8*s.*, however, are fair earnings for an adult. At many kinds of work intelligent girls can earn as much as men, and generally speaking most young people by 16, and some by 14, can earn as much as adults, and there is little if any difference between the earnings of females and males.

Journeymen go to board in a stranger's house to work, and both girls and boys do the same, though fewer of the former, and pay a small weekly sum for their board and looms. Many small farmers employ persons on weaving.

In addition to these employments there are within a radius of a few miles from here some thousands of females of from 8 years old upwards employed in plain sewing and stitching the linen for handkerchiefs, &c. This is entirely a home employment. It is not so confining as winding, as the workers can come out and sit at the door if they please. Good workers can make from 4*s.* to 6*s.* a week at it, and children, say, 2*s.* 6*d.*

In some cases the children who sew work at it all day, but it is more general for them to go to school for part of it, and some of those who wind do the same; but when any go to the loom they drop school.

Manufacturers employ persons in their warehouse, or premises in getting up linen, and in examining and folding up in lapping rooms, and one or two miscellaneous employments, but very few of these

* One manufacturer thought that 12 was the more usual age for going to a loom, another 10, but the more general opinion appeared to be in favour of 11.—J. E. W.

persons are under 18 years of age, and none under 13. This list of 30 persons so employed by one linen manufacturer here [*list handed in*] gives a fair specimen of the usual proportion and ages of males and females, and of the nature of their occupation in places of a like kind. It is as follows:—In the washhouse, 2 adult females; in the smoothing room, 9 females, the youngest of them 17, and most under 25; in the lapping room, 7 females, of about the same ages, but one only 14; and an adult female winder. The remainder are males engaged in warping, lapping, and in the offices, including three apprentices and a carpenter's boy, the remainder all adults.

Ballymena, about 30 miles north-west of Belfast, is one of the largest linen markets in Ireland, and is the centre of another great hand-loom weaving district, in which, though the character of the linen made is different from that of the Lurgan district, the system of the employment as to work-places, hours, &c., is precisely the same.

14. *Extract from a Letter from Mr. J. Henning relating to the preceding statement.*

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"Dear Sir,—I am of opinion that there are not less than 50 (*i.e.* employed by hand-looms) to 1 (*i.e.* employed by power looms) within the district, [I had written "5 to 1."—J. E. W.], there being two power loom factories within the area, and these do not employ more than 450 hands in connexion with weaving by power through all the processes of the manufacture." [Here follows the exception as to fluctuation of wages, and in some kinds he mentions actual or probable increase.—J. E. W.]—"I have shown your paper (which I have carefully read over) to Mr. Hancock and some other friends conversant with the subject, and I now feel confident that with the few suggestions I have offered you may submit your report with the greatest confidence as being truthful even to details."

"I am, &c.

"J. Edward White, Esq." "JOHN HENNING."

WARINGSTOWN.

Waringstown.

15. *Andrew Moir*, age 16.—Weave in a house shop from 6 a.m. till dark in summer, and from 7 or 8 a.m. till about 9 p.m. in winter; am off about 2 hours in the day for meals, &c. Sometimes we are much later when in a hurry for office days, *e.g.*, till 12 p.m. or all night. Do not work late like this more than two or three nights in a week. Earn about 5*s.* a week, which is about the average at this kind of work, viz., cambric handerchiefs.

[In this village, which is near Lurgan, I visited also the warehouse premises of Mr. J. Henning and found the employment carried on just as described in the statement No. 13. With the exception of the washing and smoothing, it is of the same kind as that described in the English hosiery warehouses.]

DROMORE.

Dromore.

16. Dromore is a small town about 8 miles or so from Lurgan, towards the east. The girls spoken of (Nos. 17 and 18) were sitting with their mothers on the ground at the door of their homes, "hemstitching" pocket handkerchiefs. Girls and women are constantly seen so employed, either withinside or at the door, in passing the houses of the poor in Lurgan, and in the country for some miles round. The girl first mentioned was a pale young child, and in the opinion of a gentleman, a manufacturer, who was with me, as well as in my own, with the appearance of only a child of 5; but the mother assured us that she was over 7, so that her appearance may have been owing to her being stunted or deformed. From the quickness with which she was sewing the same work, indeed part of the same handkerchief, as her mother, it was evident that she was a practised worker.

17. *Margaret Bullock.*—My little girl here, now 7 years old, has sewed for two years. She begins at 8 in the morning and leaves off at 7 in the evening, and can do three handkerchiefs in a day, but she is on and off. She is a wee little delicate thing.

18. *Mary M'Anally.*—Rebecca, here, my child, now 11, has sewed for three years. She sews from 8 in the morning till 9 at night, never more than an hour later than that. She can sew four handkerchiefs in a day, which earns 3*d.*, as they are 9*d.* a dozen. Another of them, now 9, has only just begun. My children don't go to school, and none of them can read.

NEWTOWNARDS.

Newtownards.

19. *Rev. J. G. Pooler*, incumbent of Newtownards.—Hand-loom weaving of woollen and of coloured cotton, but not of linen, is the staple employment of this town, which has a population of nearly 10,000. [It is about 14 miles east or south-east of Belfast.—J. E. W.] There are no factories or large shops, three or four being the largest number of looms to be found in any one place. They are usually in the dwelling house, the shop as they call it, in which the weavers work, forming part of the house. Sometimes the weaver lets a loom, should he have one unoccupied, to others who have none, or who prefer the independence of working away from home, as young people sometimes do. A range of such houses, each with a loom shop, has been lately built here by the agent of a manufacturer. The number of weavers remains as large as it was, but they earn less.

As a class weavers are very improvident and work irregularly;—it may be said that they make about four days in a week. They do little on Monday beyond getting out the yarn, and but little after Saturday morning, when they usually take their work in. Some indeed make up time by working all hours, so to say. I have seen lights in weavers' work-rooms at any hour through the night up till daylight again; but this would probably be men only. When children begin to work at the looms they work short days at first. I hear the parents speak of this. The younger children wind pirns till they are fit to work at the looms. The system of work was just the same in two other parishes in which I was engaged; one a small village near here, the other Hillsborough, an important village in a great hand loom weaving district about ten miles to the south from Belfast.

The work interferes a good deal with school attendance, but more in winter than in summer, when many of the weavers are at out of doors work and so do not need any winding. All schools in the place are, I believe, in much the same condition as my own in this respect. Few children stay at school after the age of 13, and the number begins to fall off after the age of 11. Those who do come attend very irregularly. The lists at my schools are revised every month, the names of those who have not attended in the previous month being struck off; but even so, out of, say 104 girls on the average, only 85 attend, though, after due allowance for sickness and other accidental circumstances, there should be as many as 95. Out of 114 boys the average attendance is not more than 80. If it were not for the Sunday schools very few of the poorest class of children in the place would learn to read, and as to writing I should say that half of those whom I marry make their mark.

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BALBRIGGAN.

20. *Mr. H. A. Appleyard*, Sackville Street, Dublin.—I am a hosiery manufacturer at Balbriggan. The peculiarity of Balbriggan hosiery is only in the material used. It is the only place in Ireland in which any hosiery is made, at least to be worth mentioning. There are about 100 frames there, chiefly in the men's cottages, though there are one or two shops. I know the English hosiery districts, and the work here is much the same. The usual day is long, viz., about 14 hours; but, as often in other trades, Monday goes; perhaps one in ten is at work. The work is returned to the manufacturer on Saturday. They work what hours they like, all night if they please, even when in a shop, as they do in mine. At stated times, as before Christmas, they do work all night. When they do so they must have the winders up too. The men's children are employed at this and seaming from 7 or 8 years old.

There is a considerable amount of hand-loom weaving of tabinets, coach linings, &c., carried on in Dublin, and I believe much on the same plan.

[I received also from the incumbent of Balbriggan a short account, agreeing as far as it went, with the above.]

SCOTLAND.

HAWICK.

Mr. Wm. Elliott's, Hosiery Manufacturer.

Scotland.

Hawick.

21. *Mr. James Elliot.*—My father is the largest hand frame hosiery manufacturer in Scotland. We have lately brought in the greater portion of our frames from houses and outshops into our own premises, and this is the general tendency here, and as I understand at Dumfries also. There are, however, still several small shops in this town with only six or eight frames or so, but few frames now actually in dwelling rooms, though there used to be a good many. We like having the workers all together, because we can keep more control over them and keep the men better from drinking &c. We mean to use hand frames, because we see no advantage in power, and machinery is very apt to get out of order.

In our workshops the hours are from 5 a.m. till 8 p.m. in summer, and from 6 a.m. till 9 p.m. in winter, and till 2 p.m. on Saturday, and the people please themselves as to meals, and may perhaps go out two or three hours. Stocking makers like to work longer hours than are usual among the hand-loom weavers in the town, viz., from 6 a.m. till 7 p.m. at the longest. The best workers work steadily all through the week, but to do this they must be very strong men and they get very high wages. Many, however, work much less, and on Monday I should think that about half the stocking-makers are at work. None are females, but females work in frames at their homes. At small places the work is very irregular.

The only children who work here are winders, but as they are employed by the stocking-makers and come and go very irregularly it is impossible to give any particulars with regard to them. One is perhaps there for an hour or so and not back again for a week, if at all. But, taking what I consider a proportionate number for the frames employed, I estimate them at 51 males and ten females, of ages ranging say from 11 to 13.

The females in the warehouse use sewing machines, mend with the needle, &c., and are from 14 or 15 years of age upwards, most of them grown up.

22. *John Young*, Foreman of the workshops.—The factory, all except two small shops, has been built only two years; before this the frames were over the town. There are 270 frames and 41 winding wheels in it, 20 of the wheels in one shop. Females are not allowed at frames in these shops, but in houses probably about half are females. The usual age here for beginning to work at a frame is from 12 to 14, but there are children who begin very young, many as young as 10, but none younger; they come on very quickly, so as to do regular work.

23. *Betsie Sanderson*, age (about 13?).—Three girls forby me wind in this shop, and about 6 boys too. I come now at 7 a.m. breakfasting first, and leave at 6 p.m., and then seam at home till about 9, and on Friday and Saturday begin seaming at 6 a.m. Take dinner here between 2 and 3. Wind for father and two other men; don't know who winds for them after I am gone in the evening. The two men whiles give me 1*s*. The youngest girl who winds in here, now away, who is about 8 years old, comes at 7 a.m., whiles at 8, and winds till 9½ a.m. when she goes to school till 4 p.m., coming here however at her meal time, *i.e.*, from 1 till 2. She comes here again about 5 or 6 p.m. and winds till the shop shuts. The other girls go to school and wind for about the same times. Last winter I used to bide with them here till 9 in the evening, when the shop shuts then. Whiles I am very tired, most in the arm.

24. *Colin Rae*, age 11.—Wind for six men. Come now between 6 and 7 a.m. and leave at 8 p.m.; in winter come at 6 a.m. and stay till 9 p.m. Am away about three quarters of an hour twice a day for meals. Earn between 3*s*. and 4*s*. a week. Began winding at 8 years old at a shop where there were ten frames and just me and another callant to wind. We worked the same hours as here, but sometimes stayed till 10, as on Thursday and Friday nights. Worked the same full hours when I first began there. Wasna very tired.

Can read and write: learned when I was a little wee callant.

25. *Robert Wilson*, age 11.—Have wound here for three years. Wind for nae man but father, but come at 6 a.m. and stay till 8 p.m., and in winter till 9. Wound in a little shop when going 7; went at 7 or 8 a.m. and never stayed after 6 p.m. and went at 2 to dinner.

When I go home at nicht I learn some lessons, and read the Bible, but cannot without spelling.

26. *Robert Bell*, age 12.—Began winding for mother at home five years ago, and went to a shop when about 10. Wind here for six men. Canna go out very long; you have to keep them in yarn.

27. *May Bell*, age 7.—Wind here for father. Came this morning at 10 and will go to dinner at 2 and come back again. Will be here in the forenoon to-morrow, and after dinner keep the bairns; that's the way.

28. *David Murray*, age 14.—At a frame four years. Work (the stated 15 hours). Go to breakfast from 9 till 10 and to dinner from 2 till 3; they come to the shop with some tea for me. Dinna go home so much of a Friday, about an hour altogether. Whiles some stops here all day. About 10*s*. or 11*s*. is the regular thing for me to get in a week, but 3*s*. comes off for rent, seaming, &c. (Reads.)

29. *Thomas Laidler*, grand-father of last witness.—This is quite a proper inquiry. I wish you would take the thing up and make us work shorter hours. It is a wearisome job, there is so much sameness in it. There is nothing regular about the winders.

[An old stocking-maker, who began at a frame in the last century, viz. 1799, wished me to state this, and that he had "never applied to the poor-house for one halfpenny."]

Mr. John Laing's, Hosiery Manufacturer.

30. *Mr. John Laing.*—I manufacture hosiery by power and have also some hand frames, but very few boys are employed in connexion with these. The three youngest are winders from 10 to 13 years old. At 13 winders usually leave and go into trades. At the hand frames all work from 6 a.m. till 8 p.m, with no special time for meals. No hosiery factory has shorter hours than these, though there are longer, nor is it usual to have any fixed amount of time for meals. The children must work as long as the men. The sooner there is a special hour for all these classes of workers, the better. If they were fixed for the boys the men would no doubt conform to them also. I consider that 10 hours a day is as much as any man can work properly.

The population of Hawick is about 12,000, and the working classes nearly all employed in the hosiery and tweed manufactures. The hosiery is nearly all woollen, and there are about 1,000 hand frames in the town, many of them still in small shops or the stocking makers' houses, but of late the tendency has been to take them into large shops or factories, in which the greater number now are. The larger the shop the better, as it must be under some system and the hours therefore more regular. In the small shops and houses the men get out the yarn on Monday, do but little on Tuesday, and work late on Thursday and Friday nights up till 10, 11, and 12 o'clock, as the work must be ready on Saturday in time to get the wages, which are all paid by 2 o'clock. Some of the seaming, therefore, which the men get done by their own families or neighbours, must continue at least as late as stocking makers work, but I do not think that children begin seaming under 8 years old here. I give out "trimming," *i.e.* needlework, such as sewing on bands, buttons, &c., usually to about 50 females, every afternoon or evening to be brought back at the same hour next day, and also employ a few females, all grown up or nearly so, on my premises in mending and finishing. The winding is usually done in the larger shops, but a few stocking makers get it done at home. All wages are paid at a fixed rate according to a scale agreed upon between the manufacturers and workers of Hawick, and even the price to be paid for the seaming, &c., is fixed at a certain proportion of the stocking makers' wages. I am familiar with the Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire hosiery districts. The system of work here is precisely the same in every respect, except that the intermediate class of employers, called there bag hosiers, does not exist in Scotland, but the stocking makers work directly for the manufacturer, which is greatly to the advantage of the workpeople.

I am the only manufacturer here that makes fashioned, *i.e.*, properly shaped, hosiery by power to any extent,* though one firm make straight hosiery by power. The general impression of other manufacturers, I believe, is that the hosiery of this place, which is nearly all woollen, will continue to be made by hand frames.

Messrs. Nixon and M'Kie's, Hosiery Manufacturers.

31. The system of the hand frame hosiery manufacture carried on by this firm corresponds precisely with that just described, which, as I understand, is the same as that of all the manufacturers in the town. The hours of the females in the warehouse are from 6 a.m. till 6½ p.m. and till 2½ on Saturday, with two hours for meals, and the women get away for a quarter of an hour at 12 also.

32. *Mr. M'Kie.*—Our shops are open from 6 a.m. till 8 p.m., within which limits the men make their own time. They were open till 9 p.m., but the men themselves wished it altered to 8, which is a step in the right direction. We never had females at work in a frame, and should think it a disgrace to do so. The frames out in small shops generally belong to the manufacturers, and a rent of 1*s.* a week is paid.

I am satisfied that lambswool hosiery, the kind chiefly made in Hawick, will continue to be made on hand frames for many years at any rate. Power has been applied pretty successfully to silk and merino hosiery, but for woollen there is no invention yet equal to the hand-frame for cheapness and goodness of work.

In Dumfries, the only other hosiery district in Scotland of any importance, and of which I am a native, there is no difference whatever as regards the system of work, except that I believe more trimming is done in warehouses and therefore more females employed in them, than here.

As the hosiery manufacture is, I think that there is no occasion for the Legislature to interfere with it, and that it would be as well to let it alone.

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33. *George Shiel.*—Stocking maker in a cottage six frame shop (Waddie's) and have worked in six of about the same, which is the most usual, size. In small shops generally stocking makers work in summer from 6 a.m. or sometimes 5½ till 8 p.m. and in winter from between 7 and 8 a.m. till between 9 and 10 p.m. Friday we generally work till 10 p.m. here. Some work till 11, some the length of 12, and I have known some work all night, as I have done myself, but it was my own fault for not getting on in the fore part of the week. I weigh in on Saturday and do not weigh out the yarn till Tuesday, but all do not have always just the same days. Have generally enough left to serve for Monday. With narrow frames you like to wind your own yarn. A child of 8 is as young as ever I saw winding in a small shop. There are about 900 hosiery hand frames in the town at work and 200 or 300 not at work.

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34. *Isabella Watts.*—My husband is a stocking maker from Hinckley. We like to keep the seaming in the family and the winding the same. The pay for seaming is 1*d.* in the 1*s.* earned by the stocking maker. If he likes to give more he may. Have seen me when I could make 5*s.* a week at it. The seaming must be done particularly, and if it is not done well enough it is put back to you, so that 8 is as quick as any child can do it for a regular thing. My daughter, 16, seams after she comes home from work. Can tell you it tries my poor eyes pretty well. The best of this place is plenty of hard work; it *is* a good thing, but it makes old men and old women before their time.

[Lives in a cellar room.]

Messrs. Dickson and Laing's, Woollen Manufacturers.

35. *Mr. Walter Laing.*—We manufacture tweed by hand-looms, but the shops stand within the gates of our factory, in which we use power for the same purpose, and within the last two years the Factory Inspector called our attention to the fact that consequently the hand-loom department fell under the

* It is represented that this arises from a difference in the material used, merino being better for the purpose than woollen.—J. E. W.

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factory regulations. This is, I believe, the case with most of the hand loom shops in the town. It makes, however, but little difference. The weavers are nearly always men, the town having generally a full supply of them from other places where work is less well paid, without any need of training apprentices, and the winding being done by machinery or by women in mills; but, though men, they are different in habits from the stocking makers, and only work about the factory hours unless there is an occasional press of business. Till that time children were employed by the men to "give in webs," *i.e.*, help by handing yarn to start the web, which made perhaps three or four hours work for each weaver once a week. The chief woollen district is about Stirling and Clackmannan, where there are many looms not in factories.

The state of education here is much below what it was, and there is not so good a moral feeling. Formerly any person not sending his children to school was thought very badly of, but now this feeling, though it remains more in the country districts round here, is very much passing away in the town, where I should think that half now are not educated. This was begun in the first instance, I think, by the numbers of strangers imported here, who were less particular on the point than the original Scotch population. Children have been so rarely, if ever, employed in the many factories here as half timers, that they have not got the benefit of the factory education. The cause of half-timers not having been employed is, I think, merely that there has not really been any great demand for them. So much that was done by the children is now done by machinery. It it true that machinery would probably have improved in any case, but there can be no doubt that the Factory Act gave a great stimulus to the inventions for saving labour. It turned the attention of people to these points at the time, and this led to the discovery of the schemes which were afterwards taken out.

With the amount of machinery now being brought into use there will be still greater want of educated men in the country to attend to it. As parents are so careless of their children's education, I think that it would be a very good thing to require some test of education as a condition of employment at all. I think that the Factory Acts should be extended to all employments. I can see no reason why they should not. There is as much necessity for them as regards the workers, and mills are more healthy than workshops generally are. If, however, the half-time age were fixed at 12 instead of 13, it would be very much more strictly kept to than it is.

Messrs. Wm. Laidler & Sons', Manufacturers.

36. *Mr. Thomas Laidler.*—We have three shops for hand-loom weavers and one for stocking makers, distinct from our power factory, as well as employing some frames scattered in dwelling houses and small shops. We are concentrating the work as much as possible on our own premises, as it gives us more control over the workers. My own opinion is that it would be good to extend the factory rules to all factories where children are employed, and would not impede the work. It is highly necessary as the hosiery manufacture is carried on about Nottingham and Leicester. We find no harm in the rules at all, and think that they give quite as much time as children ought to work. I think that things could not be better than they are in factories, and that the Factory Act was a very wise arrangement.

There is much the same amount of hand-loom weaving here that there was, notwithstanding the increase of power factories, the hand-looms being useful to do the work for which there are not yet enough factories. But my opinion is that hand-loom weaving will dwindle away. For weaving all manufacturers prefer power; but hand frames for hosiery will remain, as there is not sufficient gain in using steam to make the change pay.

The few winders are employed by the stocking makers and are all under 13. We have ordered the shop to be shut up for meals at the same hours as the mill, and I believe that the men could finish their work by 7 p.m., but we are obliged to give them till 8. They take the Mondays. At the hand-looms children help the weavers for three hours or so now and then, giving in the yarn to the weavers to draw through the "headles" when starting a web.

I should approve entirely of the factory hours for the females in the warehouse and every one.

Messrs. Wm. Watson & Sons', Woollen Manufacturers.

37. *Mr. Robert Watson.*—We have a hand-loom shop distinct from our power factory, but the men never work longer than from 6 a.m. till 7 p.m. Children only help on it occasionally for a few hours. The men get their own winding done, or sometimes we do it in the spinning. There are about 20 women, boys, and girls in the warehouse looking over and mending the webs, taking out knots, drawing in threads, &c., but they keep the same hours as the factory.

Messrs. Wilson and Armstrong's, Woollen Manufacturers.

38. *Mr. G. Wilson.*—We do little hand-loom weaving, which is for shawls, &c., and only have men; only occasionally apprentices. A great part of the winding is done on the mules as it is spun, and what is not, is done in the factory. This is usually the case in this district. We can now do anything by power which we can by hand-looms, but not the converse. About Aberdeen winseys are made.

I am provost of the town. House accommodation is extremely scarce, and dwellings are too crowded. Many live in cellars. There is no officer of health.

39. Down the middle of the town runs, or rather ought to run, a stream, which is very unsightly from nearly all the water being taken off for the mills, or somehow disappearing, the remainder being apparently stagnant, and blackened by water discharged from some dye-works, and the channel is plainly used for filthy purposes.

40. *Rev. J. R. Dakers,* Episcopal minister of Hawick.—I have been here 10 years. The town is very prosperous, and has been particularly so of late. The manufactures of the place interfere substantially with education. At our schools boys attend pretty regularly up to 9 years old, from 9 to 11 they become irregular, and at that age often disappear altogether, indeed I think that the majority do not reach that age. Girls do not stay much longer, and the poorer children of either sex rarely stay till 12. After 7 or 8 years of age boys begin to wind for hosiery frames, and I have seen girls seaming at about the same age. At 11 or 12 boys go to frames, girls I think not till about 14. On Friday many girls are kept away for seaming, and through the summer months, when there is an evening school for them, it is impossible for the same reason to get many on Friday nights. With those children who do come it is a very common reason to get for not learning their home lessons, from boys that they were winding, and from

girls that they were seaming. Owing to these causes the number of people who grow up with an imperfect knowledge of reading, and still more so of writing, is very great. But another worse objection is that the morals of these young children get corrupted by the conversation and habits of the men amongst whom they work. I notice a marked difference for the worse in their behaviour as soon as ever they begin to work in this way, and an unwillingness to submit to discipline, owing to the freedom which they get.

41. *Mr. Jay*, master of the Hawick Episcopal schools.—(Mr. Jay also put the average age at which children leave the schools at 11 or from that to 12. —J. E. W.)—If any stay over 12 they are only those of the better class. Another year or six months at about 11 or 12 is a great point. Some boys are kept away regularly about a day and a half in the week to wind, and girls often to seam. Leaving in this irregular way interferes very much with their teaching. For instance, one day there is an explanatory lesson and another the practice of it, and it is very common when a child does not know it, to get the excuse, "Please sir, I was not here." They are taken away even to the mills in a busy time and come back again, though still under 13. During the three years that I have been here there has been so much pressure in trade.

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[The general appearance of the children bore out the above statements as to age.]

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42. *George Boyd*, Great Eastern Road, hand-loom weaver.—I have worked in or been through all the hand-loom weaving districts in the south of Scotland, *e.g.*, Ayrshire, Lanark, Girvan, Kilmarnock, Maybole, Kilsyth, &c., and places where all kinds of materials were worked up or made, *e.g.*, wool, cotton, silk, grass, gauze figured and plain, &c. At all, the hours and mode of work are just about the same on the whole, there being however no fixed limit, but each individual working just as circumstances impel. What we call a regular weaver's day in small work places is from 6 a.m. till 10 p.m., but if a man has a large family and is industrious he will work much longer, and I have known men who have wrought till 1 a.m. before getting any supper. It is very prevalent to work till 12 and 1, and I have done so myself; indeed in the winter time 12 is more regular for many than any other hour. But it is cruel work, and any one would tell you so. I believe that I am not off three quarters of an hour all day; a quarter of an hour or 20 minutes is the outside that I get for any meal I make. This is not general, but a married man with a family to provide for cannot get an hour for a meal, and does not look for it.

You may say that from 10 to 12 is the age for putting children on a loom, choosing a light web for them. It is too soon. They ought to be at school, that is the plain of it. For six months they are more loss than profit; you have to dress their web and help them so much that it would be better to want them. But it is the practice which they get and the hope of earning something soon which causes it. I put on one of my girls at 9 years old, and it may have been putting her ower young which has made her bad now. I should be putting on my boy there, now 10 years old, but there is so little work now that men do not put their sons to it. It is not worth it. If any children are put on it is most commonly girls, or boys merely till they are put out to public works and other things. But just within the last two or three years I scarcely know a wean learning here. I could count nearly 100 small shops altered into dwellings in this part of the town within the last three or four years, and this is the general way. I had my own looms and shop, but I now have to rent a loom out for 1*s.* a week for tear and wear, and the man finding me work.

About a year ago I was on a committee for forwarding an emigration scheme for hand-loom weavers, and collecting information which was published. We took the average wages of 150 men just as we met them, scattered in different parts of the city and engaged on all kinds of fabrics, and found them to be from 7*s.* to 8*s.*, to be safe, say 8*s.* a week. Two or three were as high as 12*s.*, and some on white work were as low as 4*s.* 3*d.*

In town a room and kitchen above and a four-loom shop below is the most universal system, sometimes a six-loom shop, but in country districts "a but and a ben," *i.e.* a room with part divided off for a loom or two, is very common. Some of the shops are so damp that a fire has no effect upon them; I have seen some quite wet. But there is not one in ten of the small shops now in Glasgow that there were. The system now is getting all for factories with a large number of hand-looms, say 300 or more. One has 500 and no power-looms; in some there are both power and hand-looms. All large factories, whether they have power or not, work the same (*i. e.* factory) hours. As I am informed, some who have laid out money on power-looms say that if they had known the result they never would have done it. They have the expense of the machinery, and heavy wages to pay, and the fabric, it is thought, cannot be made so correct, and sells for less, so that, as I understand, the hand-loom is considered nearly as remunerative, except that orders can be executed quicker by steam.

I have eight children living, some grown up, and have had nine. Only two of them have ever been at school, and neither of these for a year. All that any know beyond this I have taught them myself, but I shall be content if the younger can only read. I might have got them free education, but only at the parish school, by humbling myself as a pauper. That will never do. Though I never applied, I believe that I must plead poverty, and get a line signed by the minister and elder. It is a poor thing for a man to demean himself and plead for that which is a natural right. Education is a natural right. If the mind is not fed how can it grow? The state should educate, and see that a child gets its due. I would let people say what they liked about interfering with our independence. There has never been so much murders as till within the last two years, and these all come from want of proper bringing up.

43. *May Boyd*, wife of last witness.—Weavers get their winding done by their own families if it is not o'er muckle; if it is they have to pay some one else. None employ persons by the day in their house, but some take in a girl to wind, and give her 1*s.* a week and her meat. Children dinna ken how to handle it before 8 years old, but begin from about that age to 9.

It is a wearisome job, far waur than the weaving. You're never up. It's a paining thing,—sair, sair,—and you're weary and sair as night comes on. It's no for nae young body to sit at, and makes one grow aside. That is why I took my Colin off it, when about 9; he was like waning awa and wasting. I have known people grow up aside from winding.

44. *Jane Boyd*, age 20, daughter of above.—Have been six years winding at home. For me, I have to begin in summer at 6 a.m. and stop at it till dark, but in the winter I was up at 4 a.m. and wound till 10 p.m. regular. Sometimes I have an ache in the side, and when I sit constant at it I get a pain in my breast, maist just in front. Have been off two hours in a day altogether.

A sister, about 16, weaves but cannot sit long; she has been in bad health this three years. Geordie was 9 years old when he commenced, but he gave it up after a twelvemonth. ("You canna confine a wean "so close when he's 9 years old," remarked the mother.) Most weavers are very regular from Monday to Saturday, working from about 6 a.m. till dark in summer, and from 7 a.m. till 11 p.m. in winter.

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45. *Sarah M'Cutcheon*, Street off Great Eastern Road.—The room in which our two looms are is very damp; the floor is earth, and I think that there is no drain under it. There is a brick stove in it, but it leads into another man's vent, and that will not draw for both, so we cannot use it. The room would be a heap worse than it is if it were not for the fire in the kitchen into which it opens. I got a sore cold when I first came here from being unused to the damp, as we used to live up a story; but when trade got dull we had to give up the big house. My husband got a "hoast" (hoarseness), that he has never got rid of. If weavers get a cold they cannot get things to cure it, such as flannels and that. All the houses in these two rows are built just the same, and the floors in the living and loom rooms are just the same, and very unhealthy in winter time. A woman who lives in one and is very near lame, just lays it on the damp of the house.

Our daughter, 12 years old, winds for us, with her grandmother too sometimes, and can run off a bit, but cannot get much a-head. The little one of 8 could do it also. In summer we work from 6 or 7 a.m. till dark, and in winter from 7 or 8 a.m till 10 p.m. Weavers' wages in a full week are 7*s.*, 8*s.*, or 9*s.*, but they have often no work. Girls begin perhaps at 13, boys younger, but work is not so well adapted for young ones as when it was plain. Now, each web generally has 7 or 8 colours and wants a separate shuttle for each of them; so that it is more trouble to teach, as I found when I got weans and had to take to weaving again.

I have five children, but they cannot get to school because they cannot pay the 2*d.* a week, but I send them on Sunday. School is a great want; they get a bit of lesson, and you know where they are better than when they are in the street.

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46. *Mr. Henry Carrigan*, Main Street, Bridgtown.—As secretary for an association of weavers, I have had occasion to correspond with persons in most of the hand-loom weaving districts in Scotland, to ascertain the particulars of the trade, and have visited many. The business is generally declining, and in many places where it was very largely carried on has almost entirely ceased. In country districts, however, where there is no other work, it continues and children are probably brought up to it as before. Girls as well as boys begin some as young as 9, and when they have once regularly begun there is no general distinction between them and others as to hours, and these are much the same in the country as in the out-shops in Glasgow. A weaver's day is usually 14 hours, though some work longer. Some even as late in the year as this (May) light gas at night, and begin again at 5 a.m., but this is exceptional. Men do not in this as in other trades take an hour for dinner, but just a short time only, and breakfast as quick as they can. The time for which children work, however, depends upon the disposition of the parents. If they are unwilling they are set a task of so much, *e.g.*, 6 or 8 ells, or a dress, or such a part of anything, or so many handkerchiefs, according to the kind of work. A man's wife and children, or if he has none, his neighbour's, generally wind. My daughter was at it between 6 and 7 years old, and children generally are set to it as soon as they can turn a wheel, you may say at 7. It is as much as such a child can do to wind, for one, and two weavers are quite enough for one woman. The winders' hours of course depend on the weavers. If the winders are expert they may perhaps be able to stop an hour or an hour-and-a-half before, but they generally run much about the same time. It does sometimes occur, though it is not general, that weavers work through the night, as on Friday, or if young men have been out for a spree on Monday or Tuesday. If a man sits up some one else must, as he wants a winder. Children so employed as weavers or winders can get no education or relaxation. They might perhaps take a run out and risk a flogging if they stayed too long.

I have wrought at a loom, in a pottery where the work was very severe, and at other work, and now stand at a desk, but I never felt so exhausted as at a loom. There is no heavy lift, but it is the depression from anxiety and constant confinement, and when the mind is depressed the body is too. The floe from the wool gets into the interior, and is no doubt injurious.

In small shops in town or country the windows are generally fixed, but sometimes have a pane made to open, or one is broken out, but there is generally more space in the country. I have seen as damp shops in the country as in Glasgow, but not so generally, as the soil about Glasgow is heavy clay. If shops are damp, the result, if any, is generally rheumatism or asthma.

In 1855 Dr. Strange of Glasgow published an account of the average of hand-loom weavers' wages in the west of Scotland, and gave them at 7*s.* 6*d.* a week, and out of that there are deductions to be paid. Trade was much better then than now. I was then at work and could make 2*s.* 6*d.* a day; now I could not make more than 8*s.* a week. Funds have been raised to provide hand-loom weavers with the means of emigration. Last summer 400 persons were sent out, and it is expected that many more will be this. In Paisley and several places they are anxious for emigration at any cost so as to get rid of a trade that they cannot live with, and the tide has been flowing ever since 1854. The improvement in machinery leaves no hope of times being better.

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47. *Mr. James Norval*, M'Kechnie Street, hand-loom weaver.—Ever since I was a young man I have taken an active part in matters relating to our trade, and have several times been secretary of associations of weavers for different purposes, and, in fact, have paid attention to their trade and habits here for 20 years. The amount of destitution and fever amongst them from want of work is terrible; you could scarcely credit it. This drives many to depraved habits, and a longing for the grog shop; they want something to give a stimulus. The general opinion of the most intelligent weavers here, however much they may regret it, is that in time all hand-loom weaving here will cease. With very few exceptions, no fabric is made by hand which is not also by power. A new kind may be, but when it has been in for a season we find power take it up, and produce it cheaper. When large factories are put up for hand-looms they are built on such a principle that they can be adapted to power hereafter. About a year ago the estimated number of hand-looms in factories and outshops in Glasgow and for four or five miles round was about 6,000 or 7,000. At the time of the Reform Bill it was estimated that 30,000 hand-loom weavers from within the same limits walked in procession. Paisley is the great centre of fancy hand-loom weaving for shawls, &c., called "harness" work.

In outshops the day is generally 14 hours, or in winter 14 or 15, less and more. There are more young weaving in the country now than in the town. The way here is just to put one child on till the next is ready to be brought up to it. I was put on at a loom at 9 years old, on my birthday; that was a common age, but it was easier work than now. I have heard men speak of children being put on a year earlier, but I should think that 9 was as young as any are. I have seen them weaving at this age in the country; but the age would depend greatly on the size of the child and the necessities of the parent.

The floor of out-shops is just the natural soil; I never saw one boarded. Some are built on the clay just as it is. I have wrought where my boot left a

mark on the floor, and have seen water stand in the treadle-holes, *e.g.*, if a drain was wrong. In some you can see the walls quite damp and green, and water running down. Weavers suffer from rheumatism and asthma. You do not perceive the fluff, but you inhale it, and it must go in upon the lungs. This shop is about 2 feet below the level of the road in front. It has a window for each of the four looms, but none will open. It is not the rule for windows in such places to open, though there is often a pane to open in warm weather. Some are dark and dismal, being back properties, and much built up behind, or in cellars, so that gas is wanted nearly all day. A house and shop are generally set together, and the occupier puts up looms and mounts them, &c., and sets one or more. Some lodged and fed weavers.

A great trade in this country for women and children was clipping the spare threads from "lappets," a name for muslin or gauze with raised patterns, such as for curtains. I knew parties that employed girls clipping either on a frame or on the knee. The clippings were considerable enough to be sold; I have seen them used for beds. A woman would draw the work and pay the girls, say from 8 or 9 years old upwards, 1*s.* a week or so. These lappet patterns are now made by power a good deal, but the same clipping is needed, and it is generally given out for this. If a woman had enough she would keep girls. In some cases, however, the clipping is done by a machine driven by power, and this did up the hand clipping in Paisley.

48. *Mrs. Jane Craig,* Claythorn Street.—There are a great deal of clippers in the town. A woman just gets a frame and keeps a few girls; I knew one that kept the length of six frames. About four girls sit to a frame. They are all lumps of girls, quite young, from 8 or 10 upwards, but very few run up to be women, or even reach 16. A woman, Mrs. Miller, lately lived in part of this house, and kept three frames. Her own daughter was about 8, and the other girls about 10 years old or so. They worked from 6 a.m. till 8 p.m., and had two hours for meals, and a small wage, viz., from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.* a week. This is the average way of work in all houses; all have the one thing. It is just according to their taskmaster whether they work more. If they delay they stay their dinner, or after their proper day is over. Machinery is getting to do some of the work now.

[I have been informed of other places where this work is done by girls.]

Messrs. Laird & Thompson's Hand-loom Factory, Mile End.

49. *Mr. James Paterson.*—This is the largest factory in Glasgow in which hand-looms alone are used, but there are a great number in which there are both power and hand-looms. We weave every kind of fabric—wool, linen, cotton, silk, and mixtures of them, and for every market. There are about 300 looms here, nearly all in one room, and others are employed outside. The out-shops in the town are fast going out, but in the country they keep a hold, and are likely to. I believe that power will become very general, but that hand-looms will always be used for certain purposes. I think that it is the mere wish to be free from restraint which has thus long kept power from being used here. For some purposes, particularly for winding, it would be very advantageous. I do not believe that the factory hours would make any difference whatever to the work. The present hours are from 6 a.m. till half-past 6 p.m., with two hours for meals, and overtime is very rare, not beyond 8. There are a few boys at the looms, but the only children are some "ingi'ers,' who "give in" to the headles for the men.

50. *Hugh Burns,* age 14.—Hand-loom weaver, just come. Began in father's four-loom shop at home four years ago. Wrought all hours there, usually in summer from 6 a.m. till 8 p.m., and in winter from 8 a.m. till 10 p.m., sometimes till 11. Was off about an hour in the day altogether. At a big factory worked only from 6 till 6.

51. *Mr. John Taylor,* a clerk.—All the winding for the weavers in the factory is done by the firm. There are 160 weft winders, of whom about 40 wind in a room in the factory, females from 13 years of age upwards. The earnings of the latter range from 4*s.* to 8*s.* a week, while those of the others, paid at the same rate, average about half, viz., from 2*s.* to 4*s.* The rate is 2*d.* a spin'le, or 840 yards of cotton, or 560 of wool. The warp is all wound outside, and employs about 150 persons. The warping is done in the factory by men by hand. The average earnings of weavers in the factory, good, bad, and indifferent, is 11*s.* 6*d.* a-week, and all expenses paid by the firm. The outside weavers earn much less and have to pay many deductions besides. Still the old respectable weavers do not like to leave their old shop and come into a factory.

52. *Mr. William Arman,* in the warehouse.—I have occasion to know the weaving districts in Lanarkshire, Ayrshire, and Renfrewshire, though there is not much done in the latter. With very little exception the system of work in the country districts is all the same, and without exception the shops are small, only for four or six looms. Outside weavers will tell you that their average day is 14 or 16 hours, but no man can work that continuously, though perhaps they do at the end of the week. The least thing takes them off, and most days they probably do not work so long as in a factory. As to education, all are in much the same condition; the amount is very small.

[The winding room was very full and felt close. A girl of 11 was helping in the large loom shop, "giving in to the headles." She could read and write.]

Lymburn's, Hosiery Manufacturer, off Gallowgate (?).

53. This is a small place up a dirty court, consisting of a few small rooms used as a warehouse and work-rooms. Only a few females are employed, working from 9 till 8, with a dinner hour; three, aged 17, 12, and 9½, mending, &c., and two or three turning circular frames. The rooms are small and dark, and so choked with goods that to reach the top work-room I had to get over them. The frame shop in which the next witness works is above, but does not belong to the warehouse.

54. *William Bagally,* stocking maker.—Worked in a hosiery factory at Dumfries where there were 60 or 70 hand frames. There were two others, one with 70 or 80 frames; but few frames in dwelling houses. We had no fixed hours, but usually worked from about 6 a.m. till 9 or 10 p.m., and if busy till 12 or 1. The work was lower paid than here. The men wound for themselves, unless a man had a boy of his own, and then the boy would wind for him and others. The seaming was done by the men's wives and children.

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Messrs. Ritchie and Simpson's, Hand-loom Factory, Nelson Street.

55. *Mr. Thomas Sime*, foreman.—There are 165 hand-looms in this factory. The hours are from 6 a.m. till 8 p.m., and till 3 on Saturday, but it is all piece work, so the workers come as they please, and their meals are quite optional, but most take an hour twice a day, and less towards the end of the week. The factory is closed at 8 p.m., and none can stay later without my leave. It does not do to give leave to some only, or so many would want to stay late towards the end of the week, and we have not worked later for the last two or three years. On Monday half of the number work only about half a day. There are a great number of other hand-loom factories in or near the town, one with towards 300 looms and another 400 or 500, but most of the others being smaller than ours, the smallest having probably about 36 looms, and the usual hours at most are, I believe, from 6 a.m. till 9 p.m., some stopping at 3 and others at 6 on Saturday. In all, work is done by the piece, and there is just the same plan for meals, &c., and they close at the regular hour. When looms are in the men's homes or small shops the weavers take what hours they choose, and as much work again is done from Thursday till Saturday as in the first half of the week, some not working at all on Monday. The same kind of work is done all over the country for 15 or 20 miles round, though with a little difference in the fabric. In factories no rent is paid, but in the houses and small shops they pay about 4*d.* a week. It will take many years before hand-loom weaving is gone out here, though it is diminishing, and very few are being brought up to it. The usual age to begin is 12 or 14.

Some of the winding is done in the factories, and some at the men's houses by women and children who wind throughout the day, but one or two hand-loom factories and all the power loom factories do the winding by power. A child of 7 can wind.

56. *Alice Bryan*, adult weaver.—Have worked at five or six or more other hand-loom factories in the town. At all, the hours were from 6 a.m. till 9 p.m., and meals the same as here. Have stayed till 10 p.m., but not of late years.

57. *James Gafney*, age 9.—Have wound here a year. Usually come at 6 or 7 a.m., and have to wind as long as I can see, about 7½ p.m. now. Wound at home for a year before. Used to begin at 7 or 6 a.m., and wind till about 8 p.m. On Friday night gave up at 9, 9½ or 10; never later, and never began earlier. Got my breakfast and began again, and had about half an hour for dinner. Here have about three-quarters of an hour for breakfast, and the same for dinner, but never eat nothing afterwards till I get home at 8. Some weeks make 3*s.*

Was never at school or in a kirk or chapel. Know "A" and "O," but no other letter. Know of Jesus. God lives in heaven.

58. *Jackson Mackally*, age 9.—Winder. Not two years at it, but about that. Wind from 6 a.m. till 8 p.m., with about an hour each for breakfast and dinner, but no tea or supper. Wound at home for about two years before.

Sometimes go to school on Sabbath, but never was in a kirk or chapel.

59. *Richard Cook*, age 6.—Winder. Came first last Friday at 7 a.m., and left at 8 p.m. On Saturday came at 6 a.m.

[This child began winding at home three or four months ago, said the father. Another child who gave his age as "5, St. Obbs fair," was "carrying weft from daddie to mither," but not at real work.]

60. *Maggie Wilkie*, age 11.—Wind here for father and brother. Come whiles at 6 a.m. and whiles at 9, and leave at 8 p.m. (Spells a very little.)

61. *Philip Donohel*, age 14.—Weaver. Was two years at a hand loom in a sheet factory. Worked there from 6 a.m. till 9 p.m. and till 2 on Saturdays and have begun at 5. 15. p.m. on Saturdays, and sometimes on Fridays. Some days had to give up because it tired my arms. Can earn 5*s.* a week.

Read, write, and sum, and school on Sabbath.

62. *James Wilkie*, age 14.—Weaver. Was never at school. Wound at home from 9 to 6 every day except Sabbath.

63. *Mary Jane M'Gachan*, age 8.—Am carrying in father's pirns. Mother and I wind them at home. I can do three or four in an hour, but I only wind part of the day.

Was never at school or in a kirk or chapel. Know A and O (no other letters).

[I was told that it would take the mother "the most part of a day and be no idle," with help as above, to keep the father going in work.]

Messrs. Ritchie and Simpson's Hand-loom Factory, Hawkhill.

64. *Catherine M'Lachlan*, age 6.—Am here from 6 a.m. till 8 p.m. and come at 5 a.m. every Friday and Saturday. Go away to breakfast and dinner ¾ hour each, but have no tea till I get home at night. Mind the bairn for a woman who winds.

65. *Michael Shoes*, age 10.—Here two years; wind for two weavers and get 2*s.* a week.

Was never at school. Can say the alphabet. (Does know A and M but no other letters.)

66. *William Martin*, age 9.—Have wound for father a year here. Ken them all (*i.e.* the letters; but only knows a few.)

67. *Mr. Joseph Johnstone*, foreman.—The Factory Act is the greatest blessing that ever came, and I cannot think what would have happened to this country without it. People would have been wrought to death one time and starved another. It is no use their getting a lot of money at one time, for then they only do not know how to take care of their means. I believe that it would be a great thing to inquire into the condition of children in work of all sorts, and I am sure that every place would be glad to give information for the purpose.

There are an immense number of children in the town employed at their own homes in out-of-the-way and close and very unhealthy places in sewing sacks. This part of the town, which is a great neighbourhood for sack sewers, though high and it might be supposed healthy, is very much the opposite, from this closeness, and fever has been severe.

Dundee is the chief place in Britain for sacks, because it is the chief place for making that kind of coarse cloth, but a great amount goes away to London and elsewhere uncut. A great amount of sewing, I believe the greater part, is done at night, say from 6 till 10 or 11 p.m., because it is not given out till evening, and is wanted next day, and the persons who do it are of the poorest classes, many of whom are engaged in other work during the day. It does not come at all regularly because people are always in a hurry to have the sacks back, and the sooner the workers can get them done the sooner are they ready for more, so either there is no work or else it is all drive. Sewing sacks is harder work than being in a mill, because the children cannot run about, and the factory children get a run too in the evenings, and on Saturday. But it is better for little children than other sewing would be, because in sewing sacks they have to stand to reach the work as it is placed high. Some are very clever at it as young as that one

(pointing to a child of 6 years old). At a factory near here, the material, being light, is sewn by machines, but sacks are usually "over headed," which machines cannot do.

At winding, too, from 6 a.m. till 9 p.m., as some work, is a great many hours for a child to be confined, even if he is not hard at work all the time.

The sewing hinders the children a great deal from going to school, even though often they have no work. Supposing that some sew in a week only two bundles, or what takes two days, yet they do not go to school on the other four, because they do not know when work will have to be done. It is very necessary to educate the young. More crime and more debauched people are always found amongst the most ignorant. There is no man who has any idea of common society but what has this opinion. It is only education that raises people above the animal, and there are few that have cleverness to raise themselves without being helped.

Power-looms are encroaching on hand-looms, and weaving in houses is greatly done away with in this town, but in the towns and country villages for 20 miles round it is very general, the houses being generally built with a four-loom shop, or sometimes there are only one or two looms in the living or bedroom. There are very few large shops in the villages, perhaps some with from 4 to 10 looms. The work in small places depends entirely on the weavers themselves, and though some work regularly others do very little early in the week and work very hard at the end. At a town in Fifeshire where I was, we wrought only 61 hours a week, viz., from 6 a.m. till 7 p.m., and till 1 on Saturday, and could not ever work longer if we wished; and all were locked out for two hours a day for meals, to keep the girls and men from misbehaving. But we got through just as much work as we did where I have wrought till 10 p.m., and any person would say the same. At Newburgh 10 p.m. was a very common time to work to when I was there many years ago, and I believe that it is so still. At this factory the hours are from 6 a.m. till 8 p.m., and till 3 on Saturdays, but some of the hand-loom factories here now close at 6 or 7 p.m.; I think particularly at carpet weaving. But notwithstanding this, carpet weaving is not so healthy as other kinds. The dye comes off so that sometimes a person looks as black as a sweep from it. The size of hand-loom factories in or near this town ranges I should say from 20 or 30 looms up to 500. In country places there is no sack sewing, as the cloth is brought into warehouses here uncut, but there is more winding, as in the town some manufacturers supply the weavers with the pirns ready wound. One or two boys of about 16 help the men here at starching the material.

Messrs. John Henderson and Sons', Manufacturers.

68. *Mr. Rd. Henderson.*—We have three hand-loom shops in our power factory and one outside, in all of which the hours are long, as usual in hand-loom factories here; but in the former we give orders for any winders under the factory ages to leave at 6 p.m. Winding is often done by old men. It would be far better, both for us and the workers too, to adopt the regular factory hours, if all manufacturers were obliged to do the same, but we cannot do it of ourselves or should lose work. On Monday morning you see most of the shops empty, and men come straggling in, and it is always Tuesday before they begin well. Generally speaking, too, they are late on other mornings, few coming at 6, except on Friday, when they would come at 5 if they could get in, which they cannot. The long hours are a loss every way. The shops must be kept open, and in winter gas is wasting from being burned three hours longer than it need be. We are getting to wind by machinery.

We shall probably be giving up hand-looms, and in coarser work, such as where jute is used, sacking, &c., it will be general to give them up, but in finer fabrics there will not be so great a benefit in using power, and for these hand-looms will probably continue longer.

69. I was informed by the two Messrs. Malcolm that they were on the point of closing their large hand-loom shop within the gates of their power factory, and that in their opinion the giving up of hand-looms generally was only a matter of time, though it would always continue in the country to supplement other employments, and probably in Fifeshire, or at any rate longer there than elsewhere, as finer linen could be made by hand than by power. They stated that hand-loom weaving extended from Dundee northwards to Aberdeen, on the west and north to Perth and the mountains. Their hours were from 6 a.m. till 8 p.m., Fridays 9 p.m., and Saturdays 2 p.m., which they believed the general hours. They had known work till 10 on Friday nights, but not as a common thing. They considered that it would be impossible to regulate hand-loom weaving, in consequence of there being no responsible person.

70. *Mr. J. Duncan*, manager at Messrs. Ritchie and Simpson's, power factory, Ward Street.—The most common time for sack-sewing to be done is at night, because the common way in the town is to give out the material one day, and often in the evening, and it must be brought back next morning. The materials made at our hand-loom factories are brought here to be given out. It is not usual to keep sacks, &c. in stock, except three-bushel sacks, because it is not known what size or kind will be wanted. Paying for fire and light often leaves the sack sewers little profit. The children are employed at this only at their homes. I have seen some from 6 years old sewing, and have seen elder children, who have been at work during the day, sewing at 8 or 9 at night. Children are employed also to wind from hanks on to pirns as soon as they can turn a wheel round. I have seen them doing this at 6 or 7 years of age, and in exceptional cases they may be younger. Monday is not a good day to see work, because weavers do very little then. In private shops they work all hours, but in factories, where they work till 9, which I believe is common, the gas is turned off them then, or they would work longer. Hand-looms, however, are very fast disappearing in the town, and probably soon will entirely, here at least.

71. The sack sewers named below all live in small houses or rooms about Hawkhill, one of the poorest neighbourhoods in Dundee, in which the least has been done to improve the drainage, &c. (cf. No. 67). The person from a factory who conducted me observed that the mothers did not "care muckle about telling about their children."

72. *Mrs. O'Reilly*, Iles Lane.—My children and I sew sacks here at home. We should not do it but for necessity, and I should like to send them to school, but they have no father. The eldest girl is 9, the next 8, and one of 6 sews a little. The two elder began when about 7. I often sit till 10 or 11 at night, and if I am in a hurry the eldest sits with me, but not beyond 10. I feel that I could not keep the bairn (the second) so. She just sleeps and couldn't do it, but even she has been as late as 9 or 10, though very seldom till 10. If I have work the eldest would rise at 6 and work till night, viz., 9 or 10, and has done so; if I have no work I have no need to rise the child. The work often comes in as

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late as this (4 or 5 p.m.), and I have seen it 6, and it is generally wanted back at 6 the next morning. To-morrow will be busy because it is a shipping day. It is very bad for 'em sitting so, and I feel that myself. The eldest sits, and the little one stands because she cannot reach over without. I cannot say what we earn. I seen me weeks with 2*s.*, and have made the length of 6*s.*; on the average throughout the year it is not more than 4*s.* 6*d.* or 5*s.* It is very expensive to the workers with fire and light and not much profit. The eldest goes to a night school sometimes.

[The eldest could not tell the letters, and asked her younger sister, who knew more.]

73. *Mrs. O'Neill.*—Margie, 7 years 11 months old, has sewed this twa year constant, except while she was at school in the day, but she was taken away last summer because I was na very weel and could na mind the bairns. On the average she sews about 4½*d.* worth in a day, and could do that in about four hours if she went straight on, but she'll na do that, she wants to play. It is nae sair work that. Three others, a girl of 13 and two lads of 11 and 14, sew after they come home in the evening, say till 8, and then get a play; it will not do to keep them at it all their time. If I am in a hurry I keep them till 10 or 11 like. I gar them stand, because if they sit they grow all crooked, sair. The boy did not like going to school, and if I was in a hurry I kept him away to sew, and that spoiled the school altogether.

[Margie could spell a little and knew the figure "8."]

74. *Mrs. Farleigh*, Watt's Close.—My little girl Betsie, who is going 6, dont do anything worth speaking of (*i.e.* at sack sewing). It is just of their own maggot that they take a needle in their hand. She goes to school, and father learns her the letters of a night.

75. *Mrs. Forbes*, Hunter Street.—My boy, 9 years old, has sewed for a year. He comes home from school at 4 p.m., and sews perhaps till 8 or 9, whiles till 10. I sometimes sit till 12 or later. He does the bottoms, which are not laid in. The most that I can make in a day is a bundle or 50 sacks, which is 1*s.*, and that would keep me gey busy from morning till night, say 9 p.m. Have seen me get neighbours' children to help me many a time. They get just a half-penny or it may be a penny for themselves, but there are none hereabout that keep neighbours' children regularly. Have seen children sewing sacks at 6 years old or 7.

76. *Ann Borland*, Session Street.—My little boy, now just 9, sewed for me two years till he went to the rope walk. He went to that at 8 or 9. He was never at school; he was na that length. Work mostly comes in one day and is wanted back the next.

77. *Mrs. Geoghan.*—Mary, now 8, has been at sack sewing a year. If I am hurried she is up till 9 p.m. at it, not later. Beginning in the morning at 8 or 9 she could sew half a bundle, *i.e.*, 25 sacks, and earn 6*d.* by 2 o'clock if she did not leave off. I sew later, but not till 12. I have had three of my girls sewing at once.

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78. *Mr. John Fulton*, Town Surveyor and Master of Works.—The health of the town has been very much improved by drainage, which in most parts is now very good. Such matters as this are carried out under my supervision. The great want is air space and ventilation in the houses of the poor, which are very defective in these respects. An improvement in these would make an immense improvement in health and greatly prevent typhus. A medical man has been occasionally employed to advise as to improvements, &c., under the Nuisances Removal Act, but there is no permanent officer connected with the public health except the Inspector of Nuisances. In the poor houses women and children sew sacks and bags for guano, coffee, &c.; in fact this is one of the great trades of the town for women and children.

Kirriemuir.

KIRRIEMUIR.

79. This is quite a small town in the hilly country towards the Highlands from Forfar, and at the outside edge of the populous weaving district, a specimen of exactly the opposite kind from Glasgow or Dundee.

80. *Ann Stuart.*—My boy William here, 8 years old, winds big pirns of warp for a manufacturer, to whom he takes them. Plenty of children in this place, both boys and girls, wind at home like this. A great deal of them begins as young as 6; at this age they can make a 1*d.* a day, if not winding more than three or perhaps four hours, and they do not rise early or work late. William rises at about 7 now (spring) and winds till 9 a.m., when he goes to school and stays, with the exception of coming home to dinner, till 5 p.m., when he comes home and winds again till about 8 p.m., but sometimes he rises at 6 a.m. to wind. In winter many a time he winds till 10 p.m.; he does so the most part of the week, except Saturdays. He does not wind all the time, because he has tasks to learn in the evening for school next day, and he stops for tea, too, perhaps an hour. Winding for five or six hours a day on the average he makes about 1*s.* 6*d.* a week; neighbour's children do about the same. His brother, 9, and sister, 11, are at school now (about noon) but wind too when at home; we have three wheels. There is no school on Saturday and they can get a play then. After the age of 10 or 11 children are often kept at home entirely to wind, but the younger often go to school part of the day. But plenty of parents, though poor, keep them at home, and care for neither work nor school. Many who only wind rise at about 7, and with going messages and a bit of play, work till 8 p.m., and in winter till 10; but the bigger children who are still at school are in a higher class, and take longer time to learn their tasks.

It is a sair task on the bairns; they would almost go any-where before they would to winding; they are real tired at it and need a play. It is very sair for the back, as I have often found myself, and if children sit at it ower long it will twist them so as to make them grow on one side; there are plenty of children that it does this to, and I have many a time seen a grown up body quite twisted from it. It is very bad being ower confined. It tires the arm too, and the yarn cuts the fingers if the pirn is not held so as to catch it. Children are not fit to work 12 hours a day, but many people do things that they are not fit for. Their father is many days 16 hours at his loom here.

There are more girls than boys at looms; they begin at about 13, some at 12, but they are ower silly for it at that age. It is hard work at first, and tires the arms and legs, and if they grab the loom ower tight, as they are apt to do when learning, it strains the sinews, and they have to keep their wrists bound up. Big girls sit full time at the loom, rising at 7 or some at 6 in summer, and in winter it is usual to work till 10 p.m.

[The boy could read but not write.]

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81. *Jane Loden.*—Rent a hand-loom in this five loom shop for 10*s.* a year. Began when 12, *i.e.*, six years ago. In summer begin at 6 a.m. and work till dark, in winter rise later, at about 8, and work till 11 p.m., but not every day *e.g.*, Mondays. Take about two hours for breakfast, dinner, and tea. Get about 10*s.* a week and pay about 1*s.* 8*d.* to a woman for winding my pirns at her home.

82. *Sarah Wourring.*—Weave in this four loom shop, we are all women in it. There are no wages for men at this work and there are almost nae boys now. Girls begin at about 13. Many rise at 7 a.m. and work till 11 p.m.; or if they do not work so late rise earlier, as at 6 a.m. It is a long day, but makes up for those that we do not work, *e.g.*, Saturday afternoons and Mondays. Most weavers have some one to wind their pirns, often a woman, or if a man has bairns they do it. A winder could leave off an hour or two before the weaver. A woman could wind for two or three, but no bairn could. Children from 6 years old can wind. The loom is my own, and I pay 5*s.* 6*d.* a half year for the stance, and gas besides, 3*d.* each a week.

83. *Mr. George Duke*, manufacturer.—I employ persons in making canvas, sheetings, &c. on hand-looms, at which they work either in their own homes or in some cases renting the stance (standing room) for a loom in another weaver's house. The looms are generally their own property. A four loom shop is the most common size. It is chiefly girls who are brought up to weaving now. Out of the 47 persons who brought in webs to my warehouse last Saturday, the usual day for the purpose, only eight were males. The numbers employed in weaving are far higher in winter. In March, only a month or so back, 177 persons brought in webs in one week. Weavers begin at the age of 12 or 14. There is never much work done on Monday, as the women are washing, &c. Men and women alike do not begin work in earnest till about Wednesday. Some work long days, begin at 6 or 7 a.m. and working till 10 or 11 p.m. On the average they earn about 8*s.* a-week. I have the warp ready wound for the weavers in mills worked by water power. There are several other manufacturers here, who, with this exception, carry on business in just the same way that I do.

84. *Mr. J. C. Mill*, surgeon.—I have been in practice here 30 years and have never noticed any direct physical bad effects arising to the young from hand-loom weaving, which is the regular employment of the place. Spinal disease is very rare, and I have not observed cases of sprains or distortion attributable to the employment. Any one, however, who has been a weaver all his days, soon becomes an old man from the want of proper air and out-door exercise.

The moral effects, however, are in my opinion very injurious, owing, not only to the promiscuous way in which the sexes work in the small shops, scarcely ever more than four together, but more particularly to the children becoming so early independent, as they do when, at the age of from 12 to 14, they begin to earn good wages and pay board to their parents. A young girl as soon as she has learned can make 7*s.* or 8*s.* a week; they then care nothing for the discipline of their home, if there is any, and this evil is becoming still worse. The proportion of men weavers is now small, they finding agriculture and other employments more healthy and profitable; but trade is very brisk, and the total number of persons emloyed in weaving here probably remains as large as it was.

I notice a very large proportion of idiots and cretins here. The only explanation of this at all satisfactory to my mind is the low moral state. Most cases are usually found where the character of parents is the lowest. The lower their character, the lower state of material comfort are they content with, and the more will they neglect their children. It is to these causes and the close connexion which exists between mind and body, that the prevalence of idiotcy and cretinism here must I think be referred. The people are not without education; all, I think, get some. Many must do so, *i.e.*, all who receive parochial relief, and here the proportion of illegitimate children, who are those who are most likely to need it, is unusually large.

KETTLE.

Kettle.

85. Kettle is a village in Fifeshire, a fine linen district.

Mr. Lawson's, Linen Manufacturer.

86. *Mr. D. Beveridge.*—I have been manager of this business for 20 years. With the exception perhaps of some of the fishing villages and places on the east coast, there is scarcely a village in Fifeshire but where hand-loom weaving of linen is carried on, but there is scarcely such a thing in the country as a hand-loom factory. In two or three places there may be shops of 20 or 30 looms, but they are not popular and are disappearing. The small houses are nearly all constructed for looms, so much so that one can scarcely be got that is not so. With scarcely an exception the looms are the weavers' own property, and even where the looms, being broad and expensive, have in the first instance therefore been bought by the manufacturer, the weavers prefer to buy them from him. We employ nearly 500 looms in the houses here alone, besides employing others by means of agents over the country for 10 miles or so round. Power loom factories are on the increase, but at the present time there is full employment for the hand-looms also. The difficulties of weaving linen by power-looms are constantly disappearing, and it is difficult to name any kind which could not be done by power, if wished. Where the web is very broad and the motion consequently slow, or where the material is very fine, there is not so much gain in using steam. It is merely a question of comparative economy.

This village is probably an exceptionally favourable specimen. The people have been kept in pretty regular employment under Mr. Lawson for 30 years, and we have always made it a point to have nothing to do with unsteady or drunken men. We have now a steady sober population who work pretty regularly, and for moderate hours, beginning at 6 a.m. or from that till 7, and rarely, I should say, working past 8 p.m., taking at least 2½ hours for meals. Owing, as we suppose, to the weavers here having had a good class of work and these settled habits, the population has kept up better than that of any other village in Fifeshire, having fallen, as near as I remember, only 5 per cent. in the 10 years before the last census, while others had fallen off considerably more, as 10 or 15 per cent. In the depression before the present good times men and women were being draughted off to other places and employments. It is seldom that any, except perhaps the eldest of a family, begin to weave under 12 years of age, and fewer young are brought up to it now. Another source of employment is winding the warp, which is given out by the manufacturer one day and brought back wound by the next. A woman with a family, say a couple of children, to help, can earn 1*s.* a day at this. Winding the weft is the weaver's look out, and is paid for by him.

Hand-loom Weaving and Hosiery.

Scotland.

Kettle.

Mr. J. E. White.

c.

87. *Alexander Dewar.*—My son, now 14, and I weave at these two looms in my house, and two daughters, one 16 the other 21, rent looms elsewhere. We generally work from 7 a.m. till 7 or 8 p.m. Some begin later and work till 9 or 9½ p.m.; we think that late here. Some begin at 5 a.m. or soon after. One of my daughters began at between 11 and 12, but very few begin under 12. After the first web or two, with a little help they can do the work quite well and sit as long as the others. Children wind; ower many of them, some when they ought to be at school. Some begin between 6 and 7 years old. With mine I said "Here is so much to do before you "go to school, and so much after you come back." It does not do to confine them too much.

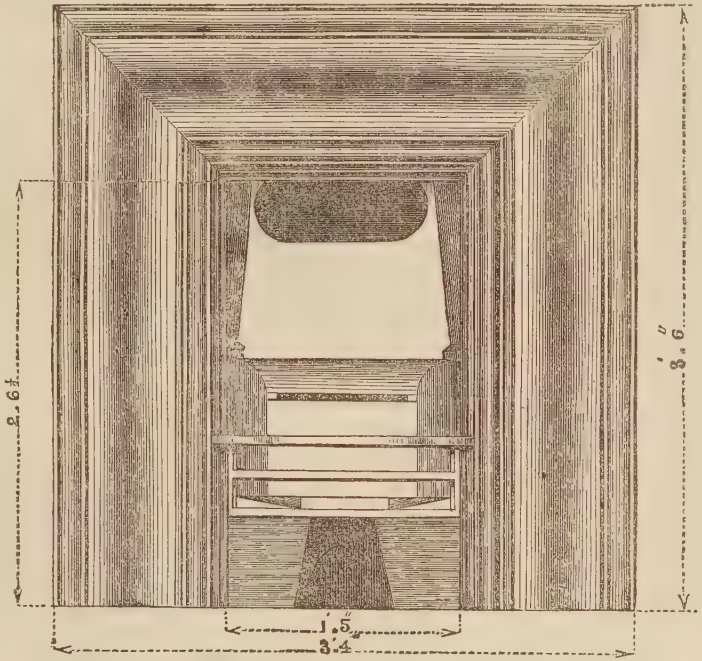
88. *Mrs. Mychie.*—I and my daughter aged 13 wind warp for a manufacturer. The doctor says that winding is bad for me as it confines me so, and does not let the meat disgest. Some feel it sair in the side. My daughter is not fit to do much, and has had to leave school for her health. Two other daughters, now grown up, weave from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. and are off a little while for meals. They are now at broad looms, 54 inches, what used to be thought too broad for women and were worked by men. The young men are all gone off to Edinburgh.

89. In Perth I was informed by Mr. Jamieson, whose clothing factory there I was visiting on my inquiry into that manufacture, that hand-loom weaving had greatly declined in the town, but that the usual system of small shops and long hours prevailed there, and I received the same account of Brechin from Mr. Robert Lamb, the son of a weaving manufacturer in that town. At Forfar, which is a weaving town, a like account was given to me in a casual way. I was informed also by Mr. Jamieson that he knew, from men who had gone from small shops into a hand-loom factory there, that they earned more in the latter with moderate and regular hours than they did in the former with their long and irregular hours. He also mentioned it as a matter of experience that men, who worked at regular employments, such as masons, &c., in summer and at the loom in winter, earned more than men who worked at the loom all the year round, simply from the former being from habit more regular in their hours.

VENTILATING STOVE.—ORDNANCE PATTERN.—*Referred to in* p. lxi.

Fig. 1.

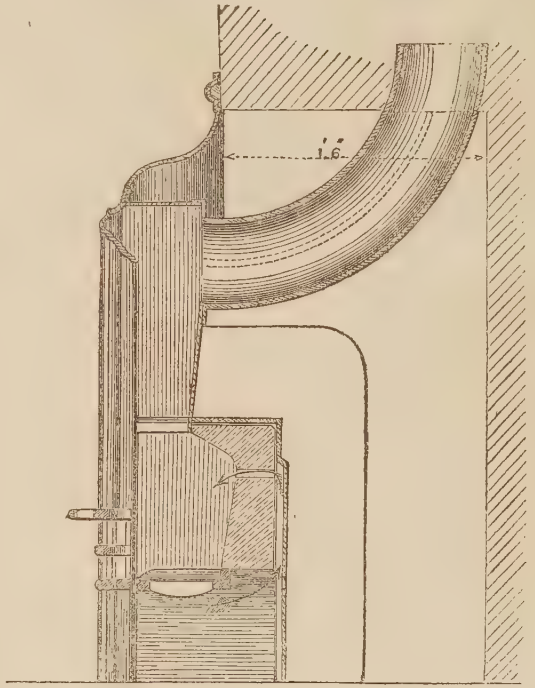
ELEVATION.



Width of Fire Opening, 1′ 3″.
Do. do. do. 1′ 5″.
Do. do. do, 1′ 9′.

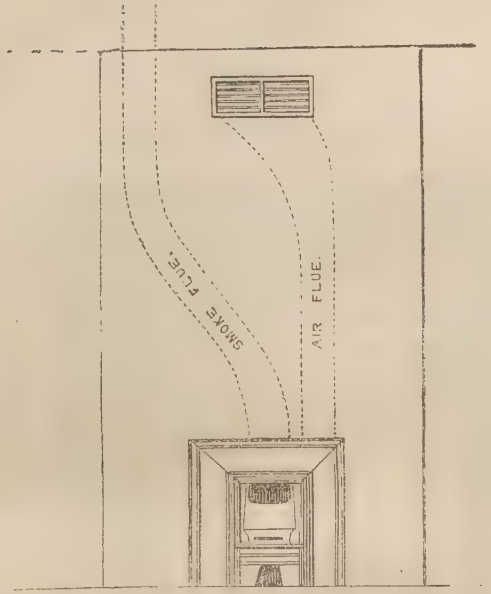
Sizes of Stoves, 3′ 2″ × 3′ 6″.
Do. do., 3′ 4″ × 3′ 6″.
Do. do., 3′ 8′ × 3 6″.

Fig. 2.



SCALE.

Fig. 1



Elevation of Chimney and Stove, showing the Flues.

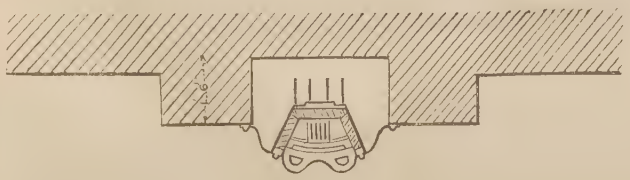
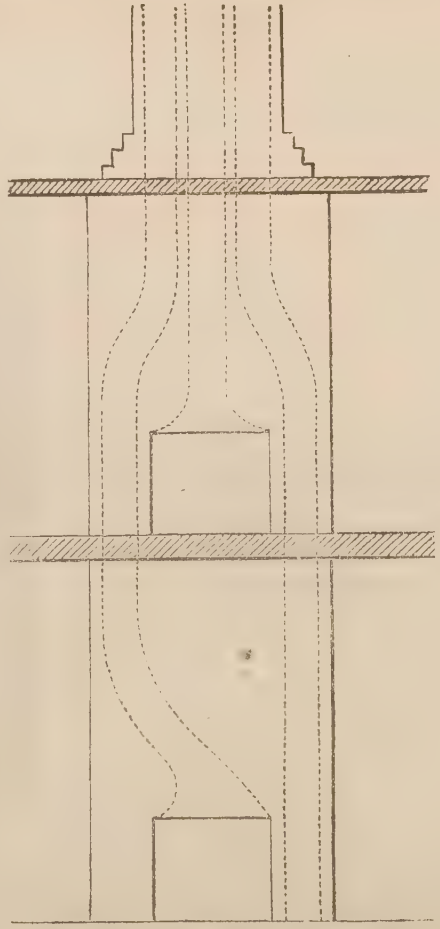
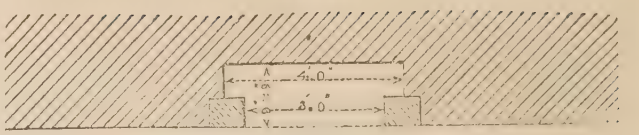


Fig. 5.



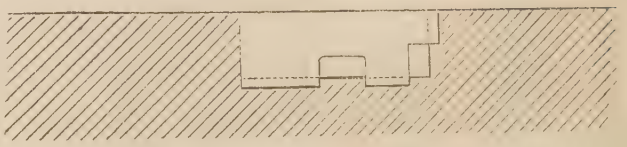
Elevation of a Chimney on a 2nd floor, showing the Flues.

Fig. 2.



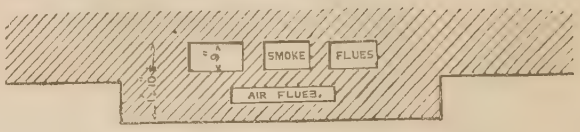
Plan, showing the method of forming the Air Chamber in an existing 4-feet Fire-place.

Fig. 3.



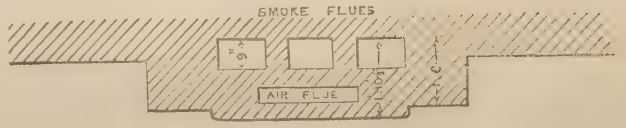
Plán of covering Stone for Air Chamber.

Fig. 6.



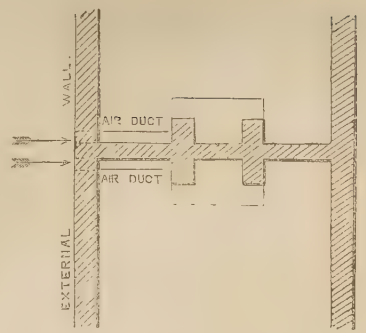
Plan of a Chimney, showing the Smoke and Air Flues.

Fig. 7.



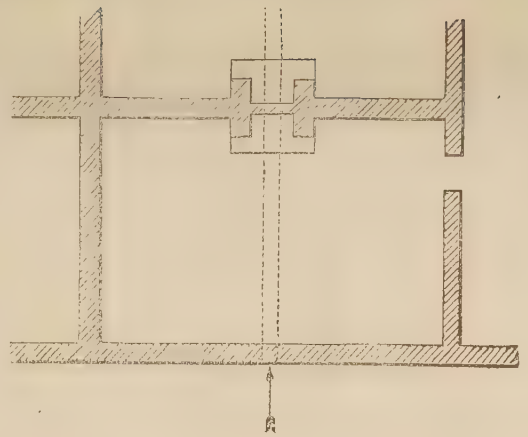
Plan of a Chimney, showing the Smoke and Air Flues.

Fig. 9.



Plan,
Showing Air Duct on the Floor.

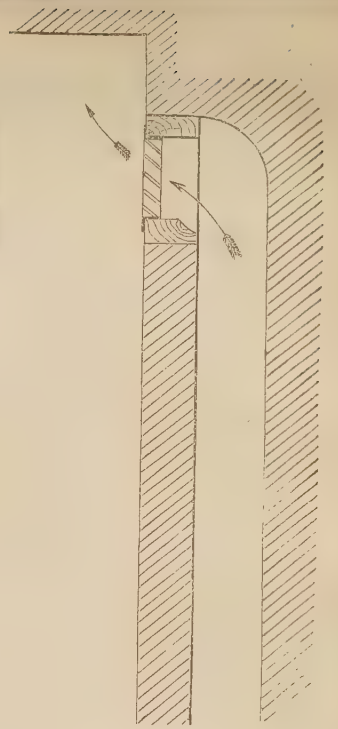
Fig. 11.



Plan,
Showing Air Duct under the Ceiling, or between the Joists.

Fig. 4.

Ventilator for Soldiers' Rooms.

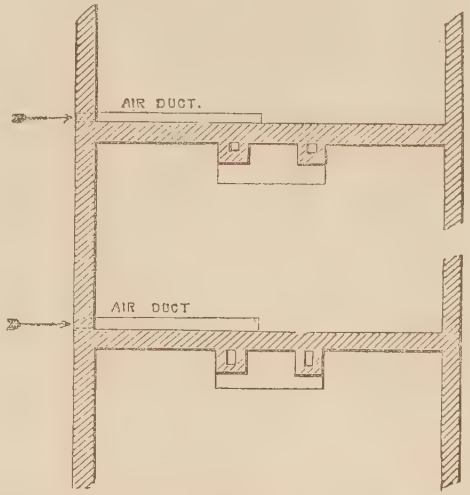


Elevation and Section of Louvred Frame.

Louvres No. 14 B.W.G.

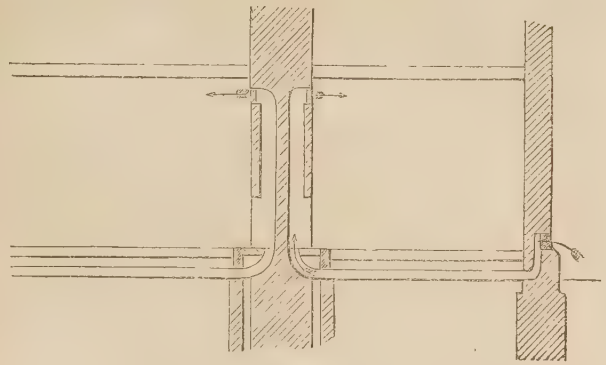
Ventilator for Officers' Rooms.

Fig. 12.



Plan,
Showing Air Duct in an adjoining room.
N.B.—It may be either on the floor or under the ceiling.

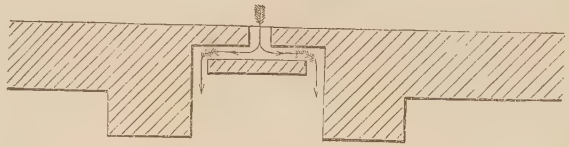
Fig. 10.



Section,
Showing Air Duct under the Floor.

Fig. 8.

External Wall.



Plan of an Air Chamber, showing the mode of admission of air through an external wall.

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For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

THIRD REPORT

OF

THE COMMISSIONERS.

WITH APPENDIX.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY GEORGE EDWARD EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1864.

[3414, I]

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THIRD REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS.

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

1. We, the Commissioners appointed by Your Majesty to inquire into the employment of children and young persons, in trades and manufactures not already regulated by law, humbly present to Your Majesty the Third Report of our proceedings in the execution of Your Majesty's Commission.

METAL MANUFACTURES OF SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE AND WORCESTERSHIRE, AND THE ADJOINING DISTRICTS.

The Iron Works of South Staffordshire and Worcestershire.
The Metal Manufactures of the Wolverhampton District.
The Metal Manufactures of the Birmingham District.

2. The iron and other hardware manufactures of South Staffordshire and Worcestershire, and the adjoining districts, have been the subject of several Parliamentary inquiries within the last 25 years. Previous inquiries in the same districts.

3. In May, 1841, Mr. Horne presented to the Children's Employment Commissioners a Report embracing a great variety of details, under 38 heads, and extending, with the evidence, to 177 folio pages. In August of the same year Dr. Mitchell reported to the same Commission upon the coal and iron smelting works of South Staffordshire and Shropshire, and on the state, condition, and treatment of children and young persons therein. His Report and evidence occupied 148 folio pages. From the year 1850 to the present time the Rev. J. P. Norris, Her Majesty's Inspector of Schools, has in his annual Reports entered very fully into the state of education of those districts, and the means of improving it; and has contributed very greatly by those Reports to cause such improvement in education as has taken place there within those years. Finally, in 1859 and 1860, minute and searching inquiries were made throughout those districts by Dr. Greenhow, under instructions from the Medical Officer of the Privy Council, into the causes of the great development of special diseases, and the great consequent mortality found in certain industrial occupations of the people. Dr. Greenhow's elaborate Reports were laid before Parliament in 1860 and 1861, in the 3rd and 4th Reports on Public Health of the Medical Officer of the Privy Council.

4. Under these circumstances, therefore, our Assistant Commissioner, Mr. Longe, in conducting his inquiries in the same districts in the summer and autumn of 1862, limited himself, in accordance with our general instructions (First Report, Appendix, p. 337) to recording a sufficient number of facts to "illustrate the existing state of each particular "occupation, without unnecessarily extending the inquiry;" and, in his Report upon the facts collected and upon what fell under his own observation, he has presented a brief but comprehensive summary, both of the principal and of the many miscellaneous trades of the district, together with estimates of the number of children and young persons employed, as far as his materials allowed, and various particulars relating to their ages and hours of work, the state of their places of work, the nature of their employment, and its influence on their condition, physical and intellectual. Mr. Longe's Report A. Appendix, p. 1, Evidence a. Appendix, p. 15.

5. As Mr. Longe's summary of these subjects in his Report scarcely admits of further condensation, we beg permission to refer to the general description in the Report itself of the nature of the various occupations mentioned in it.

6. We subjoin as much of the substance of his Report as is capable of being stated in a tabular form, or otherwise in a manner calculated to arrest the eye, and to be, therefore, more easily referred to. Tabular arrangement of the principal facts relating to the trades of the district.

7. The trades and manufactures of these districts fall naturally under three principal denominations:—

I. The blast furnaces, in which the iron is smelted.
II. The rolling mills and forges, in which the pig iron is converted into certain objects of manufacture, as plates, rails, rods, bars, wire, &c.
III. Miscellaneous metal trades.

8. The following are the principal facts regarding the numbers of the places of work,

METAL MANUFACTURES OF SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE, &c.

numbers of children and young persons and women employed, ages of children and young persons, nature of employment and state of places of work, &c., under the above heads.

Numbers employed, &c.

I. BLAST FURNACES.

Total number of blast furnaces in the Staffordshire and Worcestershire district	190
Total number in operation in September 1863	110
Average number of men at each furnace :—	
Day set	12
Night set	12
	24
Average number of persons, in some cases men, in others women and lads, employed *during the day* in preparing and carrying materials to each furnace	10 to 20
Employed at "box filling" *by night* as well as by day	Boys and youths from 11 to 15 years of age.
Total approximate number of women, youths, and boys under 13 employed at the blast furnaces of this district :—	
Women	200
Youths (from 13 to 18 years of age)	400
Boys under 13	200
	800

9. Of the 110 blast furnaces at work at the time of the inquiry, about 70 are worked on Sundays. About 40 are not worked on Sundays. Cost to masters of stopping furnace on Sundays, about 50*l.* annually. (Mr. Longe, A. § 12.)

II. MILLS AND FORGES.

Total mills and forges in operation in this district at the above period	100
Estimated number of youths employed	2,000
Estimated number of boys under 13	1,000
Total	3,000

NATURE OF WORK at which Youths and Boys are employed at the Mills and Forges, Ages and Hours of Work.

In connexion with what Branch.	Youths.	Age.	Boys.	Age.	Hours of Work.	Meal Times.
Puddlers	As underhand puddlers.	14 and upwards.	At refined iron works, where the work is light.	13 and upwards	Day set, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., night set, 6 p.m. to 6 a.m.	No fixed period.
Shinglers	-	-	As "staff carriers," 3 or 4 to each forge.	10 to 11	Day set and night set	1½ hours.
Rollers	In passing the red hot bars through the rolls, &c.	14 and upwards.	In rolling hoop iron, small rod, and wire iron.	9 and upwards. The majority of young boys are employed at this work.	Day set and night set. Great rapidity of movement required, and great amount of labour. These boys run 11 miles at each turn.	1½ hours.
At the plate and mill furnaces.	-	-	As "door drawers"	8 and upwards	Day set and night set	1½ hours.
Shearers	-	-	As "scrap carriers," in carrying and cutting up scrap-iron.	8 to 10	Query night.	—

None of the mills and forges are now worked on Sundays (Mr. Longe, § 32).

III. MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES of WOLVERHAMPTON DISTRICT carried on in Factories, large and small.

Classes. See Table. A § 36.	Denominations.	Approximate Number of Boys and Youths employed.	Ages of Boys and Youths employed.	Approximate Number of Females employed.	Ages of Female Children and young Persons.	Nature of Employment, and State of Places of Work.	Hours of Work, Meal Times, Overtimes, &c.
1	Foundries	Numerous	From 9 to 13 (A. 40)	A few in the manufacture of iron bedsteads (A. 41).	Girls from 13 and upwards and women (A. 41).	The atmosphere of the casting shops is hot, and loaded with dust and vapour (A. 66).	Boys employed by rivetters, the only large class liable to be worked during the night (A. 108).
						Many women and girls subject to hot atmosphere of stove rooms (A. 70).	Meal-times little observed in casting shops (A. 110).

See Classes. A. § 36. Table.	Denominations.	Approximate Number of Boys and Youths employed.	Ages of Boys and Youths employed.	Approximate Number of Females employed.	Ages of Female Children and young Persons.	Nature of Employment, and State of Places of Work.	Hours of Work, Meal Times, Overtimes, &c.
2	Chain works	Numerous. In the 4 largest, 200.	From 8 to 15.	A few -	10 and upwards.	Very laborious (A. 71). Each chain maker has two or three boys to help him. Often little girls instead of boys in small shops. Small masters "the bane of the district" (A. 72).	In the large chain works the hours are from 6 to 6, and are regularly observed. In the small chain shops, little blowers often work 13 or 14 hours (A. 113).
3	Brass casters	Numerous -	10 to 16 -	- - -	- - -	Very unhealthy work; shops small (A. 73).	Hours from 7 or 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Overtime, "very little resorted "to" (A. 114).
4	Tube works	A large number.	13 to 18. A few from 7 to 8.	- - -	- - -	Work in the forging shops where all the younger boys are employed, "very laborious and hot" (A. 77).	Overtime very prevalent, up to 8, 9, or 10 p.m. from 6 a.m. (A. 115).
5	Tin plate, papiermâché, japan work.	- - -	9 to 18 -	About 50 -	10 to 13 -	1. Manufacturing Department.—Women and girls employed in making papier mâché. 2. Japanning and finishing.—Principally women and girls employed in stove rooms. Temperature very high (A. 84).	Overtime occasional in small factories, up to 9 and 11 p.m.
6	Cut nails, washers, shoe tips, screws, and screw bolts.	Numerous -	8 to 13 -	About 1,500	12 to 18 -	Shops; some large and airy, others small and crowded. The "feeders" to the machines are chiefly women and girls (A. 54). Washers (flat iron rings) are made by women and girls. In screw-bolt forging, boys employed to blow the bellows. The younger girls at "nicking;" women and girls at the "screw-making."	In the screw factories at Darlestone, overtime common to 8 or 8½ p.m., on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. On Monday work ceases at 5, on Saturdays at 6 p.m.
7	Lock and key manufactories, gun-locks, &c.	Numerous - Apprentices in Willenhall, 255.	11 to 18 -	- - -	- - -	All employments healthy except grinding and polishing (A. 94). Many shops of "small "masters well built and "well ventilated; others "small and dirty, and "badly ventilated; and "the atmosphere loaded "with powder and dust" (A. 95).	Customary hours very long. Regular hours from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. In Willenhall, work ceases at 5 on Saturday. Some work 16 to 18 hours a day, and on Friday "sometimes through "the whole night" (A. 118, A. 120).
8 9 10 11	Very small businesses, and very few persons employed.	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	At the forges common to many of the above works, large and small.	About 1,000 at "bellows blowing."	8 to 13 -	Some in the small factories.	8 to 13 -	- - - -	Overtime with the men.

10. In two only out of the three great divisions of the trade of these districts—the blast furnaces and the mills and forges,—Mr. Longe was able to arrive, by personal inquiry, at an estimate of the numbers of children, young persons, and women employed. There were, as appears by the above tables, employed in the blast furnaces, 800, in the mills and forges, 3,000; total, 3,800. Numbers of children, young persons, and women employed.

11. The Miscellaneous Metal trades of the Wolverhampton district are, for the most part, carried on by "small masters." Very few of our tabular forms sent by Mr. Longe to the employers in this branch were returned filled up. He is only able, therefore, to specify numbers in a few instances, amounting in the whole to about 3,000.

12. With regard to the rest of the employments, in which he is unable to specify any numbers, he confines himself to the general statement, that the children and young persons employed are numerous.

13. The returns of the Census of 1861 permit a close approximation to the exact numbers; but the classification of the trades adopted by Mr. Longe for the purposes of this inquiry being, of necessity, different from those of the Census, we are unable to

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assign the numbers exactly according to the table made out above from the statements of Mr. Longe's Report. We have, however, arranged the trades and the corresponding figures of the Census so as to bring them as nearly as possible into correspondence with those of the Report, and to permit of a statement of totals in the branches of trade specified. It is to be observed that North Staffordshire is included.

Persons under 20 Years of Age employed in the Iron and Hardware Trades of Staffordshire and Worcestershire, according to Abstract of Census of 1861.

	Staffordshire.		Worcestershire.		Totals.
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	
Iron manufacture	6,180	98	1,376	25	7,679
Chains, anchors	489	250	219	61	1,019
Others	1,588	61	103	66	1,818
Nails	806	2,194	1,467	1,548	6,015
Locksmiths	898	76	9	—	983
Others	202	—	—	—	202
	10,163	2,679	3,174	1,700	17,716
Brass-founders	388	—	135	67	—
Others	—	—	48	—	—
Tin-plate workers	148	—	20	26	—
Others	147	32	57	—	—
Japanners	110	266	1	5	—
	793	298	261	98	1,450
	10,956	2,977	3,435	1,798	19,166

Total	19,166
Deduct one-tenth for males between 18 and 20	1,439
Total presumed number who would come under the Factory Acts in these two counties	17,729

Ages of children and young persons.

14. In the blast furnaces and in the mills and forges, Mr. Longe's estimate is that the number of boys employed under 13 is 1,200, at ages varying from 8 upwards; of youths employed, 2,400; and of women, 200. The ages of children in the miscellaneous trades vary between 8, 9, and 10, up to 13; large numbers being employed during the earlier ages, many of whom are females; a few boys being employed under the age of 8 (a. Nos. 11, 46, 49).

Peculiar features of their employment. Night sets and overtime prevalent.

15. The peculiarity of the employment of many of these children and young persons and women is that, in the blast furnaces and in the mills and forges, large numbers of children and youths are employed in night-sets between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m., and that in the miscellaneous trades overtime is very common, a great number of children, young persons, and women working the same long hours as the men, from 6 or 7 a.m. to 9, 10, and 11 p.m.; among them, "little girls are often kept at bellows-blowing (very hard "work for children) 14 hours a day" (a. No. 46); the work on Saturday afternoons being in but few cases abridged (work in those cases ending at 2, 4, or 5 o'clock); and the work towards the end of the week being generally much increased in duration, in consequence of the habit of the men of idling on Mondays and occasionally during a part or the whole of Tuesdays also (a. Nos. 11, 19, 105, 121, 126, 137, 140, 143, 148, 149, 152, 153, 155, 157, 167, 170).

Effect of, on education.

16. The employment habitually of so many young children in night-sets, and of so many others frequently during two or three or more hours of overtime, may be naturally expected to have a very marked influence on their state of education. Accordingly, notwithstanding the progress in that respect which has been made in the district within the last 20 years, a large proportion of the children are still found to be unaffected by it.

17. The efforts that have been made to promote elementary education among the populations engaged in the staple trades and manufactures of Staffordshire and the adjoining districts are well known through Mr. Norris's Reports. Nevertheless, in his Report of 1861 (p. 83), he is only able to say that one-third of the children in the "annual grant" schools of his district are able to "read fairly well what they are "accustomed to read, and that about one in 12 can read whatever is put before them." And in his Report for 1863–4, Mr. Norris states that the schools in the mining and manufacturing districts of North and South Staffordshire lose their children at an earlier age than those of any other part of England with which he is acquainted. Kent, he states, "is on a level with the rest of England." In that county, 30 per cent. of the children in the inspected schools are 10 years old and upwards, whereas, in Staffordshire, only 25 per cent. are above 10 years of age.

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18. Of those who leave school under that age, it may be confidently said, in the words of Mr. Norris (Report for 1859, p. 109), that "no very lasting impression can be made "on the mind or habits of a child 10 years of age;" still less upon those who leave it under that age. The number of those found at work by Mr. Longe under that age may be taken as a measure of the smallness of the effect produced by the provision for education in reference to that portion of the population. Large numbers, as may be seen by reference to the above tables, were found to go to work at many of the occupations of the district under that age; and of those found at work and examined by Mr. Longe, although it included those up to the age of 14, Mr. Longe says (A. § 141), that "not "much more than one-half were able to read." Many boys told him they had been good scholars, but had quite forgotten all they had learnt. And Mr. Longe's conclusion upon this subject (§ 143) is "that many of the boys now at work have never been to "school at all, while a large portion of those who have been to school previously to "beginning work lose, after a few months, almost all the knowledge they have acquired, "owing to the absence of any sufficient provision for continuing their education."

Effect of night-work, overtime, &c. on health.

19. Night-work and overtime, together with the nature of some of their employments, cannot fail to have also a serious effect on the health of the young. The amount of injury from hard labour and overwork at too early an age may not be always or even often apparent (a. 190) or directly attributable to the nature of their work; but certain kinds of employment in the district are unquestionably injurious, such as enamelling, galvanizing, and japanning (a. 181); and where the places of work are crowded and ill-ventilated, as is so often the case, many of the other employments become injurious (*ibid.*). It may be true that, in connexion with some kinds of work, the more robust among the children grow up to be strong and healthy young men (a. 187); but it is not the less true that in others it is not so. "The boys who go into the foundries "and such low-class labour . . . go to work at much too early an age, and are worked "beyond their strength. And the children who work at home" (in the various species of domestic manufacture carried on in the district) "are also injured by too early work; "they are dwarfed" (a. 188). "In the foundries they work from 7 years of age and "upwards" (a. 200). The witness states that he knows that parents in many cases work their children at too early an age or for too many hours; and he gives an instance of an engineer at a foundry, which he names, who was in the receipt of "30*s*. "a week regular wages." This man, he states, "contracts with his master to black "the hurdles which are made in the foundry, and other heavy iron work. He employs "his own boys to do it. The father has worked these boys from 4 in the morning to "12 at night, and then had them at work again at 4 o'clock the next morning. He "did this for two or three weeks together last summer, when they were getting up an "American order. The other men called shame upon him. I have heard them "reproach him for working his boys. I live close to the foundry" (a. 200). This may be an extreme case, but the evidence shows amply that overwork is frequent in many of the staple manufactures of the district up to 8, 9, or 10 o'clock, and occasionally to a later hour (a. 103, 105, 148, 149, 151, 155). "We sometimes begin to "work at 4 o'clock in the morning on Saturdays and work to 6 in the evening. We "have worked all night on Friday, but then we have left off at 11 on Saturday ". . . I was 13 when I was first apprenticed" (a. 143). "The little masters gene-"rally have very irregular hours. They lose two or three days, and then work all "night to make it up . . . They always employ their own children, if they have any" (a. 121).

20. It scarcely requires medical testimony to show that such hours of work are injurious to the health of the young, or that the system of night-sets, by which, at the blast furnaces and at the mills and forges, the 1,200 boys under 13, and the 2,400 youths between 13 and 18 "work through the nights of every alternate week" (Mr. Longe, A. § 32), has the effect of undermining the health and strength, and materially abridging the years of active and vigorous manhood.

Dr. Greenhow's report.

21. Such testimony, however, is fully given in the Report of Dr. Greenhow, above adverted to (§ 3).

22. The circumstances which led to Dr. Greenhow's investigations require in this place to be specially adverted to, as they are of importance in regard to the sanitary branch of our inquiries, not only in reference to the district now under review, but to all the others with which we shall have to deal.

23. In obedience to the Public Health Act, 1858 (Third Report, p. 29), the Medical Officer of the Privy Council is empowered, among other duties, to institute annual "local inquiries relative to the prevalence and prevention of disease." (Public Health, First Report of the Medical Officer of the Privy Council, 1858, p. 10.)

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24. The necessity of these local inquiries had been pointed out by Mr. Simon in his "Last Report to the late General Board of Health," in which he observed, that *certain "districts which, among them, make up fully half of our annual mortality, are fatal "in widely different degrees in different districts of England;"* (*Ibid.* p. 11.) the most prevalent and fatal diseases being "diarrhœal diseases," "fever diseases," which are the most common causes of infantine mortality, and "lung diseases." As regards lung diseases, from which "grown-up men and women die in some districts three times, four "times, even six times as abundantly as in other districts," it seemed certain that "this "great development in particular districts *has essentially to do with the industrial "relations of the people*" (Third Report of the Medical Officer of the Privy Council, 1860, p. 30). And in analyzing the statistics of lung diseases, it was found that "in "proportion as the male and female populations are severally attracted to in-door "branches of industry, other things being equal, their respective death-rate by lung "disease increased."

25. It is pointed out that "*deficient ventilation, sedentary occupations, and want of "active bodily exercise, and a listless and dejected state of mind*," common to the operatives in many in-door occupations, very probably produce upon them the same effects as similar causes were shown 17 years ago by the late Dr. Baly to produce on prisoners confined in ill-regulated prisons.

26. "Taking, for instance, the case of girls and women who from childhood onwards sit ten hours a day or more, often in constrained postures, weaving or knitting at looms and stocking frames, or plaiting straw, or stitching gloves, or lace making. This life, at its best, has to a great extent the evils of monotony, of deficient bodily exercise, of physical seclusion from sun and air, and of mental privation from what is beautiful and animating in external nature, . . . very probably resulting in 'a heightened liability to tubercular disease.'"

27. "Where an industrial system is bad, either in excessive length of daily work or in the overcrowdedness and non-ventilation of places of work, these evils may be vastly developed. *Their maximum may be expected to prevail in places where an over-taxed population does its work in ill-ventilated factories and cottages.*" (*Ibid.* pp. 31, 32.)

28. Whether the excess of lung disease "prevailing in our great centres of manufacture" was in any practical sense preventable was an important subject of inquiry, as, should it appear "that the production of disease in each phthisis-breeding employment "depends in great part on *sanitary faults*, which might be eliminated from the employment (on defective ventilation, for instance, or other like influences), then at once "the way would be opened to an improved economy of life in many chief branches "of popular industry." (*Ibid.* p. 32.)

29. Accordingly local inquiries were made by Dr. Greenhow, under the direction of the Medical Officer of the Privy Council, in 1859 and in 1860.

30. "Conspicuous among the districts suffering from lung disease stood places which are the chief seats of metal mining, of *metal manufacture*, and of pottery manufacture." (*Ibid.* p. 33.)

31. The latter has been disposed of in the Act passed during the present Session of Parliament for the Extension of the Factory Acts.

32. Of the districts in which metal manufactures prevailed, the first taken in hand by Dr. Greenhow were those of Bromsgrove and Alcester, in Worcestershire, and that of Sheffield, in 1859, under the name of cutlery districts. These will be adverted to more particularly in a subsequent Report.

33. The second examination of metal manufacturing districts by Dr. Greenhow took place in 1860, and included Birmingham and Aston, and the registration district of Wolverhampton, comprising the towns of Wolverhampton, Bilston, and Willenhall.

34. Birmingham and Aston, and the adjoining district to Dudley and Stourbridge, form the subject of Mr. White's Report, the consideration of which will follow the one now under review. Wolverhampton, Bilston, and Willenhall embrace a large portion of the area comprised in Mr. Longe's Report, with the facts of which we are now dealing. Over the rest of the area of Mr. Longe's district, including Tipton, Darlaston, Wednesbury, &c., (A. § 1.) there is "a general similarity of character" in all the works and work-shops to those in the Wolverhampton portion of the district, and in a sanitary point of view the conditions under which the miscellaneous manufactures are carried on are nearly the same (A. 64).

35. Dr. Greenhow in his inquiry in regard to the Wolverhampton district, given in the Fourth Report of the Medical Officer of the Privy Council, 1861, p. 150–154, arrives at a conclusion amply confirmatory of the general inferences above mentioned (§§ 25–30), namely that "the rate of mortality from pulmonary diseases in Wolver-

hampton, both "in adults and in persons of all ages and either sex, is considerably "above the standard rate; an excess which, as regards the adult mortality at least, may "with perfect truth be *largely attributed to circumstances connected with the individual "occupations of the inhabitants*" (p. 151). Metal Manufactures of South Staffordshire, &c.

36. The actual excess above the standard rate would also have been even greater but for the fact that the registration district of Wolverhampton comprises the Seisdon Union, "a large and healthy rural district, containing about one-seventh of the population; ". . . a circumstance which tends doubtless to lessen the rate of mortality in the "whole district." (*Ibid.*)

37. Descending to the particular occupations of the district, Dr. Greenhow remarks of the great iron works where the iron is smelted and cast into "pigs," or manufactured into plates, rods, bars, and other large articles, that these works are "generally sur- "rounded by much dense heavy smoke, which renders the air very impure, and a "most unpleasant suffocating exhalation arises from the scraps of incinerating iron "ore near the blast furnaces" (p. 152). These are the only circumstances in the manufacture which appear likely to produce pulmonary disease; . . . "but the opera- "tives, especially the puddlers, are exposed to intense heat." "The puddlers are said "to be not unhealthy, but to become prematurely worn out by reason of hard work." (*Ibid.*) Sources of ill-health in the larger iron works.

38. In the foundries and factories other sources of disease exist. "In some of the "*casting shops* the men are exposed to the danger of inhaling dust arising from the "sand and powdered charcoal used in making moulds for casting." . . "Many boys "work in these casting shops; they commence work as early as from 8 to 10 years of "age." . . "Iron casters report that they generally enjoy good health, but that they "break down rather early in life." But "notwithstanding the assertion that they are "a healthy class of operatives, it was clearly established, in the course of the inquiry, "that the iron casters are subject to morning cough and expectoration." (*Ibid.*) In the foundries, &c.

39. The dust given off in the processes of turning iron articles, of enamelling them, of grinding edge tools, and polishing locks, keys, &c., is noticed as a cause of pulmonary disease, unless proper precautions are adopted (pp. 152, 153). The making iron hollow-ware articles, grinding edge tools, polishing locks.

40. The brass casters who employ boys and youths between 11 and 16 years of age as assistants, suffer, according to Dr. Greenhow (p. 154), "much more generally from "chronic pulmonary disease than iron founders." The cause being, the dust thrown off in preparing the moulds, and the fumes of the oxide of zinc. (Mr. Longe, A. § 74.) In brass finishing.

41. The state of the work rooms is also such as to encourage disease by insufficiency of cubic space, or methods of ventilation unsuitable to the requirements of the work people (p. 154). State of the work-rooms.

42. That the system of night-sets in the blast furnaces and in the mills and forges, the frequent overtime in the foundries and other miscellaneous occupations of the district, and the state of many of the places of work, are causes of injury to the health of the young employed in such great numbers, and occasion material obstruction to them in regard to their education, has been amply shown by the above review of the evidence upon these respective subjects; and the conclusion plainly suggested by the facts is, that so far as it would be practicable to apply remedies by legislation it would be desirable to do so. The nature and extent of any legislative interposition will be more properly considered when the remaining portion of the great seat of the metal manufacture of South Staffordshire and Worcestershire—that comprising Birmingham and the adjoining district—has been presented to view. Legislative interference desirable.

THE METAL MANUFACTURES OF THE BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT.

Metal Manufactures of the Birmingham District.

43. Mr. White's Report upon the metal manufactures of the Birmingham district (B. Appendix, p. 51), and the evidence upon which it is founded (b. Appendix, p. 64) is elaborate and comprehensive, and will be found to be of great interest. Mr. White's Report on Birmingham and the adjoining district.

44. The district examined by Mr. White includes the town and immediate neighbourhood of Birmingham, and extends to Dudley and Stourbridge towards the west, a distance of about 14 miles, comprising also a scattered village population towards the south. Mr. White excepted the iron works from his inquiry, as they were most easily dealt with by Mr. Longe, in whose district the great mass of these works are congregated. "The "entire population of the district is probably about 500,000." (B. § 1.) Extent of Mr. White's district.

45. The manufactures are so various that it is difficult to classify them, either by the processes used, the articles produced, or their respective importance. Some idea may be formed of their numbers, from the fact that in 1841 there were in Birmingham alone

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"97 trades not common to all large towns, and 2,100 firms in those trades." The number of both has since greatly increased, the population of Birmingham having grown from 183,000 in 1841 to 310,000 in 1861, the suburbs included.

Increase of large factories and of employers.

46. The number and size of large factories has grown within that period, and it is "probable that the number of employers of all kinds, small as well as large, has increased "also."

47. Under these circumstances Mr. White was compelled to confine himself to giving specimens "of some of the occupations which seem more particularly deserving of notice, "and which were selected with the view of giving a fair representation of all the employ-"ments." (§ 3.)

48. Some of the most important manufactures of the town and district are,—

Glass.	Electro-plate.	Steel pens.
Brass and other metal foundries.	Metallic bedsteads.	Tools.
Guns, military and sporting.	Buttons and kindred articles, as hooks and eyes, pins, eyelets, &c.	Cut and wrought nails.
Jewellery.		Screws.
		Bricks.

49. Of these, the most important, in reference to the numbers of the young employed in them, or at least in large bodies together, are (B. § 4),—

Brass foundry, employing boys in large numbers.
Buttons, &c. „ girls „

Distribution of the young in places of work.

50. Large numbers of the young are also "employed together in some portions of "other trades."

51. The mass are "scattered in small numbers in different parts of the same premises, "or in different premises," both in the trades above mentioned, and in others which it would serve no useful purpose to particularise. (*Ibid.*)

52. The only approach to classification which Mr. White found practicable is in,—

1, the heavier metal manufactures; 2, the lighter and miscellaneous trades.

Glass and bricks to be reported on separately.

53. The portion of Mr. White's Report referring to the glass manufacture is not included in this Report, but will be noticed when the inquiry into the rest of the glass manufactures of the kingdom is completed. Brick works (b. 677–691) will also be noticed separately.

Age of children at work.

54. Of the age at which children are employed, Mr. White states (B. § 8), that one or two spoke to him of having begun work at 5, several at 6, at which age he found "but very few" in regular factories. "Several employments are entered at 7, and work "becomes very general" at 9 or 10 (b. 269, 308, 410, 487, 577, 669, 671). An apparently careful estimate (B. § 8) gives about 2,000 children at work under 10 years of age in Birmingham alone, of whom Mr. White appears to think that about one-fourth may be under 8 years of age.

Number of children young persons, and women employed.

55. Mr. White shows (B. § 9) that only an approximate estimate of the total number of children, young persons, and women employed in the general hardware and other manufactures of Birmingham is possible, and must be formed by the aid of the population returns, with "such additional guides" as are furnished by his own inquiries.

56. Excepting, therefore, glass (as above mentioned), the result arrived at is that there were engaged in the staple manufactures and occupations of the place, according to the census of 1861, in round numbers,—

Under 20 Years of Age.		Above 20 engaged in like Pursuits.
Males.	Females.	Females.
13,000	6,500	8,000
19,500		

57. To these may be added about 10,000 more children and young persons throughout the entire district assigned to Mr. White's inquiry (B. § 11), making together nearly 30,000. In addition to these there would be employed as above, in the entire district, at least 10,000 women; in all,—deducting a portion for males between 18 and 20,—nearly 40,000 persons who would come within the principles of the Factory Act, should it

be found expedient and possible to apply them, or any modification of them, to Birmingham and the surrounding districts. Metal Manufactures of the Birmingham District.

58. The following table, compiled from Mr. White's own inquiries, and expressed "in round and approximate numbers only," confirms the fact above adverted to by Mr. White, in pointing out a few principal trades in Birmingham "as those in which the "greater part of the young are engaged." It will be also observed that his estimated number (18,460) of males and females under 20 years of age engaged in those trades in Birmingham differs but slightly from the number (19,500) arrived at by aid of the population returns.

Occupations.	Males under 20 Years.	Females under 20 Years.	Totals.
Brass-founding	2,380	—	3,360
Lacquering and pens	—	980	
Others, including wire, gas-fittings, &c.	1,650	—	1,650
Buttons	550	1,300	1,850
			6,860
Jewellers	1,500	800	2,300
Guns	1,750	—	1,750
Iron, screws, &c.	1,650	680	2,330
Machines and tools	1,050	—	1,050
Steel pens	—	530	530
Plate	510	—	730
Tin	220		
Errands	1,080	—	1,820
Warehouses	740		
Millinery, &c.	—	1,090	1,090
	13,080	5,380	18,480

59. The greater number of the children, and many of the young persons, are hired, "not by the principals, but by the adult piece-workers," a practice "very much to the "prejudice" of the children and young persons so employed (B. § 13). Mode of hiring.

60. The "domestic nailers" work on their parents' or their own account.

61. Although in Birmingham the *stated* hours of *work* are short, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., the actual hours worked during the week vary considerably from the acknowledged standard. In Birmingham, and more or less throughout the district, an enormous amount of time is lost, not only by want of punctuality in coming to work in the morning and beginning again after meals, but still more by the general observance of "*Saint Monday*;" a licence which is often extended to a part of Tuesday also (B. §§ 50, 52, 53, b. 125, 159, 392, 426, 613). Individual efforts are, as a rule, powerless to abolish this wasteful and injurious habit. In the "domestic nail manufacture," in which parents employ their own children, this irregular mode of work is habitual. Many of the men "work all hours;" *i.e.*, "idling part of the time and slaving the rest," . . . their labour being bounded only by the limits of physical endurance; *e.g.*, till a man "can hardly reach up to the door "or put one leg before the other" (b. 671). Their children share with them, as far as their physical powers endure, in the exhausting labour. "Some nailers begin at 5 "and 6 o'clock in the morning and work till 10 or 11 at night. We, *i.e.*, my daughter, "between 16 and 17, and I, are only two poor weakly creatures, and don't work longer "than from 7 in the morning till 10 and 11 at night most of the week through. It's "always nearer 11 than 10. I reckon to have about half an hour to breakfast, an hour "or an hour and a half to dinner, and an hour to tea, because there's the children to "be 'fettled;' but her (the daughter) sometimes begins sooner. When our little boy "worked with us, he always worked as long as I did. He began when he was 11, "and could work well by when he was 13. There is many a score put to work at "6 or 7 years old, if they have a father in the shop and can 'act pretty gain'" (b. 669). Hours of work. Night work.

62. A remarkable incident in illustration of this point is mentioned by Mr. White, b. 793:—

"While I was in a cottage where I found a boy with a bare foot bandaged up, caused by a burn in a spade factory, a sound of many voices singing swelled gradually near, and the boy, limping on his stick to the door, cried 'Oh mother, there's the nailers coming, many a thousand of them,' and there passed by a crowd of several hundred men, women, and children, singing a hymn, of which two lines, contrasting strangely with their look and errand, were,—

'And not a wave of trouble roll
Across my peaceful breast.'

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They were coming from the villages near Dudley to hold a meeting in Hales Owen, to see if they could 'get out' the nailers, who 'were working' against them there; their strike having already lasted 11 weeks. 'It's heart-breaking work,' said the woman. Amongst the many children in the crowd were two little boys, apparently 6 years old, or not much more, dragged along by the hand by a woman, probably their mother, footsore and lame from their march. To see such infants made to take part in a strike, and march miles to swell a meeting, to spread it, was a sight which gave but a poor idea of the consideration which they are likely to meet with in their work at home."

63. It has been already remarked that although in some of the manufactures of the district the *stated* hours of work are "scarcely ever exceeded," and in others not beyond 8 or 9 p.m., yet an excess to this extent is by no means uncommon for the young of both sexes. Cases, also, of far longer hours, "not isolated or accidental, but systematic "and long-continued, are shown to exist, amounting, in an extreme instance, to work "by two boys regularly for *six days* and *three nights* weekly for *six* months, with no "stoppages for sleep except what could be got in meal times. Other instances of "systematic night work in addition to the ordinary amount of day work are given "(b. 97, 98, 99, 116, 160, 162, 172, 207, 256, 381, 404, 411, 469, 478, 523, 553, 568.) "The trade in which there is said to be the greatest fluctuation of demand is naturally "gun and sword work; the latter, however, forming now but a small trade in Birmingham. "Some of the instances of longest night-work of *boys* or *girls* were found in—

Gun and sword making.	Iron works.	Painting.
Metal rolling.	Tinplate working.	Screw making."
Edge tool making.	Brass foundry.	(B. § 54.)

Overtime not profitable.

64. It is particularly satisfactory to find that so many of the witnesses referred to above express a conviction which now appears to be very general, that the employer loses more than he gains by calling upon his men to work overtime; that, in the words of one of the witnesses, "If over-work lasts only for a short time, 20 per cent. increase of hours' "labour gives about 10 per cent. increase of result in production. If overtime is "continued for any length of time it gives no increase of result at all." (b. 49.)

Meal times and holidays.

65. The facts mentioned by Mr. White in regard to meal times and holidays show that legislative regulation is requisite if the proper hours and times for both are in all cases to be secured to the young in this district. (B. §§ 57, 58, 95, 96, b. 197, 361, 411, 426, 451, 563, 568, 602.) It is clearly shown, in reference to the Saturday half-holiday in particular, that the people are "fresher and better for it, and improved "morally and physically."

Accidents.

66. There can be no doubt that long hours of work, and especially night-work, increase, in the case of the young, their liability to accidents from machinery. "Sleepiness "from overwork increases the liability to accidents." (B. 64.) "The best safeguard "against such accidents must in many cases be in persons not being engaged in the "dangerous parts of the work at all until they have age and experience to command "sufficient care and attention, or for a longer time than they can effectually keep up "that attention." (B. 63.) But prevention, by fencing dangerous machinery, and by the use of safeguards and other appliances where no fencing is possible, are clearly shown to be urgently required (B. 60, 63).

67. "The principal sources of serious danger are shafts and bands used for turning "lathes and wheels, especially in *screw* factories, in which by far the greater proportion "employed are females. A woman lately killed in a screw factory from being entangled "in the shaft, had been caught in the same way at least four times, and in another "factory of the same kind three females were thus entangled in one day."

68. "The same sources of danger exist in *button and other factories* in which lathes, "wheels, drills, &c., are used for turning, grinding, boring, and polishing materials of "various kinds" (B. 60); and to a great extent also from stamps and presses (B. 61, b. 42, 113, 199, 264, 268, 272, 358, 380, 467, 477, 629.)

State of places of work.

69. The general state of the places of work, in a sanitary point of view, is such as to demand serious attention. Although many employers, whose means and circumstances permit it, "have built or procured places which are everything that could be desired for "the health and comfort of their workpeople" (B. § 16), yet "many work-places, "including some of the establishments of the highest standing in Birmingham, are in "one or more parts very deficient in space, ventilation, light, and, perhaps in con-"sequence of this, cleanliness;" and "in some of the larger old work-places, as some "kinds of button manufactories, the rooms are low and ill-arranged, and the crowding "is extreme, being reduced almost to the minimum of possible sitting space" (B. § 60).

70. Also, in some employments, "which, from their peculiar nature, are in themselves "noxious, or at least not healthy, such as brass casting, lacquering, turning, water

"gilding, and dusty works, and in which therefore space, ventilation, and sanitary "precautions are especially necessary, they are, with some exceptions, scarcely at all, or "very imperfectly, provided for, even in the largest, best conducted establishments." (B. § 20.) Metal Manufactures of the Birmingham District.

71. These facts sufficiently indicate the general features of this part of the subject; but the more detailed account given by Mr. White under this head, and that of the influence of these employments upon the physical condition of the workpeople, together with the evidence which he refers to, are well deserving of attentive perusal (B. 68, 69, 70, 76, 79, b. 20, 23, 24, 43, 196, 204, 265, 316, 497, 555, 632, 729, 752); and he is amply confirmed in his observations, and in the inferences to be drawn from them, by the portion of the Report of Dr. Greenhow referring to the same localities.

72. In his Report upon Birmingham and Aston (preceding that before mentioned relative to Wolverhampton) (4th Report of the Medical Officer of Health to the Privy Council, 1861, p. 138), Dr. Greenhow states, that the mortality from pulmonary diseases of all kinds, including phthisis, in Birmingham, during the seven years from 1848 to 1854, was "considerably in excess of the standard rate, an excess which, in the case of "Birmingham, applies to children and adults." Dr. Greenhow's Medical Report upon the same district.

73. This he attributes to "the industrial occupations of the people," several of which "are attended by conditions which the inquiries made last year in other districts have "clearly shown to be capable either of directly exciting irritative disease of the lungs, "or as having an excess of mortality from pulmonary diseases very constantly "associated with them" (p. 140). Influence of employments on physical condition.

74. In proceeding to trace the causes of this, Dr. Greenhow thus divides the staple manufactures of Birmingham according to the nature of the places of work:—

75. Manufactures carried on almost exclusively *in large factories*:—

Steel pens.	Lamps.	Electro-plated goods.
Papier mâché.	Glass.	Metal bedsteads.
Edge tools.	Japanned ware.	Screws.

76. Manufactures carried on *partly in large factories*, but largely in *small workshops*:—

Buttons.	Pens.	Jewellery.
Guns.	Steel toys.	Brass-work.

77. The occupations being of so varied a character, naturally comprise "a corresponding "diversity of conditions in the mode of work;" and hence the "manufacturing processes "of Birmingham present examples of nearly all the evils which have been found to "exist separately in each of the other manufacturing districts where inquiry relative to "the causation of pulmonary diseases has been made" (p. 141).

78. Accordingly the grinders of swords, edge tools, gun-barrels, steel toys, and fire-irons "inhale an atmosphere loaded with *dust* or vitiated by the products of combustion "and respiration." The trades affected by dust, bad air, overcrowding, &c.

79. The jewellers and goldsmiths are also exposed to the danger of inhaling air vitiated by the products of respiration and combustion.

80. "The button and steel pen operatives, and some of the females employed in making watch-guards, &c., besides several other classes of operatives in Birmingham, are but too often exposed to work in overcrowded and ill-ventilated shops."

81. Several of the above are "subject to great vicissitudes of temperature," "and are "likewise obliged to maintain a stooping posture while at work." (*Ibid.*)

82. And Dr. Greenhow adds that although few or none of the adult operatives in Birmingham work more than a reasonable number of hours during the day, "young "children of both sexes are employed at an earlier period, and for longer hours, than is "permissible in factories worked under the restrictions imposed by the Factory Act." (*Ibid.*)

83. In noticing some of these manufacturing processes in detail, Dr. Greenhow calls attention, first, to the "*grinders*." Certain articles are ground chiefly by boys, "and "much dust is given off during the process;" and other articles are ground by women, but a few only are thus employed. When the articles are ground dry, each woman has a sort of "linen screen over her work, which prevents the dust from being dispersed "through the atmosphere" (p. 143). The men are shown to be "afflicted with "'grinders' asthma,'" and to shorten their lives in many cases by refusing to use the means at their command for obviating the danger; "the main difficulty" in effecting Detailed notice of such trades. Grinders.

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an improvement in the mode of grinding gun-barrels "at present being the unwillingness "of the men, who would object to dispense with the grindstone on account of the high "wages paid for grinding" (p. 142).

Button makers.

84. A large number of persons of both sexes "and of all ages from 6 or 7 upwards," is employed in *button making*.

85. "It is almost exclusively the pearl button makers, of whom there are a great "number in Birmingham, who suffer from inhaling dust" (p. 143). In this case legislation may do much to mitigate the ill effects of this branch of manufacture, inasmuch as the danger arising from it is in many instances "aggravated by the overcrowded and "ill-ventilated state of the workshops," and by "prolonged hours of labour," when business is pressing, both male and female button-makers being at such times "kept "at work till very late at night" (p. 144).

Brass-founders.

86. The processes carried on by the *brass-founders*, and the state of many of their places of work, "largely conduce to explain the prevalence of pulmonary diseases" among the adult population of Birmingham. It appears that judicious and effectual ventilation, especially of the small shops, is the only remedy within the scope of legislation. Precautions against inhaling fumes and dust, by which the danger is very much diminished, are in the hands of the operatives themselves and their employers (p. 145).

Polishers. Pin pointers.

87. The same remark applies to the *polishers* of electro-plated goods, of jewellery, steel pens, and other articles, and to *pin pointers*, now a very small class in Birmingham" (p. 146). In the other branches, as has been shown in the table (p. 12), many women and children are employed.

Jewellers.

88. Of *jewellers*, Dr. Greenhow states that they are exposed to a combination of hurtful influences. They "work habitually in shops that are very imperfectly ventilated, "and where gas is constantly consumed in large quantities for the use of the blow-"pipe" (p. 147). Many of the workshops were found to be overcrowded, the cubical feet of space per head being very inadequate, and rendered more so by the closing of "every aperture for the admission of fresh air," a practice arising, no doubt, in many cases, from the insensibility of the workpeople themselves to its value, but in many others from the injudicious mode of admitting it.

Deficiency of cubic space in workshops.

89. Dr. Greenhow further notices the fact mentioned by Mr. White, and above adverted to, that "sometimes even newly-erected factories were found to be deficient "in suitable means of ventilation, and in the amount of cubical space necessary for "the number of people employed in them" (p. 149). Of 35 workshops, chiefly belonging to the button, electro-plating, japanning, gun-lock, and steel-pen trades, 16 had less than an average of 200 cubical feet per head, 10 had from 200 to 250 cubical feet, two from 250 to 300. The opinion of the Medical Officers of Health of the metropolis (see Appendix to our 2nd Report, p. 191) is, that the "minimum cubical space "for each adult should be, in a sleeping room, 300 cubic feet, and in a lodging or sitting "room, 500 cubic feet of air." (Mr. White, B. § 18.) Therefore, of the 35 workshops adverted to above, 26 had much less than the quantity considered requisite for even a sleeping room.

90. "Of those having less than 200 cubical feet, one with 28 persons, 27 of whom "were young girls, had only an average of 128 cubical feet of breathing space for "each individual; . . . a third, with 75 girls, had only 128 cubical feet," several others having from 125 only to 180 cubical feet. Although the specific effects of this want of proper ventilation and overcrowding are difficult to trace, owing in some respects probably to the fact that "such as break down in health cease to work, and so fall "out of sight" (p. 149), they cannot but be considerable upon the health of the people concerned. Dr. Greenhow concludes that his inquiry "has sufficiently demon-"strated the existence of various conditions hurtful to health, in connexion with the "staple manufactures of the towns, and likewise that some of these directly induce "irritative disease of the lungs, while others, in all probability, indirectly produce "pulmonary disease, or at least favour its development" (p. 150). He regards "some "at least of these evils as remediable," and that "most of them might be in a great "measure removed if the attention of skilled persons were directed to contriving "improved methods of manufacture with especial reference to the health of the "operatives." (*Ibid.*)

Other injurious influences from the nature of

91. The fact being established that the numbers of children, young persons, and women engaged in the staple manufactures of this town and district are very large, that many of the children begin work at a very early age, and that the state of the places of work is, generally speaking, such as to be unfavourable to the general health,

and in numerous instances manifestly generative of certain forms of disease, it becomes of the greater importance to consider what further influence the particular nature of their employments may be expected to have upon them. METAL MANUFACTURES OF THE BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT.

92. In a large number of occupations steam power is used not only in the largest factories but where it can be rented. particular employments.

93. In other occupations, "in which the youngest of both sexes are engaged, or in "parts of which they are engaged" (B. § 30), steam is not used at all.

94. But the employments where steam is used, and where it is not, have each their peculiarities, creating a strain upon the powers and faculties of the young.

95. Many of the machines worked by steam power "are fed, attended, and cleaned "by boys, girls, and women;" . . . "and the processes, involving cutting and hammer-"ing, cause an intolerable noise, often so loud as to drown the loudest voice," the noisiest of all being perhaps nail cutting (B. § 31).

96. "Some of these employments require a fixed standing or sitting posture; others "involve bodily motion with muscular exertion; others merely motion." . . . "Most "require a close attention, and, as appears almost inevitable, considerable strain on the "nerves, though it is difficult to trace this to results" (B. § 32).

97. Where steam is not used the principal mechanical appliances are, where the work is light, stamps, at which youths and females and very young boys usually help the men by arranging the pieces of metal for them. "The stamping is very rapid. "Indeed, so rapid is stamping steel pens as to make it almost impossible to see the "piece of metal, when stamped, replaced by the succeeding piece" (B. § 34).

98. *Presses.*—"It is in working or helping at these that the greater number of "women and girls in Birmingham are employed. This work is often very rapid," of which a remarkable instance is given (B. § 35). The work is sedentary, and requires constant watching. It is employed "for cutting out, shaping, or fitting together thin "metal, woven substances, paper, in fact, materials of almost any kind for buttons, "pens, jewellery, and other ornaments, boxes, toys, umbrella furniture, clasps, fastenings, "&c.; in fact, an endless variety of miscellaneous useful and ornamental productions" (B. § 37).

99. *Filing*, where there is lead in the metal, "becomes at once a noxious employment, "requiring great attention to cleanliness and other precautions" (§ 37).

100. Brass-foundry work is described as one of the most important occupations in Birmingham, as regards the number and condition of the young, especially boys, engaged in it. The injurious physical influences to which they are exposed from dust and noxious vapours have been already adverted to.

101. *Lacquering*, *painting*, and *japanning* work employs females, "sitting over "stoves in hot rooms" (§ 42), or in work places "hot from the nearness of the drying "stoves" (§ 43).

102. The making of *emery paper*, and of *sand*, or, more properly, *glass paper*—a very limited, but, in its apparent bearing on the health of the employed, a very important manufacture—exposes the young females engaged in it to inhaling finely-powdered emery and glass, "which fly off in clouds, the particles being very light, and, of course, "extremely sharp" (46).

103. These and other miscellaneous employments for the young are described at length by Mr. White. The brief abstract above given sufficiently indicate their nature and physical effects. Being also, for the most part, "very dirty, dusty, or greasy" employments, and some noxious, the general absence of the means of cleanliness, and their neglect when provided, leads to neglect "of attendance at schools or places of "religious worship," and consequently to "serious moral injury, in addition to the loss "of self-respect of which personal cleanliness seems a natural condition" (B. § 49).

104. The combined results of all these causes of disease are partially expressed in the returns of the Registrar-General lately presented to Parliament (House of Commons paper 12, I., 4th March 1864) in so far as showing the prevalence of certain forms of disease—consumption and other diseases of the lungs—first in certain registration districts, in which those of Wolverhampton, Birmingham, and Aston are included, and next in three standard districts in England (Groups A., B., and C.), selected as presumably healthy districts. It is seen from these returns to how great an extent the mortality in the districts of Wolverhampton, Birmingham, and Aston, from consumption and other lung diseases, exceeds that of the standard districts. Comparison of mortality from lung diseases in these districts with the standard districts of England.

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Extract from "Returns relating to Population and Deaths during the Decennial Period 1851–60."

2.—Return of the Population in 1851 and 1861, and of the Death Rates, Male and Female, by Phthisis Pulmonalis, and by other Diseases of the Lungs, in the under-mentioned Districts, and Groups of Districts, during the Decennial Period 1851–60.

Population at all Ages.		Districts.		Deaths per 100,000 living of each Class referred to.															
				Aged 15–25.				Aged 25–45.				Aged 45–55.				Aged 55–65.			
				Males.		Females.		Males.		Females.		Males.		Females.		Males.		Females.	
1851	1861.	No.	Name.	Phthisis Pulmonalis.	Other Diseases of the Lungs.	Phthisis Pulmonalis.	Other Diseases of the Lungs.	Phthisis Pulmonalis.	Other Diseases of the Lungs.	Phthisis Pulmonalis.	Other Diseases of the Lungs.	Phthisis Pulmonalis.	Other Diseases of the Lungs.	Phthisis Pulmonalis.	Other Diseases of the Lungs.	Phthisis Pulmonalis.	Other Diseases of the Lungs.	Phthisis Pulmonalis.	Other Diseases of the Lungs.
104,158	126,902	379	Wolverhampton -	—	—	—	—	320	164	403	107	320	443	267	258	358	1,072	191	681
173,951	212,621	394	Birmingham -	—	—	—	—	487	150	408	106	592	577	332	370	433	1,474	177	1,040
66,852	100,522	395	Aston - -	—	—	—	—	344	93	329	81	377	320	257	236	394	896	120	802
63,508	61,726	—	Group A.- -	316	15	316	17	304	31	377	29	215	107	281	80	294	183	232	175
84,779	98,880	—	Group B. - -	253	29	363	43	322	83	362	55	254	170	276	127	204	401	187	226
122,016	136,417	—	Group C. - -	314	31	430	24	427	78	441	44	311	153	259	91	237	319	199	222

105. Considering, therefore, the early age at which the children go to work, the injurious state of their places of work, the lowering and exhausting modes of their employment, the unreasonable and excessive hours of work, irregular and undefined hours for meals, late work on Saturdays, or extra work in the earlier part of the week to make up the time granted for relaxation on Saturday afternoon, and exposure to frequent accidents of all kinds from machinery, it will be acknowledged that on physical grounds legislative interference is required as a protection to the young in this large and important department of manufacture.

Influence of employments on moral condition.

106. But painful and serious as are the features brought out by Mr. White's inquiries, in regard to the influence of those employments on the physical condition of the young, the mental condition of those engaged in the manufactures of this district even more urgently requires legislative interference.

107. Mr. White prefaces the results of his inquiries on this head with the following remarks:—

"In making the remarks which follow I wish to guard against being thought to imply that I have any reason to believe the mental condition of the young engaged in the manufactures of this district to be lower than that of corresponding classes in London and other large towns in which I have made any inquiries. On the contrary, owing to the ample educational means which are provided, and other circumstances of the place, and the nature of employments, the condition of those engaged in some of the upper branches is probably at least equal to that of any other working classes in the country. But as I have been here concerned chiefly with those employments in which the youngest are engaged, as well as with larger numbers and for a longer time than in other places, the condition of those classes has been more strongly impressed upon me, and I feel bound to draw attention to it.

"Considering, then, the plentiful means of secular and religious instruction provided in Birmingham by machinery of all kinds, including Sunday, day and evening schools, libraries, &c., and the encouragement afforded by the institution of a prize scheme, now showing very valuable results within the sphere in which it operates; and considering the educational activity and interest shown, not only by the influential persons who have taken the lead in providing these means, but by the zeal with which large numbers avail themselves of them, including a large proportion of adults, some of them even in a comfortable position as small employers, who might be thought little likely to adopt such means unless the desire for mental improvement were very strong and widely spread;—it is at first sight not a little remarkable that the evidence should disclose such a low state of education, or rather practical absence of it, as it does amongst very large numbers of those with whom I was immediately concerned." (B. §§ 81, 82.)

108. Mr. White then proceeds to give instances elicited by his questions, showing a state of ignorance, among very large numbers of the young, of things of common notoriety, and of "the commonest and simplest objects of nature," which cannot but arrest attention. But even that obscure and unenlightened condition of mind is surpassed by the ignorance which Mr. White discovered upon religious subjects. "Of very many" he says, that "the state of mind as regards the simplest facts of religion is dark, almost "beyond belief." (B. § 85). It is not too much to say that to many God, the Bible, the Saviour, a Christian, even a future state, are ideas entirely or all but unknown. God is "a good man," or "the man in Heaven"; "I've heerd that (Christ), but don't "know *what it is*." Nor do others know "where he lives," or "about the world being "made," or who "made it," or of the Bible, "it is not a book"; "have not heard of Christ;

" I had never done my work till so late;" "have heard about Jesus Christ, but it's " so long since that I've forgot;" don't know if I'm a Christian," or "what it is," or " means," but all people are so. Heaven was heard of only "when father died long " ago; mother said that he was going there." Some think that bad and good go there alike, or on the other hand, that "them as is wicked shall be worshipped, that means " shall all go to hell;" or, again, that when people die "they be buried, bain't they " —their souls as well as their bodies." "All go in the pithole, when them be buried; " they never get out or live again; they have not a soul; I have not one. The soul " does not live afterwards; it's quite an end of people when they die." "The devil is a " good person; I don't know where he lives." "Christ was a wicked man." (B. § 85.)

109. As regards the mere power of reading, spelling, or telling the letters, Mr. White adds, that an analysis of 80 of from 7 to 16 at one large factory may give some idea of it (B. § 86):—

"Of these 72·5 per cent. admitted that they could not read, 13·75 practically could not, 12·5 could read a little, and the remaining 1·25, *i.e.*, one girl, could read effectually. At the same place an analysis of 13 boys was made (b. 395) all lamentably ignorant; but probably they are not a fair specimen. Scattered through the evidence will be found numbers who did not know the letters, though in capitals, some not even great A, or could not read single figures, or do the simplest counting, *e.g.*, '17 times 17,' '9 and 17,' '17 from 30.' (The latter was asked of a young man of 20, of course less concisely.) A boy of 11 could not tell how many pennies there were in a shilling, or, till after much explanation, how many in sixpence. I counted 80 before a girl of 14 could tell what 3 and 2 made."

110. Mr. White then explains the guarded mode of examination by which he arrived at the results on these points, and the course he took in recording them (B. § 87):—

"As those whose answers are given in detail were taken in most cases without any selection from appearance, &c., and as a rule are given equally, whether they showed knowledge or ignorance, it may be assumed that the answers fairly represent the general mental condition of the mass, excluding, as already remarked, those in some superior branches of employment. The book used for testing the power of reading, &c. was a child's book pictured, with clearly printed hymns and songs, consisting of simple words chiefly of one syllable. In this many who at first said they could read, quite broke down, some knowing little more than the letters."

111. And in reference to the nature of the answers above quoted or referred to, and the condition of mind they portray, Mr. White states very correctly (B. § 88) that " singly they might be thought exceptional, or not so remarkable; but their importance " lies in their number. There may or may not be worse cases; but at any rate an in- " definite number of the same kind might be added from the mass of the evidence " through which they are scattered."

112. After pointing to some circumstances which may in part account for this " unhappy condition" of so many of the young, Mr. White comes to the following conclusions, which we apprehend will command assent:

113. "A further consideration of the evidence shows that, valuable as are the means of education here provided to those whom they do reach, they do not in fact have, and under existing circumstances do not seem likely to have, any reasonable chance of reaching a large mass of the working young to such an extent as to produce any appreciable result. As regards night schools, only a slight and occasional amount of overtime in the evening, the usual hour of leaving work being 7 or 7½, or in some cases 8, is sufficient to discourage, and in some cases to lead to a discontinuance of attendance. In Birmingham several attempts have been made by employers to provide instruction for their own work-people, but, from difficulties of various kinds, especially those of securing competent teachers and keeping up the attendance of scholars, they have, with two or three exceptions, been but very partially successful, or have entirely fallen through. In one case, however, where a regular schoolmaster is engaged, and attendance is enforced, the success is great.

114. "As, however, the establishments employing a sufficient number of young to allow of maintaining for them alone a competent teacher, whom experience seems to show to be essential, are very few,—as anything like compulsion by an employer is found very difficult, even on his own premises, and out of the question off them,—as it appears that the influence of parents and teachers, where it is exerted, is insufficient to overcome the natural reluctance of the young after a full day's labour to sacrifice their only time of recreation for a benefit of which they have never been taught the value, and without which many of their parents are able to earn a comfortable competence,—as the temptation to profit by the earnings of children, to their prejudice, appears as effectual in Birmingham, where, as a rule, they might to a great extent be dispensed with, as in places where they are more essential to the support of a family,—and as competition renders it yearly more unlikely that even employers who personally object to the employ-

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ment of young children will be able to incur the sacrifice of giving up a cheap labour employed by others,—and as in some cases, amongst the domestic nailers especially, the parents themselves are the employers,—it appears on the whole unlikely that any considerable part of the manufacturing young in this district will ever, under existing arrangements, be brought practically within the reach of the means of education which lie at their doors, by the voluntary efforts of employers, teachers, or parents, however much convinced of its importance or desirous of it." (B. §§ 90, 91.)

115. Although "some of the bad social effects attributed more or less directly to "the system of employment in this district seem chargeable on it only in common "with all employments in which females and children are largely engaged" (B. § 92) they are not the less subjects for the consideration of the Legislature and of individuals whenever capable of correction. Mr. White attributes these bad social effects to—

"... the ignorance in females of necessary household duties, and disinclination and want of time for attending to them, resulting from early and constant employment, and said to lead indirectly to a loosening of family ties; the early independence of children from parental control; and the encouragement to idleness or mere self-indulgence, such as drinking, afforded to parents by their children's earnings. The want of regularity in coming to work, encouraged by the possibility and practice of making up for this by working longer hours, is less unavoidable." (B. § 92.)

116. And another objection "which forcibly strikes the eye in Birmingham workshops "of some kinds," and which seems peculiar to the place, "appears to be easily remediable "by arrangement, and is in fact remedied by many employers—the miscellaneous way "in which all ages and both sexes are often thrown together," without the intervention of an authorized person specially responsible to the employer for propriety of behaviour and language. "The character of the education of the workshop, often said to be as "important as that of the school, must depend greatly on the degree in which this "point is attended to, and the moral results of want of attention to it are, as I am "informed, decidedly bad." (B. § 93.)

Legislative interference called for.

117. It has been seen that the facts relating to these two districts of Wolverhampton and Birmingham call for legislative interference on behalf of the young. The questions now therefore arise,—Are there any special difficulties which would prevent legislation being applied to this case, and if not, what are the arrangements applicable to it?

118. Mr. White, in his general remarks upon this subject, arrives at the conclusion that there is nothing in the circumstances of his portion of the district which would cause difficulties of a special kind. He states that—

"The general nature of the manufactures, and their comparatively little dependence upon season or fashion, or other disturbing causes, and the possibility of working to stock without serious risk, coupled with the facts that the amount of time left available for labour by any legislation which did not exceed the restrictions of the Factory Acts, would give a margin over the amount on the average actually employed here, and that there is no suggestion or ground for fear, in Birmingham at least, of any difficulty in obtaining any increased number of children that might be required, leave but little room for new or special arguments arising out of a supposed effect on the interest of the employers, not common to them with other employers whose case has been brought forward and considered on other occasions." (B. § 94.)

119. Again, in §§ 100, 101, Mr. White says:—

"It is clear that the employments of the district present several conditions unfavourable to the bodies as well as to the minds of the young, yet most of them happily of a kind which might be removed or considerably modified without changes involving much difficulty or expense, or any serious interference with the welfare of the trades, or the convenience and interest of the employers; but a large number of the employers are not in a position to carry out these improvements of themselves, or even fairly to realize their importance. Very many of them seem to be in entire ignorance of the methods for securing the benefits of education and other advantages combined with the regular prosecution of industrial employment adopted under the factory system, and some have expressed surprise and approval when those methods have been explained. The general opinion of most seems to be that it is to be regretted that children should be employed as they are, though, as matters are, it cannot be avoided. The only alternative which seems to occur to them is that of a total prohibition of children's labour up to a certain age, attended with the disadvantages of loss to the needy and the probability of the children passing the time so acquired in a less beneficial way.

"Seeing the small amount of substantial inconvenience which would probably be incurred here by any reasonable regulation of the labour of the young, should any be thought advisable, though opposition would probably be made, partly from supposed interest and partly, especially in the case of some of the leading employers, on principles of independence, there seems no reason to think but that it would be, on the whole, not unwillingly acquiesced in, if fairly understood, and in time probably approved of, at least by the very large proportion who have a desire for the well-being of the young, evidently sincere, even where practically inoperative from want of attention to the point, and the force of long-established habits."

120. Mr. Longe's report shows (A. 64, 141, 142) that these remarks are also substantially applicable to the Wolverhampton portion of the district.

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121. A peculiarity indeed in the arrangements of labour exists throughout the entire district, which, although not in our opinion presenting any serious obstacle to legislation, requires to be met by modifications.

Peculiar arrangements in the distribution of labour, to be met by special legislation.

122. The Factory Acts of 1833 and 1844 and the subsequent Acts, which together form the body of factory legislation to which the public mind has become habituated, confine attention to factories "wherein steam, water, or other mechanical power" is used, "and to buildings and premises within the close and curtilage of which" such power is used to move or work machinery for the manufacture of the particular articles defined. (3 & 4 Will. 4. c. 103. s. 1. 7 & 8 Vict. c. 15. s. 73.)

123. The administration of these laws is therefore rendered easy by the following circumstances:—The persons subject to them are during their work enclosed within the curtilage of well-defined premises; the premises themselves are, generally speaking, of large dimensions, conspicuous, and give evidence of their being at work by the noise of their machinery; and the persons employed in each, and subject to the law, are for the most part numerous.

124. But in the district under review, although many of the staple manufactures are carried on under these conditions, and present, therefore, the same facilities of administration, most of them are carried on not only in large and conspicuous factories, but also in small "workshops." Few of the processes "are carried on in large places which "are not in the smaller." (B. § 98.)

125. These small workshops are "separate and detached" buildings, occupied solely as places of work. Real "house-work" seems small, and growing less. (B. § 97.)

126. To draw a line anywhere, distinguishing a "factory" from a "shop," would, in Birmingham, be a matter of great difficulty. (B. § 98.) What applies to Birmingham, applies equally, as has been seen from the report of Mr. Longe, to the entire district.

127. "With reference to the processes, it seems impossible to draw a line;" the processes of different trades being so intermingled in these small shops, and being brought together either by the facilities of renting steam power or by local convenience. (B. § 98.)

128. Neither can the "factory" be distinguished from the "shop" by reference to the numbers employed.

129. "There are so many places of a size so near any number whatever that could be fixed, that factories would slide into shops and shops into factories from day to day, as trade varied or it suited to avoid control." (B. § 98.)

130. But it is plain that to place the large factories of this district under legislative control of any kind, and to leave the "shops" free,—precisely the same kind of work being carried on in the one as in the other, and precisely the same, if not even greater, need existing for legislative supervision in reference to their sanitary condition and the hours of work affecting the young—would be an act of injustice to the owners of large factories, and afford a premium to the continuance and aggravation in the small shops of all the evils now sought to be removed.

131. The question, therefore, is, can a factory law be effectually administered under this state of circumstances?

132. We are of opinion that it can.

133. In presenting this point for consideration, we deem it desirable briefly to recall attention to the past course of legislation in reference both to factories and to a few other departments of labour.

Smallness of numbers employed in any place, not recognized as a bar to legislation.

134. A prominent fact to be borne in mind in approaching this question is, that from the date of the first Factory Act of 1802 (the "Factory Health and Morals Act," 42 Geo. 3. c. 73.) to the present time the smallness of the numbers employed in any one place of work has not been recognized as a bar to legislation.

135. By section 1 of the "Factory Health and Morals Act," any mill or factory "wherein three or more apprentices or 20 or more other persons shall at any time be "employed, shall be subject to the rules and regulations" contained in the Act.

136. "The Factory Act," 1833, (3 & 4 W. 4. c. 103.) and "The Factories Regulation "Act," 1844, (7 & 8 Vict. c. 15.) contain no limitation as to the number of persons employed. If, therefore, in any "mill or factory within the close or curtilage of which "steam, water, or any other mechanical power shall be used to move machinery "employed in the manufacture of the objects specified in these Acts" (interpretation clause, s. 73), even one person under the age of 18 should be employed, that mill or factory would come under inspection. Practically, indeed, small numbers of persons are rarely found in the "mills or factories" which come within those Acts; but we are informed by the Inspectors of Factories that cases exist in both these districts of

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factories under those Acts containing less than 20 persons, of whom not more than three or four would be under the age of 18, and therefore subject to regulation.

137. But in subsequent Acts the case of even three, two, or one person only under the defined age being found at work in one place in the particular manufacture under regulation has been distinctly foreseen.

138. The Print Works Regulation Acts (8 & 9 Vict. c. 29., and 10 & 11 Vict. c. 70.) deal with processes purely of hand labour, carried on by individual workmen, with the assistance of boys called "teerers." The work may be carried on in any place which any individual workman may fit up, and he may, and occasionally does, work, with the assistance of one boy, in a room by himself, distinct and separate from any other work-people.

139. The inquiry that led to the passing of the Bleaching and Dyeing Works Act 23 & 24 Vict. c. 78.) showed that there were cases in which only one, two, or three persons in a separate place of work might be subject to the Act. (Report of Commissioner, 969, 1263, 1273, 1282, 1283.)

140. By the Lace Factories Act, 1861 (24 & 25 Vict. c. 117.), youths under 16 are restricted to certain hours of work in "a lace machine." The Report of the Commissioner which led to the passing of this Act shows (Evid. 445, 451, 737) that, from the nature of the case it is very possible at any time that only one lace machine may be at work in a room where steam power is hired to work it, and consequently only one youth employed.

141. The "Act for the Regulation of Chimney Sweepers," (3 & 4 Vict. c. 85.,) deals with cases in which only one boy may be in the employ of an individual master, very few master sweeps being likely to have more than one boy coming within the restrictions of the Act.

142. The Bakehouses Regulation Act (26 & 27 Vict. c. 48.), forbidding the employment of youths under 16 between the hours of 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. is an example to the same effect, hardly any individual baker being likely to have, or, in point of fact, ever having, in his employ more than one youth under that age.

143. Finally, the Act passed in this Session of Parliament for extending the restrictions of the Factory Acts to certain trades and manufactures includes two cases, those of the paper stainers and of the fustian cutters, in which, from the nature of the manufacture, individual boys or youths under the defined ages are liable to be employed in separate and distinct workshops under individual masters.

144. The principle, therefore, having already taken its place in legislation, in several instances, that the smallness of the number of the persons concerned in any separate place of work, is no bar to their protection by the Legislature, whenever a case for protection has been found to exist, the only question which remains is the one adverted to above (§ 131), namely whether any regulations that Parliament may deem applicable to the cases now under consideration, are capable of being enforced by an adequate administrative machinery.

145. The experience of 30 years has shown the admirable efficiency of the Factory Act for the regulation of labour in the case of children, young persons, and women; it has been accepted by all classes—by employers, by the employed, and by the general public—as reconciling the legitimate claims of capital and of labour; and it must therefore be regarded as having successfully solved one of the most difficult problems of social science.

146. Deeply impressed with this conviction, it is our deliberate opinion that wherever children (under 13) are employed in the workrooms, small shops, or factories in the trades and manufactures included in this and in our Second Report, and where consequently the half-time and education clauses of the Factory Acts take effect, no administrative machinery could be suggested so efficient and satisfactory as the existing one of factory inspection. Therefore if the expense involved in the required addition to the number of the sub-inspectors of factories should not be deemed to afford adequate grounds of objection, it would be in all other respects most desirable that the duty of carrying the law into effect in all such places of work should be entrusted to the Inspectors of Factories.

147. But if considerations of expense should be deemed to present an obstacle to the employment of the present machinery of factory inspectors for all such places of work, we think that the field of the duties of the Inspectors of Factories might be very much reduced in extent in districts of this kind, and therefore the necessity for greatly increasing their numbers obviated, by placing all the smaller factories and workshops, to which legislation may be applied, under the supervision of the medical officers of health and the other sanitary officers of the Local Board of the district.

148. Assuming, for instance, that the facts stated in this Report lead to the conclusion that certain of the staple manufacturers of this district should be placed under the

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Factories Acts, or some modification of them, it might be provided that every employer in each branch of manufacture named, who, on the first day of January in every year, should have in his employ, in his "Factory," under 20 workpeople, should make a return to that effect to the Local Board; and that the owner of any "workshop" let out to workpeople engaged in any of the branches of manufacture specified, should make a like return in every case where the aggregate numbers of workpeople so engaged at the above date do not exceed 20.

149. This provision would leave to the Inspectors of Factories the larger works only, which in a district so limited in extent, and having such facilities for communication, would, we apprehend, (including glass works, to be dealt with in a subsequent report,) be effectually superintended by two sub-inspectors.

150. It would only be with reluctance and as an alternative that we should recommend this course to be pursued. We are not insensible to the objections which may be stated to the administration of any portion of the Factory Acts by the local authority, objections arising from conflicting interests, local influences, indisposition to carrying the law strictly into effect, and other circumstances. On the other hand, it might be urged that the members of Local Boards, representing the rate-payers in each locality, and themselves interested in keeping down the rates, might be disposed to second the Legislature in giving effect to regulations having in view the improvement of the sanitary conditions under which large bodies of workpeople, and especially the young among them, pass so large a portion of their lives.

151. Not less might it be anticipated that they would aid in putting in force any measure for securing education for the young, inasmuch as improved intelligence arising from a satisfactory amount of education, as well as improved sanitary arrangements in the places of work, are recognized as greatly instrumental in lightening such of the burdens of the community as arise from ignorance, vice, disease, and mortality.

152. We are to some extent supported in our opinion that the Local Boards would discharge a duty of this kind if imposed upon them by the Legislature, by the experience of the action of the Local Boards in administering the Act relative to the Regulation of Bakehouses.

153. When the Bill on which that Act was founded was in preparation, it was considered doubtful whether its provisions, if they became law, would be enforced, inasmuch as the duty of enforcing them rested on the voluntary action of the Local Boards. It is simply declared by the Act to be "the duty of the Local Boards" to enforce it; no penalty attaching to any officer of those Boards for the neglect of that duty. It consequently became a matter of public interest to ascertain how far that duty had been fulfilled. The Act having passed on the 13th of July 1863, inquiries were addressed in the spring of this year by the Commissioner whose Report gave occasion to the Act, to the Medical Officers of Health of the metropolis, and to the clerks of the Local Boards in most of the largest and some of the smaller towns of the kingdom.

154. The Secretary of the Metropolitan Association of the Medical Officers of Health obligingly undertook to be the medium of communication with the medical Officers of Health of the Metropolis, of whom there are 46. From 30 of these, comprising all the principal districts,—those omitted being chiefly in the suburbs,—full returns were received, in the form either of abstracts of their Reports to their respective Local Boards, or a copy of the Report itself. From the country towns answers were received to nearly every application, from which it appeared that the Act had been or was about to be enforced in all the principal towns, and that where it had not been enforced the bakehouses were few and in good condition.

155. A memorandum embodying the result of the returns was addressed to the Right Hon. Sir George Grey, Bart., M.P. It appeared that both in the Metropolis and in the country towns, although an abstract of the Act had in most instances been circulated among the bakers by the local authorities many weeks previously to the inspection, a great many defects remained to be corrected, and a vast amount of dirt and impurity to be removed from a large proportion of the bakehouses, or from their immediate vicinity.

156. The placing bakehouses in a cleanly, and, so far as can be effected by judicious ventilation and certain defined regulations, in a healthy state, and the preventing night-work, as laid down by the Act, in the case of the young, are acts in the results of which, in regard to the prevention of impurities in their daily bread, and in diminishing the liability to disease in one, although a comparatively small, class of work-people, the community at large in every great town is interested. But to a far greater extent, in every large manufacturing town or locality, are the pecuniary interests of the tax-payers concerned in arresting at their source those causes of disease, premature decline, mortality, ignorance, poverty, and dependence which arise from the untimely and severe labour of

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large numbers of the young of both sexes, and the unwholesome state of their places of work. The ready action of the Local Boards in putting in force the Bakehouses Regulation Act is an indication of the enlightened views entertained by Local Boards on those subjects, and affords ground for the conclusion that they would be equally ready to fulfil a similar duty on a larger scale, should the Legislature think proper, in its wisdom, to place it upon them.

157. In proceeding to state the precise measures which we are prepared to submit for the consideration of the Legislature in reference to this district, we are not unaware that we have yet to show, from the evidence hereafter to be discussed respecting the other iron and hardware districts of the kingdom, that the circumstances of these latter differ, as we believe to be the case, in no important particular from the Wolverhampton and Birmingham district now under review.

158. But we deem it advantageous towards a clear comprehension of what is suitable and practicable, to confine our attention first to this one district.

159. If what we venture to propose should be found to be in substance unobjectionable in regard to this district, it will be more easy to determine whether it is also generally applicable to the other iron and hardware districts, or whether their conditions point to any necessary modifications.

Recommendations.

Recommendations as to Legislation.

Blast Furnaces.

Legislation applicable to the blast furnaces.

160. The class of works first in order in this Report, and first treated of by Mr. Longe, are the blast furnaces. It will have been seen that the two points especially requiring legislative interposition in the case of the blast furnaces are—

1. The employment of boys under 13 during the night sets (from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m.).

2. The employment of children, young persons, and women during Sundays.

161. Mr. Longe gives 200 as an approximate estimate of the number of boys under 13 employed at the blast furnaces of the South Staffordshire and Worcestershire district. (A. § 9.)

162. The youths and women employed about the blast furnaces of the same district are approximately stated by Mr. Longe as,—Youths, 400; women, 200; =600.

163. There does not appear to be any reason why blast furnaces should not be placed under the Factories' Acts. The regulations of those Acts which would apply to them would ensure the following results:—

1. If children were still employed, they would be subject to the half-time and educational provisions of those Acts.

2. Night work would be forbidden for children, young persons, and women.

3. The regular meal-hours and the Saturday half-holiday would be secured to them.

4. The eight half-holidays for young persons specified by § 27 of the Factories Regulation Act (1844), in addition to the whole holidays of Christmas Day and Good Friday, for children and young persons, would also be secured to them.

5. No persons under the age of 16 would be employed without the surgical certificate, required by § 16 of the above Act, to the effect that the child or young person is "not incapacitated by disease or bodily infirmity" (Schedule A.) from working at this occupation.

164. Further, by special provision, Sunday work would be forbidden in connexion with the blast furnaces to children, young persons, and women.

165. The forbidding the employment of children, young persons, and women, on Sundays in the work of the blast furnaces, would, it appears, be attended with no disadvantage to the employer which ought to weigh against the moral considerations which render legislation on this point justifiable. Mr. Longe states (A. § 12) that out of the 110 furnaces in actual operation in the district at the time of his inquiry, 40 were not worked on Sundays. "The furnaces being charged with an additional quantity of "fuel on the previous Friday and Saturday, are kept hot until the Monday." Mr. Longe was informed "that this great boon to the workmen costs the masters about 50*l.* "per furnace annually" (*ibid.*). It is alleged that certain kinds of fuel and material do not admit of this arrangement. Where this is so, the alternative is the employment of adult male labour on the Sunday instead of the females who are employed in "preparing the materials," and the boys and youths engaged in "box filling." The occasional hands which in such exceptional cases would be required on Sundays would in all probability be found without much difficulty in districts so thickly peopled as those of iron works. The additional cost per furnace could not be such as to outweigh

the moral considerations above adverted to, and would probably not much exceed that which has been shown to be already voluntarily incurred by the owners of nearly half of the total number of furnaces at work in this district for the sake of the moral example of abstaining from work on Sundays. RECOMMENDATIONS.

Iron Mills and Forges.

166. We are of opinion that the prevalence of the employment of young boys in the night-turns at iron mills and forges, and the consequent obstruction to their education, justifies the application of the Factory Acts to this branch of employment. Legislation applicable to iron mills and forges.

167. It has been seen that in the iron mills and forges of the district about 1,000 boys under 13 are employed (A. § 16.), and that in most of the employments the boys work "through the nights of every alternate week" (§ 32).

168. In the refined iron furnaces, where the work is light, "boys as young as 13, "and even younger, are sometimes employed at this work" (§ 18).

169. The "shinglers" employ each "a little boy," called the "staff carrier." They are generally about 10 or 11 years of age. In rolling hoop iron, and small rod and wire iron, "boys of 9 years of age and upwards are employed." "It is at these small mills "that the majority of these young boys are employed" (§ 25), and from the greater rapidity required in work of this description it "subjects the boys to a greater amount "of labour during the day or night, as it may be" (§ 27). Mr. Longe adds that, from the calculations he had made with a master roller, these boys had to run 11 miles or more during the turn (*ibid.*). The "door drawers" are generally the youngest boys in the works, "children of 8 years of age being sometimes employed at this work" (§ 29).

170. In all the above occupations, which include nearly the whole of the boys under 13 employed, the boys take their turns at the night-sets during every alternate week.

171. This premature drain upon the physical powers of the young is the more to be deprecated because these children are advanced by degrees to the heavier work of puddlers and shinglers, which taxes the strength of the strongest. Many of the men begin to fail between 40 and 50 years of age. (A. §§ 21, 33.) It may be fairly assumed that many years would be added to their full working powers, had not their constitutions been undermined by night-work and severe labour at so immature an age.

172. It appears that Sunday labour has been abandoned in the iron mills and forges of this district (§ 32). The furnaces are heated every Monday, and in about three hours they acquire "the ordinary working heat." (*Ibid.*) To interrupt this during the week would occasion loss of fuel, which, where so many furnaces are concerned, would be of large amount. But this ought to be no bar to the forbidding the employment of all persons under 18 at night work.

173. The work of the puddlers is necessarily intermittent, and affords several intervals of comparative rest, during which they take their meals, no fixed time or period for meals being in their case practicable. (A. § 19). It would therefore be necessary to exempt the comparatively few boys and youths employed by the puddlers from the usual factory hours for meal times. But we see no reason for extending this exemption to any other branch of labour in connexion with the iron mills and forges. Boys employed by puddlers to be exempt from the factory hours for meal times.

MISCELLANEOUS METAL MANUFACTURES OF SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE AND WORCESTERSHIRE AND THE ADJOINING DISTRICTS.

174. The large number of children, young persons, and women employed in the above districts reported upon by Mr. Longe and Mr. White, the nature of their employment, the state of their places of work, their liability to excessive hours of labour and to night-work, the effect of this upon their education and morals, the absence of regular meal-times in many cases, the frequency of accidents from machinery, and the influence of all these causes upon the physical condition of the young and their liability to disease, as described in the preceding pages of this Report, render necessary some measure of legislation regarding them.

175. It will, we apprehend, be conceded from the facts and reasonings which we have adduced, that the following regulations are strictly called for, and could be enforced. Legislation applicable to the miscellaneous metal manufactures.

1. That no person under the age of 18, and no woman, should be employed in any of the hardware trades and manufactures of this district, after the hour of 6 p.m., or before the hour of 6 a.m.

2. That every factory, workshop, or other place of work in which any of the trades and manufactures above designated are carried on, should be liable to regulation as follows.

A. That they should be open at any time during working hours to the inspection of

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the Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of factories, and to the sanitary officers of the Local Board of Health.

B. That they should be whitewashed once every 14 months, or oftener if so required, by either of the officers above-named.

C. That they should be kept in a cleanly state, and provided with the proper means for effectual ventilation, and be free from effluvia arising from any drain, privy, or other nuisance.

D. That they should be placed under the same regulations as factories in regard to—

(*a.*) Meal-times.
(*b.*) Holidays.
(*c.*) The prevention of accidents by the fencing of machinery where required.

E. That power should be given to the employers to establish and enforce special sanitary rules, as in the Act for the Extension of the Factories Act recently passed.

Can the half-time provisions of the Factory Acts be extended to all the above?

176. It remains to be considered how far it would be practicable to extend the provisions of the Factories Acts relative to half-time and education to these branches of manufacture.

177. The state of education among the vast number of children engaged in them, especially as disclosed in reference to Birmingham by the evidence collected by Mr. White, painfully shows the need that exists for giving them, if possible, the benefit of those provisions.

178. The principal obstacle to this arises from the fact that so large a portion of these children is employed in small workshops.

179. There are indeed many large factories in nearly all the numerous branches of these staple trades; and if they stood alone, it would be a matter of no difficulty to apply the half-time and educational provisions of the Factory Acts to them.

180. But in nearly all these branches of trade and manufacture there are small places of work, in each of which a very few children are employed, as well as large ones, giving employment to large numbers of children.

181. It would obviously be impossible to apply the half-time and educational provisions of the Factory Acts to the large, and wholly to omit the smaller in the same branch of trade.

182. Mr. Longe specifies two branches of manufacture, the arrangements of which are of such a nature that the provisions for half-time and education might, without material inconvenience or difficulty, be applied to either of them, namely—

1. The cut-nail manufacture.
2. The screw and screw-bolt manufacture (A. § 142).

183. Mr. White names, in the Birmingham district, two more, as being "the most "important in reference to the numbers of the young employed in them, at least in "large bodies together," namely,—

3. Brass foundries,
4. Button making (B. § 4);

and he also specifies as among "the more important hardware manufactures of this town "and district" (*ibid.*), guns, jewellery, electro-plate, metallic bedsteads, steel pens, tools, cut and wrought nails, and screws.

184. We have attempted below a classification of the above and the other miscellaneous hardware trades of the entire district, according to the best information we have been able to obtain, and as far as their various natures and often intermingling processes seem to admit.

Class 1. Cut-nail manufactures, washers, and shoe tips.
Class 2. Screw and screw-bolt manufactories.
Class 3. Brass foundries.
Miscellaneous brass work, including wire, gas-fittings, &c.
Lacquering.
Class 4. Button making.
Pin making.
Hooks and eyes making.
Eyelets, &c., making.
Class 5. Guns.
Class 6. Jewellery.
Class 7. Iron foundries.
Engine and machine works.
Chain works.
Edge tools.
Tube works.
Hurdle manufactories.
Bedstead manufactories.
Safe manufactories.
Miscellaneous iron work.
Class 8. Tin plate.
Papier mâché.
Japan works.
Blank tray works.
Class 9. Steel pens.
Class 10. Electro-plating.

Class 11. Locksmiths.
Key-smiths.
Stampers.
Piercers.
Bit makers.
Harness furniture makers.
Spur makers.
Spring hook makers.
Hame makers.
Curb makers.
Stirrup makers.
Stirrup platers.
Gun-lock makers.

Class 11. Awl-blade makers.
Steel toy makers.
Hammer makers.
Hinge makers.
Latch makers.
Gridiron makers.
Rat-trap makers.
Bolt makers.
File makers.
Curry-comb makers.
Bellows makers.
Class 12. Galvanizing works.
Class 13. Tin toy factories.

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185. Considering the fact that all these classes of manufacture are carried on both in large factories and in small workshops; considering also that it is not practicable, as has been shown (126), to draw a line distinguishing a "factory" from a "workshop;" and adverting to our reasonings on this subject (117–159), which lead, in our opinion, to the conclusion that a mode of administration exists capable of embracing both "factories" and "workshops," without undue expense or difficulty; we are prepared to submit to Parliament that—

Half-time provisions of Factory Act should be extended to them.

F. The provisions also of the Factories Acts regarding half-time and education are applicable to the whole of the above 13 classes of manufacture.

186. We have stated above (§ 146) that in our opinion no administrative machinery for carrying into effect the half-time and education clauses of the Factory Acts is preferable to that of the existing factory inspection. Should it, however, be thought expedient to adopt the alternative suggested (§ 147) of having recourse, to a certain extent, to the local authority, in that case the owners or occupiers of all those "factories" or "workshops" in the above branches, wherein, during the month preceding the 1st day of January in each year, not more than an average number of 20 workpeople were employed, would make their return to the Local Board, and all such places of work would accordingly, during the succeeding year, be subject to the inspection of the Officers of the Board empowered to carry the provisions of the Act into effect.

187. The number of distinct establishments which such an arrangement would in this district subtract from the supervision of the Inspectors of Factories would doubtless be considerable. There would be left to them in the entire district,—

Two additional Sub-Inspectors of Factories sufficient for the whole district.

1.	Separate firms owning blast furnaces (in 1862-63) (Mr. Longe, A. 4) -	55
2.	Separate firms working iron forges and mills (*ibid.*) - - - - -	80
3.	Factories or workshops in the miscellaneous trades employing upwards of 20 children and young persons and women, say - - - -	1,500
		1,635

188. We have arrived at the approximate number of 1,500 factories and workshops in the miscellaneous trades which would be thus subject to the administration of the Inspectors of Factories, from the data afforded by Mr. Longe's and Mr. White's Reports, with the addition of one-third to the number of separate firms existing in Birmingham in 1841, corresponding with the increase of the population in the interval. We are aware that the above number must be, to a great degree, conjectural, but in the absence of any exact return, which we have no means of procuring, we are led to believe that it is not very far from correct. Were it even exceeded, we are of opinion that the near vicinity of the various works of the district to each other, and the facilities of communication throughout the entire district, would enable the work of inspection to be satisfactorily performed by two Sub-inspectors of Factories.

THE BLAST FURNACES, IRON MILLS AND FORGES, AND THE MISCELLANEOUS METAL MANUFACTURES OF OTHER DISTRICTS OF THE KINGDOM.

METAL MANUFACTURES OF OTHER DISTRICTS OF THE KINGDOM.

MR. LONGE'S SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT ON.

189. We have stated above (157–159) that by confining attention in the first instance to the important districts of Staffordshire and Worcestershire,—where so large a population is concentrated, and engaged in the manufacture of iron, and in a vast variety of what are termed the miscellaneous metalt rades,—we should be better able to show whether, if a case existed for protective legislation in reference to these branches of employment, it would be

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possible to comprise them within the principles of the measures already existing, or to submit for consideration any other provisions which might seem more suitable to the circumstances.

190. And we added our opinion that if what we venture to propose should be found to be unobjectionable for this district, it would be more easy to determine whether it would be generally applicable to the other iron and hardware districts.

191. We have now to call attention to the supplementary Report of Mr. Longe (A. 145), relating to the blast furnaces, forges, and rolling mills in which iron is smelted and manufactured, in Yorkshire, Durham, Northumberland, Scotland, and North and South Wales, —"which localities, with Staffordshire and Shropshire, constitute nearly all the iron "districts of the kingdom." (*ibid.*)

192. "In all these localities," Mr. Longe states, "the character and arrangement of the "works, most of the manufacturing processes, the system of work, and the hours of "work, are the same as in Staffordshire." (A. 146.)

All should be put under the Factory Acts.

193. It appears that Sunday labour for the young in connexion with the blast furnaces is easily capable of being put an end to in all the works in the kingdom (A. 146); and that the same necessity exists for limiting the hours of work, and applying the other provisions of the Factory Acts, in the blast furnaces and in the mills and forges, as has been proved in regard to Staffordshire and Worcestershire. (A. 147–151.)

Females should be forbidden to be employed on the pit banks and on the coke hearths.

194. Both in Staffordshire and in South Wales young girls and women are employed on the pit banks and on the coke heaps, not only by day, but also by night (A. 149). This practice has been often noticed in Reports presented to Parliament, as being attended with great and notorious evils. These females, employed with the men, hardly distinguishable from them in their dress, and begrimed with dirt and smoke, are exposed to the deterioration of character arising from the loss of self-respect which can hardly fail to follow from their unfeminine occupation. It would only be a proper supplement to the measure which forbad the employment of females *in* mines, to forbid it also on the pit-banks and on the coke heaps. Their employment, as at present existing, about the furnaces and mills, by night (A. 149), would be put a stop to by those places of work being subjected, as proposed, to the Factory Acts.

The manufacture of tin-plates should be placed under the Factory Acts.

195. It appears from Mr. Longe's Report (A. 152–156) that a great number of children and young persons, male and female, are employed in the manufacture of tin plates; that there is an equal necessity for placing them under the protection of the Factory Acts; and that there are few employments in which the half-time system could be more conveniently carried out.

Mr. Lord's Report on Metal Trades of Lancashire.

196. Having dealt in our First Report with the three employments in Lancashire which first demanded attention with a view to their being placed under legislative regulation,—those of the paper stainers, the fustian cutters, and the finishers and hookers not employed in connexion with steam or other mechanical power,—we instructed our Assistant Commissioner, Mr. Lord, to make an exhaustive inquiry into all the remaining branches of manufacture in that county; including any outlying localities where manufactures were carried on.

197. The branches of trade and manufacture in which Mr. Lord found that children and young persons are employed, and which are not yet under regulation, were the miscellaneous metal trades, glass, and millinery and needlework. The last has been treated of by Mr. Lord in his Report, included in our Second Report. The subject of glass is reserved until the inquiry now in progress in the rest of the kingdom is completed.

Their general failures are precisely similar to those in the corresponding trades &c. in Staffordshire.

198. The miscellaneous metal trades of Lancashire are second only, in regard to the numbers employed, to the cotton manufactures of that county. Their general features, as exhibited by Mr. Lord, are precisely similar to those of the corresponding trades and manufactures of South Staffordshire and Worcestershire, as described by Mr. Longe and Mr. White in their respective Reports.

199. The numbers of the children and young persons employed are large; the physical conditions under which they work are often unfavourable to health, and are susceptible of improvement; and their intellectual and moral condition equally call for the salutary interposition of the legislation of the Factory Acts.

Numbers employed.

200. The works from which Mr. Lord obtained tabular returns contained nearly 20,000 individuals, of whom 500 were children, and 3,500 young persons. These works, together with many others, Mr. Lord visited personally in sufficient numbers to satisfy himself that the facts he had ascertained were only reproduced on further inquiry.

201. Taking individual employments, Mr. Lord was led to the conclusion that in the founders' and machinists' establishments of four towns only (Manchester, Oldham, Bolton, and Blackburn,) there were at least 4,000 persons under 18 years of age; and in similar establishments at Liverpool 1,329 under that age. At the same place the number

under that age employed by iron shipbuilders, ship-smiths, boiler and rivet makers, is 1,312; and the number of boys between 9 and 15 employed in making bolts and screws in one place only was about 200. Metal Manufactures of other Districts of the Kingdom.

202. The census tables for Lancashire for 1861 show a total of 51,748 male workers in metal in that county, and 603 females.

203. Of the males there were 139 under 10 years of age, 4,655 between 10 and 15, and 8,722 between 15 and 20; total, 13,516. If from this total one-tenth be deducted for those between 18 and 20, the result would be that there are about 12,000 male workers in metals in Lancashire under the age of 18; there are also about 160 females.

The following List comprises nearly all the Metal Manufactures of the county. We have added the proportions of juvenile to adult labour, stated approximatively from Mr. Lord's Report.

Metal Manufactures.	Proportions of Juvenile to Adult Labour.
1. Establishments for the making and repairing of machinery for cotton and other textile fabrics.	Small.
2. Manufactories of locomotive and stationary engines - - -	„
3. Iron shipbuilding yards - - - - - - -	$\frac{1}{5}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ (C. 15).
4. Forges ⎫ In some cases attached to the above works, in others independent, and for other purposes also.	Nearly $\frac{1}{3}$.
5. Foundries ⎭	About $\frac{1}{4}$ (C. 19).
6. Spindle and flyer makers - - - - - -	Nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ (C. 17).
7. Boiler makers - - - - - - - -	$\frac{1}{5}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$.
8. Screw and bolt makers - - - - - - -	Nearly $\frac{1}{2}$.
9. Rivet makers - - - - - - - -	Proportion large (C. 73)
10. Wire „ - - - - - - - -	„ „ (C. 108)
11. File „ - - - - - - - -	„ „ (C. 127)
12. Nail „ - - - - - - - -	„ „ (C. 152)
13. Pin „ - - - - - - - -	„ „
14. Lock „ - - - - - - - -	„ „
15. Hinge „ - - - - - - - -	„ „
16. Lancashire tool makers - - - - - -	„ „
17. Watches and watch movement makers - - - - -	„ „

There are also "some other miscellaneous occupations" (C. 6).

204. One favourable peculiarity exists in these branches of manufacture, in regard to the hours of work, namely, "that the Saturday half-holiday is universal" (C. 30), a circumstance doubtless attributable to the example all around them of the cotton and other industries under the regulations of the Factory Acts. But although a further influence seems to have been exerted by the example of those acts in causing the hours of work in the metal trades to be from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. with the factory hours for meals, it has been ineffectual to put a stop to the practice of overtime which, at periods of ordinary briskness of trade, still exists to the extent of two hours for two, three, or four months in the year, and often for "two or three weeks or even months consecutively." Hours of work. Saturday half-holiday universal. Overtime very general.

205. It is satisfactory, however, to find that, in this as in other manufacturing districts, a great and increasing weight of authority among employers is declaring itself against the practice of overtime, as injurious both to the masters and to those whose energies are taxed beyond the usual hours of labour, whether adults or children and young persons. Mr. T. Hetherington, a member of a firm of long standing and extensive connexions, employing nearly 600 hands, deliberately records his conviction, "that 10½ hours a day with "the half-day of Saturday would be the best to be generally enforced" (c. 1). Also— Increasing conviction that overtime is injurious both to the men and to the masters.

206. In another branch of business, that of iron mast and tank making, Mr. Wainwright, of Liverpool, considers work after 6 p.m. to be never needed, including shipbuilding yards with works similar to his own, in the general remark that "bad management and careless- "ness is the source of all overtime. When they work on till 8 p.m. they get wearied, "men and boys, there is quite time enough from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. for a man to do all he "can do satisfactorily" (c. 65). So Mr. Carr, whose evidence I have above referred to, states his own feeling to be that 58½ hours a week is quite enough. Again, Mr. Ryder (of Bolton), says, "In my opinion the Factory Act should be made general, or some "measure like it. The Bleach Works Act would suit us best, as our trade (roller and "spindle making) does fluctuate, and all we should want would be to be able to now "and then to work till 8 p.m. to finish some pressing order" (c. 39).

207. The experience of a practical workman is to the same effect. The time-keeper at the largest works of the kind at Lancashire, Messrs. Platts, of Oldham, states,—

"We find that those on piece-work make as much on piece-work in 10½ hours as "they do when they know they have two hours longer. If they have been working "their full time well they haven't the energy left to get through much more at the

METAL MANUFACTURES OF OTHER DISTRICTS OF THE KINGDOM.

"end of it. Work limited to the factory hours is the most useful, both to us and to "themselves" (c. 24).

The hours of the Bleaching and Dyeing Works Act not to be taken as a precedent.

208. Mr. Ryder (of Bolton), above quoted (§ 206), expresses an opinion in favour of the Bleaching and Dyeing Works Act as a precedent. By that Act females above the age of 18 and young persons may be employed until half-past 4 on Saturdays and until 8 o'clock on other days (but not on the whole more than 60 hours in any one week), *in recovering time lost*, "in consequence of *fluctuations of trade*, the nature of the process, "or *any other cause*" (23 & 24 Vict. c. 78. ss. 2 and 11). This opinion in favour of that Act is not shared by those most conversant with its working, or by the Inspectors of Factories, who have shown that the facilities it affords to employers who may desire to take advantage of their neighbours by working longer hours, are so great as to lead, in all probability, as soon as the cotton trade resumes its former activity, to a general desire for a large modification of its provisions.

Night shifts in forges.

209. The practice of employing boys and young persons in the night shifts, although rare as a general rule in these metal manufactories (C. 33), nevertheless exists habitually in the forges (C. 98, 99) and in some other species of work (C. 100, 116, 121). It is observable that where the practice has been discontinued, "the health of both the men "and boys had improved" (C. 97). Also, the work being under the personal inspection of the employer "was better done and they could get better workmen to stop with "them" (*ibid.*). And where the practice had been modified by the division of the 24 hours into three sets, the result had been successful; much time formerly wasted, or lost, is now saved. "More is got out of the workmen and they are better pleased, for they "can earn as much as they need with less fatigue to themselves, and have more time at "their disposal" (C. 98).

Large proportion under 18 employed in forges.

210. Mr. Lord arrives at the conclusion that nearly one-third of the total number employed at the forges in Lancashire are under 18 years of age. In six works, employing a total of 750 persons, he found 35 children and 290 young persons (C. 89).

Liability to accidents increased in the case of the young by overtime and nightwork.

211. Considerations of health, as above mentioned, and as urged by medical testimony (C. 105) on general grounds, and also the increased liability to accidents to the young when employed for so many hours, from the carelessness naturally arising from overfatigue (c. 67), point, in the case of these manufactories in Lancashire, as in those of Staffordshire and Worcestershire, at the propriety of abolishing nightwork for the young, and confining the hours to those of the factories.

State of places of work.

212. Mr. Lord states that "the instances of overcrowded workshops, and defective ven-"tilation in the *moulding shops* and *machinists' shops* and *smithies* are sufficiently "numerous to call for observation" (C. 38), also that "contrivances for getting rid of "the *dust* in *grinding* and *glazing* are not very frequent and are generally deficient" (*ibid.*). "The processes of grinding, glazing, and *brass founding* are noticed, as in "Staffordshire, to be conspicuous among the causes of ill health" (C. 48). The work is "often carried on in cellars or garrets very low pitched, and wholly unsuited to such "an occupation, where two or three men and one or two boys would be working to-"gether" (C. 51). The shops of some of the *screw and bolt makers* are very dirty, low pitched, and crowded (C. 69). The need of improved ventilation in the *wire manufactories*, especially in the galvanizing shops, is noticed by Mr. Lord (C. 116). The smaller shops of the *file cutters* and the *watch* or *watch movement makers* "are often "exceedingly hot and ill ventilated" (C. 136), a defect which the brass dust from the filing makes the more prejudicial (C. 147, 149).

213. The workshops of the small masters engaged in the making of *pins*, *nails*, *hinges*, &c., "are very small, close, dirty, and often damp" (C. 158.); also some of the persons employed in *casting lead bullets* "seem to have suffered from sickness; much, however, "depends on the proper ventilation of the casting shops. The fumes were allowed to be "very injurious in the absence of due precautions in this respect" (c. 133).

The same legislation required as in Staffordshire.

214. It thus appears that the places of work in nearly the whole of the branches of manufacture specified in the Table (§ 203) are, in Lancashire, in a state as defective in regard to ventilation, cleanliness, and other circumstances conducive to the health of the persons working in them, as those of Staffordshire and Worcestershire, as described in our Report upon those districts. There is also in Lancashire the same intermixture of small and large works side by side in the same locality. In these respects, therefore, the same species of legislation which we have proposed as meeting the circumstances of Staffordshire and Worcestershire is applicable to the same branches of manufacture in Lancashire.

215. In the same manner, also, the defective state of education as exhibited among the young in almost all these branches of manufacture in Lancashire, although not so glaring as brought to light by Mr. White in his Report upon Birmingham, is amply sufficient to

call for the application of the educational clauses of the Factories Acts to all these branches of employment. "The foundry boys," Mr. Hetherington says, "are very "uneducated" (C. 62). "I think the boys who work at *spindle making* are worse than "they were 20 years ago. They are worse-mannered and more ignorant" (*ibid*). Of the boys working in iron shipbuilders' yards, a witness states that "scarce one in 50 "can read decently" (c. 60). Of the *screw* and *bolt makers* Mr. Carr states that scarcely any have been to day-school, and that they cannot even read (c. 67). The moral condition of the boys working in the *forges* is described as being very low (C. 106, 107). The apprentices to *wire drawers*, although said to be "rather superior to other lads" (c. 124), exhibited in several instances, when questioned by Mr. Lord, a lamentable state of ignorance. Many of the file cutters are described as being very ignorant (C. 150). The boys who tented *pin making machines* were "among the most ignorant" that Mr. Lord met with (C. 168). "None could read, and few even could spell." Some of the girls employed at "hand sheeting" in the pin making trade "were no better than the boys" (*ibid.*). The boys employed in making *gas burners*, in the *hollow ware manufacture*, in the *wrought nail manufacture*, and in the *lock and hinge manufacture*, were in a similar state of ignorance (C. 168, 169), and of the children employed in the smaller *smithies*, Mr. Lord states that in Ashton, in Makerfield, "in each succeeding smithy in a row of a dozen or "more he found boy after boy who could not read, had never been even to a Sunday "school, and was unable to answer the simplest question of bible history" (*ibid.*).

Metal Manufactures of other Districts of the Kingdom.

216. There appears to be nothing in the conditions of manufacturing industry in this district to prevent the limitation of the hours of labour, and the provisions of the Factory Acts for Education to be at once applied to it. And Mr. Lord's general remarks upon this subject (C. 15) show very plainly that they would be introduced with the full approval of many of the largest and most intelligent employers in these branches of manufacture in the district.

217. The peculiarity of the work in the forges makes the relaxation of the requirements of the Factory Act in regard to the meal times in forges necessary in this district, as it has been described to be in Staffordshire.

218. The following table, compiled from the Census of 1661, shows approximatively the total number of persons of all ages engaged in the metal manufactures of England and Wales:—

Estimated numbers reported on.

Metal Manufactures in England and Wales (Census of 1861).

	All Ages.		Under 20.		20 and upwards.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
Iron manufacture moulder founder -	123,430	2,341	30,810	1,252	92,620	1,089
Brass „ „ -	15,985	299	4,941	108	11,044	191
Copper manufacture - -	3,827	3,961	795	2,451	3,032	1,510
Iron miscellaneous trades - -	181,999	15,921	14,012	5,806	56,839	8,639
Brass „ „ - -	30,712	3,711	9,744	1,547	10,904	2,040
Tinplate worker and tin manufacturer.	10,544	4,268	3,127	2,571	7,417	1,697
Total - -	366,497	30,501	43,429	13,735	181,856	16,166

Total males and females under 20 -	57,164
Females 20 and upwards - -	16,166
Total - - -	73,330

219. From the above table it appears that, making a deduction of one-tenth for males between 18 and 20, who do not come within the protective legislation of the Factory Acts, there are about 70,000 children, young persons, and women who would come under those Acts in the metal manufactures of England and Wales.

220. Our materials do not admit of our estimating with precision the numbers of children, young persons, and women included in this Report. Considering that large numbers are included in the inquiries both of Mr. Longe, Mr. White, and Mr. Lord, who are employed in operations subsidiary to, or only slightly connected with, metal manu-

Metal Manufactures of other Districts of the Kingdom.

factures strictly so called, many of whom may not have been included under the latter head in the Census, it is probable that the number of children, young persons, and women comprised in this Report may be placed, for England and Wales, at about 67,000,—namely, reported on by Mr. Longe, (deducting from the Census return, § 13 *supra*, a large portion as belonging to Mr. White's district, and adding those estimated by him as employed in Wales, A. 147,) 15,000; by Mr. White (§ 57), 40,000; by Mr. Lord (§ 203), 12,000. The number reported on in Scotland is also considerable, but the form of the Census for Scotland does not enable us to give them with accuracy. Metal founders and workers in Scotland are given as a little above 12,000.

Statement of trades and manufactures yet to be reported on.

221. The remainder, not included in this Report, are those employed in the metal manufactures of Sheffield and its neighbourhood, North Staffordshire and Shropshire, the Metropolis, and a small part of South Wales.

222. The inquiry of our Assistant Commissioner at Sheffield and the surrounding district is nearly completed.

223. There remain of other principal trades and manufactures for further inquiry and report by us,—

The paper manufacture.
The glass manufacture.
The manufacture of tobacco.
The ribbon manufacture of Coventry and elsewhere.
Brick-making.
The miscellaneous trades of the metropolis.

224. Of these, considerable progress has been made in the three first, and some evidence has been collected on trades not yet reported on in the metropolis. There are also a few other minor trades and manufactures which will claim attention in other parts of the kingdom.

225. All this we humbly certify to Your Majesty.

(Signed) HUGH SEYMOUR TREMENHEERE. (L.S.)
RICHARD DUGARD GRAINGER. (L.S.)
EDWARD CARLETON TUFNELL. (L.S.)

2, Victoria Street, Westminster, August 1864.

APPENDIX TO THIRD REPORT.

REPORTS AND EVIDENCE

OF

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS.

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THE IRON WORKS OF THE SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE AND WORCESTERSHIRE DISTRICTS, AND THE METAL TRADES OF THE DISTRICT OF WOLVERHAMPTON.

GENTLEMEN,

1. I BEG to submit to you the results of my inquiry during the summer of last year as to the condition of the young persons and children employed in the iron trade in the South Staffordshire and Worcestershire district, and in the various other trades and manufactures carried on in that part of the same district, which includes the towns and townships of Wolverhampton, Willenhall and Wednesfield, Bilston, Tipton, Darlaston, Wednesbury, Walsall, and Bloxwich.

Trades in the Wolverhampton District.

Mr. F. D. Longe.

A.

2. A large portion of the working population of this district are employed, as you are aware, in the coal and ironstone mines. In close connection with the mines, and for the most part under the same proprietorship, are the numerous blast furnaces and iron mills, in which some thousands of men and boys are employed; nearly the entire residue of the working population of these towns are employed in the manufacture of various descriptions of hardware goods, and are distributed among a vast number of trades, some of which are confined to particular towns in which they have been established for many years.

3. The iron trade is the most important trade of the district, in respect of the amount of capital and the number of persons employed; this trade includes (1) the blast furnaces, in which ore is smelted, and (2) the iron mills and forges, in which the pig iron is manufactured into mercantile or malleable iron.

BLAST FURNACES.

4. It appears from a list of the various iron works in Great Britain, published in 1862, that in the South Staffordshire and Worcestershire district there were at that time 190 furnaces standing, of which 110 were then in blast. These furnaces were worked by 55 separate firms. There were at the same time about 110 mills and forges in this district, carried on by 80 separate firms. Very few alterations have occurred either in the proprietorship or in the number of works in operation since the publication of this list. About 20 of the principal firms of the district are the proprietors both of blast furnaces and forges, as well as of coal and ironstone pits.

5. These Blast Furnaces are generally erected in sets of two to five furnaces, connected at their tops by a bridge, from which they are filled, and worked by one blast engine. Each furnace produces from 100 to 150 tons of pig iron per week. They are kept burning incessantly by day and night until they require repairs. The iron is drawn off at certain intervals during the day and night, during which periods nearly the same number of hands are required.

6. The average number of men regularly employed at each furnace is 24, *i.e.*, 12 during the day and another set of 12 during the night turn. These hands consist of bridge-stockers, fillers, teasers, and

Trades in the Wolverhampton District.

Mr. F. D. Longe.

A.

other workmen engaged in filling the furnaces, attending to the engine, drawing the iron, &c. In addition to these men there are several hands employed during the day only in preparing and conveying to the furnaces the various materials—coal, coke, ironstone, and limestone—with which the furnaces are charged. These assistants are in some cases men, in some cases women and lads. Their numbers at each set of furnaces would vary from 10 to 20.

8. The only work at the Blast Furnaces in which children are regularly employed is what is called "box filling." At this work boys of 11 to 15 years of age are generally employed. No girls are employed at this work, and the few females who are employed in preparing the materials during the day are either women or strong girls of 17 years of age.

Number of persons of different classes employed at the Blast Furnaces.

9. From information I have received I give the following as the approximate numbers of different classes of persons employed at the blast furnaces in this district:—

Men	2,000
Women	200
Youths	400
Boys under 13	200
	2,800

Employment of Children.

10. The boys under 13 are all employed at box filling. This work is carried on by night as well as by day. The different materials having been placed in heaps at the foot of the furnaces these boys are employed to fill the barrows, or "boxes," with proportionate quantities of each material, the wheeling and carrying the material to the furnace-mouth being performed by the fillers, with the assistance of steam power. The boys work generally in the open air, or under the cover of the bridge-house.

Hours of work.

11. These boys are employed during the same hours as the men, viz., from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., or from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. They have half an hour for breakfast at 9 o'clock, and an hour for dinner at 1 o'clock. When on the night turn they stop about the same time for refreshment. As the hands employed in each turn are always succeeded by another set at the periods for changing hands, these boys are not liable to be worked beyond the regular hours. The turns change from day to night work, and *vice versâ*, every alternate week.

Sunday work.

12. Until late years all the blast furnaces in this district were worked on Sundays, the processes of filling the furnace and drawing the iron being carried on in the same way as on the other days of the week. There are now, however, about 40 furnaces which are not worked on Sundays. The furnaces being charged with an additional quantity of fuel on the previous Friday and Saturday, are kept hot until the Monday. I have been informed that this great boon to the workmen costs the master about 50*l.* per furnace annually.

Hiring and wages.

13. The "box-fillers" and the other young persons employed at the furnaces are hired sometimes by the master and sometimes by the bridgestocker. The wages of the "box-fillers" average about 6*s.* per week.

Iron Mills and Forges.

14. The mills and forges in which the pig iron is converted into malleable iron differ considerably in magnitude, but are all built and arranged on the same plan, and the operations carried on in each are of the same character. They consist of a series of lofty sheds, covering in some cases an acre or more of ground, under which are arranged the puddling and mill furnaces, the rolls and forge hammers, &c., and the steam engines by which the machinery is worked. These sheds are open on two or more of their sides, and floored throughout with iron plates. They are thus always dry and well ventilated, the circulation of the air being somewhat induced by the great heat of the furnaces and the masses of hot iron.

15. The operatives employed in the iron mills consist of men and boys. Women are never employed in this district in any of the work connected with the mills and forges.

16. From statistics with which I have been furnished I can give the following as the approximate numbers of the men and boys employed in the mills and forges situate in the South Staffordshire and Worcestershire district:—

Total number of mills and forges in operation	100
Number of adults employed	18,000
„ youths	2,000
„ boys under 13	1,000
Total	21,000

The principal manufacturing operations in which these hands are employed are "puddling" and "rolling."

1. Puddlers.

By the process of puddling the iron is separated from all the foreign substances with which it is mixed when in the pig state. A puddling furnace consists of two compartments, in one the coal is placed, in the other the iron. The puddler's work consists (1), in charging the furnace with the coal and pig iron; (2), in puddling the metal as it melts and boils; (3), in dividing it, as it becomes solid, into lumps of proper dimensions, drawing out these lumps, and dragging them over to the shingler. These operations constitute a "heat," which takes about 1¾ hour. Six heats are performed during each turn. Each turn consists of 12 hours; the day turn commencing at 6 or 6 a.m., and the night turn at 6 or 6½ p.m. The operation of puddling and working the iron after it is melted, which requires severe and incessant labour, generally takes about three quarters of an hour during each heat.

Underhand Puddlers.

18. Each puddler employs one, in some cases two underhands, to assist him in his work. These underhand puddlers are sometimes men of the same age and strength as the puddler himself, sometimes boys of ages varying from 14 upwards. At the refined iron furnaces, where the work is light, boys as young as 13, and even younger, are sometimes employed at this work. Although I believe boys of in-

sufficient age and strength are sometimes put to this work, the height and muscular power required to render them of any assistance in the more laborious parts of their work prevents this practice being carried on to any great extent.

19. This employment, according to the description which I have given above, although subjecting the operatives to great heat and violent exertion, necessarily affords them several intervals of comparative rest. During these times they take their meals, no fixed time or period for meals being practicable.

Meal-times of Puddlers.

20. The earnings of the fore-puddlers, at the date of my visit, averaged about 28*s.* per week, exclusive of the wages they pay their underhands. These wages vary from 1*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* per day, according to their age or strength.

21. Although the great heat and violent exertion to which the puddler is subjected must tend to exhaust the vigour of the constitution sooner than many other employments, I have not met with any evidence showing that this employment produces *per se* any definite injury to the health of the workman. The atmosphere which he breathes is generally as cool and pure as the external air. Many workmen, however, destroy their constitution by the drinking habits which their employment to a great extent induces. The strength and activity required is so great, that few men continue at the puddling furnace beyond 50 years of age.

2. Shinglers.

22. The shingler takes the mass of iron (generally weighing about one cwt.), and swings it under the huge forge hammer or helve. By shingling the iron is compressed into a solid block of a proper shape to pass through the rolls.

Staff carriers.

23. The shingler employs an underhand, an adult, to help him in moving the iron, and a little boy to bring him the iron rods, which being welded into the iron mass by the hammer enables him to move it about. These boys are called "staff carriers." This work is simply heating the rods, and bringing them to the shingler as he requires them. These boys are generally of about 10 or 11 years of age. Three or four boys of this age would be thus employed in each forge, one set during the day and another set during the night.

3. Rollers.

24. The third and last of the principal manufacturing operations carried on in the iron works is rolling the iron into plates, rods, bars, wire, &c. The process of rolling is passing lumps or blocks of iron, either hot from the forge hammer or after having been re-heated in the mill furnace, through several pairs of rolls, which are so fitted and shaped as to reduce the iron gradually into the shape and dimensions required. A mill or train consists of three or four pairs of rolls. This work is done by contract between the employer and the master rollers, the latter hiring the various hands they may require to perform the work.

25. In rolling large and heavy iron, such as thick plates, rails, &c., the hands employed would consist almost entirely of adults; but in rolling hoop iron, small rod and wire iron, about eight or ten boys of nine years of age and upwards are employed. It is at these small mills that the majority of the young boys are engaged.

In rolling small iron the iron is passed through the several rolls in succession with the greatest possible rapidity. The older or more experienced boys are employed in passing the red hot bars through the rolls; the younger in drawing away and arranging the rods as they are thrown out from the rolls. In rolling small iron greater rapidity is required than in the case of thick plates, lest the thin rods should become too cool. As the thin rod or wire is ejected the boys seize it with the tongs and run off with it.

26. Owing to the quick and uncertain movements of the hot iron this employment is attended with much danger. Boys very rarely get through many turns without burns of a more or less serious character in their arms and legs. I met with six little boys at one mill who had all been burnt several times; one boy had been burnt once during each of the six months previous to my visit. (Evid. 2.) I have not, however, heard of any case where a boy was totally disabled by burns received in his regular work; but they are often laid up for two or three weeks. It requires considerable experience of the movements of the iron and the power of the rolls, and constant attention, to save them from very serious accidents. (Evid. 1, 4.)

27. This employment also subjects the boys to a great amount of labour during the day or night, as it may be. I found from calculations I made with a master roller that these boys had to run 11 miles or more during the turn. (Evid. 13.)

28. The youths and boys employed by the roller earn from 5*s.* to 10*s.*, according to their age or the part they take in the work, the majority being boys of 10 to 14 years of age, employed in running down with iron, straightening it, laying in bundles, &c.

"Door drawers."

29. In most of the works I visited I found a few young boys employed to draw up the doors of the large plate furnaces. At the mill furnaces which are used for heating small lumps of iron, the furnace men do not employ boys, but I was informed that their assistance was necessary at the furnaces in which large plates are heated. These "door drawers" are generally the youngest boys in the works; children of 8 years of age are sometimes employed at this work; they earn 6*d.* or 8*d.* per turn. Their attendance is required during the night as well as the day, which they take during alternate weeks, as the older hands. Their labour is very light and intermittent, consisting merely in pulling up the door of the furnace as the furnace man from time to time require, placing coals, &c.

30. A few other young boys of 8 to 10 years of age are employed under the shearer in carrying and cutting up the scraps and refuse iron. The work of gathering up the scraps of iron, picking old scrap iron, and making up the piles of scrap iron, to be heated in the ball furnace, in which very young boys are sometimes employed, is only carried on during the day. The boys employed in this work have their regular times for breakfast and dinner. The door drawers or firers employed by the mill-furnace men, and the staff carriers, get their meals during the intervals which their employments afford. They would always have several intervals of from a quarter of an hour to 20 minutes during the turn, whether by day or by night, when they would not be required to work.

31. Although the occupation of the little "door drawers," staff carriers, and scrap gatherers is neither laborious nor unhealthy, it excludes the possibility of their receiving education at a very early age, and it would seem very doubtful whether their employment for these purposes is at all necessary.

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32. As at the blast furnaces most of the work in the mills and forges is carried on by night as well as by day, and all the regular hands, boys as well as adults, work through the nights of every alternate week. The reason for this system of work is the necessity of keeping up the heat of the furnaces through the whole week, and the loss of labour and fuel which would be occasioned by keeping up the fires in them without using them. None of the iron mills and forges in this district are now worked on Sundays. The furnaces are heated every Monday; in about three hours after firing they acquire the ordinary working heat.

33. I have been unable to get any positive evidence as to the injurious effects of night work upon the constitution of the men or boys. The boys whom I saw at work in the various works which I visited generally appeared healthy and strong. The work seems to be more healthy and suited for boys than the sedentary occupations of some trades. The general condition of the boys employed at the furnaces and in the iron mills is rather above that of the boys employed in the iron foundries and other trades of the district. Many of them are the children of workmen employed in the same works, and they nearly all have a certain prospect of employment for life in the same or neighbouring works. The little door drawer at about 10 or 11 years of age is advanced to the small rolls; after about four or five years of this work he would become an underhand puddler, then a forehand puddler, or shingler; at 40 or 50 years of age, those men who find their strength failing them for the more laborious work become mill furnace men, or they are employed as labourers on the works at 12*s.* or 15*s.* a week. The most lucrative post in these works is that of master roller. It is by no means uncommon for these men to earn from 4*l.* to 5*l.* per week after paying their hands.

34. The evidence which I send from persons employed in this trade is very scanty as compared with the number of those persons, and the importance of the trade. While I had full opportunity of studying the whole system and course of work in a few works to which I was admitted, I found more difficulties in the way of personal examination of boys and other persons employed in these works than in others. Owing to the constant noise occasioned by the various operations, it was almost impossible to take down evidence in the works, and I seldom had an opportunity of getting boys away from their work without causing considerable inconvenience to the other hands. At the time of my visit, moreover, the trade was in a disturbed state, owing to a strike, in which many of the principal works were involved. The nature of the work and the system of employment, however, in all ironworks is so similar, that I shall be able, to a certain extent, to supply the deficiency of evidence in this Report by evidence taken in ironworks in other districts.

Other Metal Trades of the District.

35. Although the numerous other metal trades of this district are closely connected in their commercial relations, they are for the most part carried on in separate factories, and the subdivision of labour is such that the manufacture of almost every separate article, and even of different parts of the same article, constitutes a distinct trade, so far as the artizans are concerned. There are, however, many employments, particularly those in which the youngest workers are engaged, which are common to many of these trades.

36. The subjoined list contains all the principal miscellaneous metal trades of the district in which young persons or children are employed in greater or less numbers. Owing to the vast number of separate works or shops in which these trades are carried on, and the frequent combination of two or more distinct trades in the larger works, I have found it quite impossible to ascertain with any degree of accuracy the actual numbers of young persons and children engaged in the different employments.

List of Trades.	Denomination.	Approximate Number of separate Manufactories or Shops.	Towns in which Trade is carried on.	Size of Manufactories or Shops.	Classes of Persons employed.
Class 1	Iron foundries, engine and machine works, hurdle manufactories, bedstead manufactories, and safe manufactories.	60	All the towns of the district.	Large and small works.	Adults.—Males: casters, smiths, mechanics, and labourers. Females: few; in the painting and varnishing rooms. Young Persons.—Males and Females: employed in the same work as adults, and as assistants. Children.—Males: as assistants to casters, &c. Females: few; in painting and varnishing rooms.
Class 2	Chain works, edge tool works.	30	Wolverhampton, Tipton, Bilston, and Walsall.	Large works and single shops.	Adults.—Males: chainmakers; smiths, &c. Young Persons.—Youths: assistants to men. Children.—Males: blowers and strikers. Females: few; blowers in small shops.
Class 3	Brass foundries -	56	Wolverhampton, Willenhall, Walsall, Tipton, Bilston.	A few large, generally small factories.	Adults.—Males: casters and finishers. Females: in lacquering shops. Young Persons and Children.—Males: assistants to casters and finishers. Females: in lacquering shops.

List of Trades.	Denomination.	Approximate Number of separate Manufactories or Shops.	Towns in which Trade is carried on.	Size of Manufactories or Shops.	Classes of Persons employed.
Class 4	Tube works -	11	Wolverhampton, Wednesbury.	Large and small works.	Males.—Adults, young persons, and children: employed in forging and finishing tubes.
Class 5	Tin plate, papier mâché, and japan works, blank tray makers, &c.	24	Wolverhampton, Bilston.	Large and small factories.	Males.—Adults and youths employed as tinplate workers, pressers, tinners, &c.; assistants and underworkers, painters, &c. Females.—Adults and young persons: employed at japanning, painting, and polishing. A few children, male and female, in painting shops and as errand boys, &c.
Class 6	Cut nail, washer, and shoe tip manufactories, screw & screw bolt manufactories.	66	Wolverhampton, Darlaston, Wednesfield, Wednesbury.	Large and small factories.	In forging shops; smiths with youths and boys as blowers, &c. In machine shops, principally females; women, young persons, and a few children.
Class 7	Locksmiths, keysmiths, stampers, & piercers.	400	Wolverhampton, Willenhall.	A few large and small factories, generally single shops.	Males.—Adults: locksmiths, &c.; youths: apprentices and underworkers. Boys of 10 years of age and upwards employed at filing, blowing bellows, running errands, &c. Females: a few women and young persons employed at pressing, blacking, &c.
	Gun lock makers	40	Darlaston.		
	Awl blade makers	27	Walsall and Bloxwich.		
	Steel-toy, hammer, hinge, latch, gridiron, rat-trap, bolt, fire-iron, file, curry-comb, & bellows makers.	76	Wolverhampton, Willenhall, Darlaston, Tipton.		
	Bit makers, harness furniture makers, spur, springhook, hame, curb, stirrup makers, and platers.	250	Walsall and Bloxwich.		
Class 8	Saddle makers, bridle cutters, harness makers.	80	Walsall - -	Small factories	Males.—Saddle makers, cutters, &c., with youths as apprentices or underworkers. Females.—Women and young persons employed in factories and at home at stitching. Children of both sexes employed principally at home, or as learners and errand boys in factories.
Class 9	Galvanizing works	6	Wolverhampton and Bilston.	Small works -	Males.—Adults and youths.
Class 10	Tin toy factory -	1	Wolverhampton	Small factory	Principally females.—Adults, young persons, and children.
Class 11	Electroplate factory.	1	Wolverhampton	Small factory	Males.—Adults: youths, as underworkers or apprentices. Females.—Women and young persons employed at polishing.

Number and Ages of Children and Young Persons employed.

37. Although children as young as of 7 and 8 years of age are to be found in many of these trades, there are very few children engaged in any regular employment under the age of 10. (Evid. 59.)

38. The only trades in which any large number of females are employed are the japan works, the cut nail, washer, and screw factories, and the harness manufacture at Walsall. Owing to the scarcity of more appropriate employment for females in the "black country," and the abundance of better employment for youths, girls of 14 years of age and upwards are very generally employed in the brickworks, which are common in the neighbourhood.

39. A great many boys of ages varying from 9 to 14 are employed in the hollow ware foundries as assistants to the casters. In three of the largest hollow ware foundries in the district there were at the Class 1.

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time of my visit from 30 to 40 boys employed in the casting shops between 9 and 13 years of age. These boys, like the platemakers' assistants in the potteries, do not continue at this work beyond 13 or 14 years of age. Some of them are retained by the employer, and placed under an adult to learn the trade, but the majority leave the trade at this age in search of more lucrative employment. (Evid. 20)

40. Boys of 9 to 13 years of age are employed as assistants to smiths in hurdle making, and by riveters in putting together large plate-iron constructions. In the largest works of this kind in the district I found about thirty boys of this age employed under the riveters. (Evid. 42.)

41. In the foundries where the castings are large, as in the machine and engine works, no boys under 13 are employed by the casters. (Evid. 36.) A great many youths of 15 years of age and upwards are employed in the finishing shops at the lathes, &c.

42. In the manufacture of iron bedsteads women and girls of 13 years of age and upwards are employed in the painting shops. In the largest works of this kind in the district there were at the time of my visit about 30 females employed in painting, 21 of whom were between 13 and 18 years of age; one was 12 only.

Class 2.

43. Large chain works are not numerous in the towns which I visited, but there is no trade in the district in which boys are subjected to a greater amount of hard labour.

44. In the four largest works there were altogether about 200 boys at work between the ages of 8 and 15. The majority of these boys were from 10 to 13. The youngest boys work as "blowers," the rest, with youths and men, work as "strikers." In the small shops little girls of 10 years of age and upwards are often employed as blowers.

45. The employment of blowing the bellows attached to the forge fire is common to many of these trades. This work is too well known to need description. It requires no skill and little strength. There are probably about 1,000 children between 8 and 13 employed in this work in the towns and district which I visited. Platforms are raised sometimes to enable little children to reach the handle of the bellows. I believe the employment of children for this purpose is not absolutely necessary in any of these trades. When a constant heat is required the blast engine can be used. Owing, however, to the smallness of most of the works, this substitute for child labour has not been generally introduced. (Evid. 49–51.) Many of these children are employed by their fathers or brothers in the little shops attached to their houses. Many are only occasionally employed. When regularly employed they earn from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* 6*d.* a week. If employed overtime, *i.e.*, to 8 or 9 p.m., which is very common in the screw bolt works, they sometimes get 2*d.* extra. (Evid. 106–112, 115.)

Class 3.

46. Each brass-caster employs one boy. These boys are not so young as those employed in the iron hollow-ware foundries. Most of the boys I found at work were between 11 and 16 years of age. (Evid. 62.) Boys of 10 years of age and upwards are employed by the men in the finishing departments to file and run errands, &c. Girls of about 13 years of age and upwards, and a few women, are employed at lacquering, making cores for the moulds, and in the warehouses. In the largest works of this kind in the district there were 9 boys under 13 employed, and 6 female young persons.

Class 4.

47. Boys of 10 years of age and upwards are extensively employed in the tube works. Most of the work requires considerable strength. In one manufactory no boys under 12 years of age are taken into the works. (Evid. 57.) In the largest works of this kind, in the districts where the firm contracts with different workmen for the performance of the work, there were about 100 youths and boys employed, of whom about 20 were under 13. A few little boys of 7 and 8 are employed in some of these works at light work.

Class 5.

48. The tinplate, papier mâché, and japan works in Wolverhampton are large, employing severally from 250 to 300 hands. Of these about 50 to 60 would be young persons, male and female.

49. In the three largest factories of this class no children are regularly employed, except one or two little boys or girls to run errands and wait on the men and women, &c. (Evid. 78, 80, 83.)

50. In the smaller factories in Bilston, in which the cheapest goods are manufactured, there are about 50 children altogether employed in the painting shops, of about 10 to 13 years of age. These are chiefly girls. (Evid. 84.)

51. Youths of all ages are employed under the tinplate workers, and at pressing blank trays, &c. Four or five boys are employed by the tinner in each of the larger works. In the painting shops young persons, male and female, are employed with adults. The persons employed in japanning, varnishing, and polishing, are women and girls of 15 years of age and upwards.

Class 6.

52. The manufacture of cut nails, washers, shoe tips, screws, screw bolts, &c., is carried on in several factories in Wolverhampton, Darlaston, and Wednesbury. Although these different manufactures constitute distinct trades, yet they may be well classed together in respect of the general character of the employment and the class of persons employed in them. The principal operation in the manufacture of the above-mentioned articles is performed by machines which are generally worked by steam power.

53. Little skill or strength is required for "feeding" or supplying these machines with the iron plate or wire out of which these articles are formed, while the earnings of any individual at this employment, according to the present rate of wages, cannot much exceed 10*s.* per week. Accordingly, with the exception of a few youths who are employed on the large nail machines, the persons employed in these departments are women and girls, a few of whom are under 13 years of age. (Evid. 101, 103, 106, 114.)

54. There are about 10 large factories of this class, in which from 150 to 200 hands are severally employed. Of these from 20 to 30 would be girls, between 13 and 18, employed at machines. In one washer manufactory at Wolverhampton there were eight girls between 8 and 13 years of age employed at the time of my visit. In the screw-bolt factories at Darlaston I met with a few girls under 13 years of age. I should estimate the total number of female young persons and children employed in these factories, to be about 1,500.

55. In the screw-bolt factories a great many boys, between 8 and 13 years of age, are employed as blowers by the smiths. The number of these boys in the larger factories would average from 20 to 30.

I found one little boy under 7 years of age working for his father. (Evid. 107, 113.) These boys do not continue in the screw factories beyond 13 years of age, with the exception of those few who are retained as underworkers to learn the trade. The practice of employing "blowers" seems to have been only lately introduced into this trade. (Evid. 116.)

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56. Wolverhampton and the neighbouring townships of Willenhall and Wednesfield have been the principal seats of the lock and key manufacture for more than two centuries. It appears that this trade has gradually increased up to the present time, both in the number of workmen as well as in quantity of the goods produced. Although there are a vast number of persons engaged in this manufacture, there are not more than six or seven factories in which any large number of workmen are employed. In the largest factory there are not more than 50 adults and youths engaged in lock making. The larger factories generally combine the manufacture of various other kinds of hardware goods with that of locks. (Evid. 127.) Class 7.

57. This manufacture is almost entirely carried on by what are called "little masters;" of these there are about 100 in Wolverhampton and 280 in Willenhall and Wednesfield.

58. The manufacture of gun-locks is confined to Darlaston. This trade embraces five or six factories, in which about 20 journeymen are employed, and about 20 or 30 little masters or outworkers.

59. The manufacture of awl-blades, bits, spurs, and other articles of saddlers' ironmongery constitutes the principal trade of Walsall and Bloxwich. These trades also embrace a few factories and a vast number of small shops. The manufacture of edge tools, hammers, steel tags, bolts, currycombs, &c., is carried on in many of these towns in small works or factories.

60. Few children under 12 or 13 are regularly employed in any of these trades at any manufacturing process. But one or two boys from 9 to 11 years of age are very commonly employed to fetch materials and tools, carry articles from the shop to the warehouse, or to assist the workmen by blowing the forge bellows, or by filing parts of the work which do not require much skill or care. In one large manufactory at Willenhall, in which a great variety of these goods are manufactured, from 30 to 40 boys between the ages of 9 to 14 are employed in filing, &c., or as assistants in the casting shops.

61. The number of apprentices bound to the small locksmiths is still large. In the towns and larger factories they are nearly all out-apprentices. The small masters in Willenhall and Wednesfield generally have from one to three in-door apprentices. In one case I found a man with five apprentices and one little boy of 11 years of age living with him and working for him. (Evid. 138.) Apprentices in the lock trade are not bound at so early an age as formerly. They used to be taken at 8 years of age. Now they are seldom bound before 11 or 12 years of age. (Evid. 126.) The number of apprentices in these trades has much diminished during late years. In 1841 there were 615 apprentices in Willenhall and Wednesfield, in 1851 there were 376, and in 1861 only 255. (Evid. 194.) Females are employed in "pressing," particularly in the manufacture of currycombs; but there are very few girls employed at this work, except occasionally in the small shops.

62. The only employment in these trades in itself injurious to health is grinding edge tools or polishing bolts, steel tags, shoe tips, &c.

The persons principally employed in the "bobbin shops," as they are called, in which the grinding or polishing is performed, are principally men. There are, however, several youths of 14 years of age and upwards engaged in this work, and they sometimes begin to polish at 8 years of age. (Evid. 134, 135, 136.) Grinding and polishing, however, forms a much smaller part of the work connected with these manufactures than in the cutlery trade.

63. The harness and saddlery trade is confined to Walsall. There are about 15 factories belonging to this class, in which between 50 and 100 hands are employed. In the cutting, making up, and stitching saddles, bridles, and other parts of harness adults and young persons of both sexes are employed, but few children, except in the houses of the workpeople. In one of the largest of these factories no girls under 18 are employed. But in the manufacture of other parts of harness, the leather used for which is thinner, the stitching can be done by younger hands. The introduction of the sewing machine into these shops has dispensed with a great deal of the labour of the younger girls. With this machine one woman can do the work of 12 girls in stitching buckles. (Evid. 169.) Although the younger children are seldom employed in factories, they often work for their sisters or mothers at home. It is generally the custom for the men to do the harder work in the factories; the lighter work is given out to women to do in their own houses. Class 3.

Nature of Employment. State of Place of Work.

64. There is a general similarity in the character and arrangement of workshops belonging to each of these several trades throughout the district, their condition in a sanitory point of view depending chiefly on their date. The shops in even the smallest establishments which have been lately erected are more commodious and better ventilated than the older ones. Small and ill-ventilated shops are, however, very common to many of these trades. Class 1.

65. The employment of the boys in the iron foundries is to assist the casters (1), in preparing the sand by sifting and wetting it; (2), to help the casters in filling the moulds; (3), to dust and clean the castings; and (4), to carry the castings to the warehouses or finishing shops.

66. The atmosphere of the casting shops is hot and loaded with dust and vapour, but they are generally lofty and open to the roof, with large windows or apertures in the upper part of one or both the side walls.

67. In one large foundry in Wolverhampton a few little boys are employed in the enamelling shop. The work of these boys is very similar to that of the mould-runners in the potteries. The insides of iron saucepans, &c., are enamelled by a process very similar to that of glazing earthenware. The building is very hot, and the boys are employed in placing the hollow ware in the stoves. (Evid. 30.) I was assured, however, that the preparation used for enamelling by this firm did not contain lead.

68. The boys employed by the riveters work generally in the open air. The smaller boy blows the bellows of the little stove in which the rivets are heated; the other places the rivets in the stove and carries them to the riveter.

69. In the manufacture of hurdles the boys work either in the open air or in large sheds. Iron

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hurdles are made by fitting together pieces of rod-iron and stakes. The boys are employed in carrying and cutting the rods, assisting the smiths in forging, blacking the hurdles when made, &c.

70. The principal employment for females in work connected with the iron-foundries is blacking hollow ware, hurdles, &c., and painting iron bedsteads, &c. The painting shops which I visited were large and well built for ventilation. Many of the women and girls employed in painting are subjected to the hot atmosphere of the stove rooms. The stoves are ovens of about six foot square, heated from below by flues. The same kind of stoves are used in the japanning works. It is necessary to enter them to place the larger articles, such as bed-posts, &c.

Class 2.

71. The manufacture of large chains is a very laborious operation. Each link is formed by welding together, by hand labour, the ends of thick pieces of rod iron. The chain makers work on the piece-work system, and employ from two to three boys to help them. The youngest of these children (often a little girl in the small shops) is employed to blow the forge bellows. In the larger shops a blast engine is used for this purpose, for the manufacture of the large sizes. The two other boys work as "strikers." In working with rod-iron of about three-quarter inch diameter, a man and his two boys are able to make nine fathoms of chain during the day. This requires the forging of about 250 separate links. As soon as the piece of rod is heated, the man and his boys weld the ends together by striking alternately with greatest possible rapidity, lest the iron should cool before the welding is completed. The labour of the boys is governed only by the strength of the man; the more work the man can do, the more work the boys must do. (Evid. 49.)

72. It is only chain of large sizes that is made in the larger works. Small chain is made by workmen in little shops attached to their houses, or in shops belonging to small masters, in which they either work as journeymen for low wages, or they pay something for the use of their forge. Chain-making is a trade very easily learnt, and the appliances required are very few. It is the custom with all the large chain manufacturers to employ outworkers to make chain which does not require the blast engine. The prevalence of small masters, or outworkers, which exists to a great extent in several trades in these towns, and is the bane of the district, originates with the workmen themselves, but is encouraged by some of the larger manufacturers, as well as by the merchants or factors. The principal cause for this system seems to be that a workman can have the assistance of his children at home better than in the factory. I found a chain-maker at Wednesfield Heath working in his own shop for a large manufactory close by. He told me that he had left the works, and hired the shop in which he was working, in order that he might employ his little girls to help him, instead of hiring boys, which he would be obliged to do in the large works. He was making large chain. Two girls of 10 and 11 years of age were working as "strikers," and a little girl of 8, sometimes assisted by a still smaller girl of 6, was acting as "blower;" another girl of 16 generally worked as "striker," but was absent at the time of my visit, owing to the illness of her mother. This man had had 14 children, 10 of whom were alive and at home. The gross earnings of the family, at the time of my visit, amounted to about 2*l.* 2*s.* per week. Had he continued in the works with hired boys as his assistants he would have lost more than 10*s.* per week. The manufacturer allowed him 1*s.* per cwt. above the rate of wages in the works, for his firing, tools, &c. A large chain manufacturer at Tipton employed 50 workmen in his own work, and about 80 outworkers. (Evid. 49.)

Class 3.

73. The shops in which the brass-casters work are generally small. The metal is poured into large heavy moulds, in which several small castings are made at the same time. Owing to the weight of these moulds, older boys are required for this work than in the iron foundries.

74. Brass casting is very unhealthy work. In pouring the metal into the moulds a quantity of oxide of zinc is thrown off, which is inhaled by the workmen and their boys. It appears in the form of white powder hanging about the shops. I was told by one brass caster that few men continue at this work beyond 40 years of age. (Evid. 64.)

75. Besides the boys employed in the casters' shops, young boys are employed in the finishing department. The employment in the finishing shops in the brass and small iron foundries is very similar. Young boys of 10 years of age and upwards are employed by the men to assist them in filing, running errands, &c. Brass filing is not a wholesome employment; but the younger boys are not continuously employed at this work. The employment of boys by the finishers to help them in this work is by no means encouraged by the employers, as it often leads to the work being done by the boys instead of by the men. (Evid. 31, 61.)

76. The finishing shops in most of the brass foundries are small, but I did not find any great number of persons at work in them. Many of the little manufactories in Wolverhampton are very old; the floors and stairs, or rather ladders, by which they are reached are generally dangerously dilapidated.

Class 4.

77. In the tube works there are two departments, the forging and the finishing departments. The work in the forging shops, in which all the younger boys are employed, is very laborious and hot. Most of the manufacturing processes are done by machinery. The boys are employed in carrying about and placing the scelps or tubes in the stoves and machines. The tubes are made by heating bar iron, and drawing the bars or scelps through rolls. The drawing is effected by steam power. The bar being drawn hot through the mould or roll, is bent into a cylindrical shape, and the sides are welded together by the pressure it receives in the drawing.

Class 5.

78. The employments incident to the tin plate and japan trade may be divided into two departments: (1), the manufacturing department; (2), the japanning and finishing department. The former department comprises (1), working the tin or iron plates, stamping, tinning, spinning, wheeling and enamelling.

79. Of these employments enamelling is very injurious to health where lead is used as a large ingredient in the enamel. The enamel is put on the ware by a brush or sponge, dried in adjoining ovens, and then vitrified in the "muffler," or kiln. The enamellers are thus subject to the pernicious effects both of the lead powder and a heated atmosphere. Seldom young persons and children, however, are employed in the enamelling room.

80. "Pickling," or cleansing the iron plate by dipping it in a solution of sulphuric acid, preparatory to tinning, is an unwholesome employment. Boys are employed in the tinning shops as assistants to the tinners, but it does not appear that their health is affected by the part they take in the "pickling" process.

81. In some manufactories papier mâché is worked into trays and other fancy goods. The papier mâché is manufactured by women called "pasters." Each woman employs one girl of about 14 or 15 years of age as an assistant. The paste used consists of flour and glue, and although the smell of the pasting shop is very nauseous, the employment is not considered unhealthy.

82. The persons employed in working the iron and tin plate, stamping, spinning, &c., are skilled workmen. Boys of 13 years of age and upwards are employed, either as apprentices or as under-workers to the men, in making simpler and cheap articles, such as candlesticks, extinguishers, &c. The employment of young boys by the men is discouraged in all the large manufactories, but one or two boys of 11 or 12 years of age are generally employed as errand boys, or for picking up and carrying away scraps, &c.

83. The persons employed in japanning, polishing, and decorating the ware are principally women and girls.

84. The operation of japanning or varnishing is carried on in the stove-rooms. The temperature of these rooms is very high, owing to the great heat required in the stoves for the purpose of drying the varnish as quickly as possible. The atmosphere is loaded with the fumes from the spirit of tar, turpentine, &c. The women, however, do not feel any injurious effects from this employment. Very few girls under 17 or 18 are employed in the stove-rooms.

85. The employments and condition of the persons engaged in painting, printing, and polishing the ware, are very similar to those of the persons employed in the finishing departments in the pottery trade. The flower and scene painting on the better goods is done by men. Children of 9 and 10 years of age are employed in some of the manufactories in Bilston in painting cheap trays. Girls of 14 years of age and upwards are employed in polishing the japanned trays, &c. This is done by the hand with pumice-stone powder and other fine sand. The work requires strength, and the younger girls are only employed as learners. (Evid. 81.)

86. Most of the factories of this class, both in Wolverhampton and Bilston, are well built, and the rooms and shops well ventilated by numerous windows and arched ceilings. In one or two cases, where old houses have been converted into factories, the rooms are low and small, and quite unsuited for the purposes to which they have been applied. I did not, however, find any rooms much crowded.

Class 6.

87. The manufacture of cut nails is carried on in large shops, in which a number of cutting machines are fixed. The "feeders" are supplied with long slips of flat iron of different dimensions, according to the size of the nails to be made. The operation of feeding is pushing the strips of iron into the machines, and turning it quickly round as the machine acts upon it. The machine bites off the end and forms the nail. The feeders can either sit or stand as they work. Their labour, although very monotonous, is not laborious.

88. Washers are flat iron rings of various dimensions used in fitting together different parts of machinery, wheels, &c. The employment of the women and girls in this manufacture is very similar to that of the feeders in the nail shops. The washers are cut out of flat iron by punching machines. First a disc is punched out of the iron plate, and then the centre is punched out of the disc. The operation of feeding the first punching machine is very simple; the girls generally sit at this work. The second operation requires more care and some skill, as the fingers are brought into close proximity with the punch. Owing to this reason steam power is not always applied to the machines by which the latter operation is performed. These hand presses require strength as well as skill, and no young girls are employed on them.

89. In the manufacture of screws and screw-bolts there are several distinct operations. Small screws are made out of iron wire by lathes fitted with different instruments by which the iron is cut into proper lengths, shaped, screwed, nicked, &c. These lathes are sometimes worked by the foot, but generally by steam power. The nicking is the simplest operation, and is done by the younger girls.

90. In the manufacture of screw-bolts the first operation is forging the bolt. This is ordinary smith's work. In all the screw-bolt forges boys are employed by men to blow the bellows (vide ante 44). In one manufactory these bolts are forged by machinery; no smiths are employed, but several boys.

91. The bolts when forged are transferred to the screwing shops. In all the larger factories the screwing machines are worked by steam power. No exertion is required in feeding the screwing machines, but the "feeders" are obliged to stand during their work.

92. When steam power is not used, as in a great many small shops in Darlaston, the operation of "screwing" the large bolts is very laborious and slow. The screw machine is worked by the arm. The persons employed at this work are generally women or strong girls. They earn much higher wages than in the factories where steam machinery is used, and as the hand machine requires four persons to make the same quantity of screws as can be made by one with the steam machine, the old system is still preferred by the workpeople. I was informed that girls of 14 or 15 could earn 13*s.* a week at the hand machine, while they could only earn 5*s.* in the factories.

93. In some of the nail and washer factories in Wolverhampton the shops are large and airy, others are very old and dilapidated, and crowded with machinery. Many of the screw shops in Darlaston are very small and crowded, the machines being placed as close together as possible. Heat is not in any way required in the screw shops; the work is very dirty, but more feminine than the employment on the pitbank, the cokehearth, or the brickkiln, which is nearly the only other employment offered for young women in the "black country."

Class 7.

94. The employments incident to the various trades comprised in Class 7 consist almost entirely of forging, filing, stamping, and pressing. In the manufacture of edge tools and bolts, and a few other articles, grinding or polishing is required; with this exception all the employments in these trades are perfectly healthy.

95. Many of the shops of the "little masters" are very neat and well built, with high roofs, and an abundance of windows; others are small sheds, dirty and dilapidated, and serving the various purposes of a workshop, cartshed, fowlhouse, &c. Owing to the small number of hands employed by the separate masters these shops are not liable to the evil of over-crowding.

96. Some of the "bobbin" or grinding shops in the edge tool works are very small and badly

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ventilated. In some which I visited I found the atmosphere loaded with emery powder and the dust from the grindstones.

97. The saddle and harness factories at Walsall are very neat and well built; no heat is required in any of the shops, except for the comfort of the workpeople. It is, however, too much the practice in these shops, as elsewhere where women are engaged in sedentary employment, to keep the shop very hot and exclude all fresh air as much as possible.

Class 8. Class 9. 98. The process of galvanizing, or covering iron with a coating of zinc, is sometimes carried out by the iron workers themselves, and in some cases constitutes a distinct trade. This process consists (1), in pickling or preparing the iron in a solution of sulphuric or muriatic acid; (2), in dipping the iron in the molten zinc; (3), in cooling and drying the iron after it has been dipped in the metal. The process of galvanising is very similar to that of tinning. In the place of the tallow, which is used for protecting the molten tin from the air, sulphate or salts of ammonia is used. This produces a very strong pungent smell in the shop, but, I believe, is by no means injurious.

The youths are employed principally in drying the iron, after it has been galvanised, by rubbing it with sawdust. (Evid. 174.)

Class 10. 99. There is only one tin-toy factory in Wolverhampton, and I was informed that this is the only manufactory of the kind in the kingdom. The hands employed are nearly all females; at the time of my visit there were seven girls under 12 employed. The work consists in cutting and pressing thin tin plate, fitting together the pieces thus made into little toys, and painting the toys when made. The younger girls are chiefly employed in painting. The shops are good, and were not at all crowded at the time of my visit. (Evid. 175.)

Class 11. 100. There is one electroplate factory in Wolverhampton. The premises are small, but very neat and well built. The hands employed consist principally of skilled workmen. Two boys of about 12 years of age are employed in the plating shop. (Evid. 176.) Girls are employed in polishing the finished plate. These girls generally begin to learn at about 14 years of age. (Evid. 177.)

Hours of Work. Nightwork. Mealtimes. Holidays.

101. The ordinary hours of work vary somewhat in different trades, and in different establishments belonging to the same trade.

102. In the larger works and factories the working hours are 11 or 12 per day, including the times for meals, but in many of the smaller shops the regular hours are 13, and in some 14 or even 15, per day.

103. In the japan and tinplate manufactories, the tin toy and electroplate factories at Wolverhampton, the hours of work are from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. In most trades the hours of work are from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. or from 6 a.m. to 6. p.m. In many factories work commences at 7 in the winter and at 6 in the summer months.

104. Where work does not commence before 8 a.m. no time is allowed for breakfast, which the workpeople take previously to coming to work. In all the other works half an hour is allowed at 8 or 9 a.m. for breakfast. One hour is always allowed for dinner at 1 p.m., and generally speaking all the hands leave the works at this time. Where work is continued to 7 or 8 p.m. an additional half-hour is allowed for tea, but this interval is by no means generally observed, except when the hands are working overtime.

105. Children and young persons generally work during the same hours as the adults, I have only in one case met with any express regulation made in favour of the younger hands in this respect. (Evid. 125.) In some of the larger works no work is done after 1 p.m. on Saturday. In other trades work ceases at 2, 4, or 5 p.m. In the lock trade no regular half-holiday is observed; but in the smaller shops the long hours of Thursday and Friday generally leave little work to be done on the Saturday. It is customary with most trades to work short hours on Monday. Many piece-workmen do not work at all on this day.

Holidays. 106. The customary holidays in the district, which are observed more or less in all the trades, are three days at Midsummer, three days at the races in August, and three days at Christmas.

107. Overtime is either for two hours (quarter of a day) or four hours (half a day.) Quarter-day overtime is very frequently resorted to in some of these trades for several days, and occasionally for some weeks consecutively, particularly in the finishing departments. In some factories work is occasionally carried on through the day and night by relays, each relay working eight hours.

Class 1. 108. Much of the work at the large foundries is taken under time contracts, such as the manufacture of machinery, &c., for railroads or other large undertakings. These establishments are also often engaged in repairing machinery, &c. Many of these larger works are carried on in the open air, and accordingly the work is liable to be stopped by bad weather. (Evid. 42, 44, 45—36.) The boys employed by the riveters are the only large class of children liable to be worked during the night in these works.

109. The hours of work in the casting shops are very rarely exceeded. It is a custom with the iron casters to work fewer hours than the workmen in other trades of the district. As they can only work when the furnace from which they draw their iron is kept in heat, they are compelled to observe the same hours of work, although they work on the piecework system.

110. The times for meals, however, are little observed in the casting shops. It is rarely that the boys have sufficient time to leave the shop either for breakfast or dinner. About ten minutes for breakfast and half an hour for dinner would be all the time generally allowed them. They are not, however, necessarily engaged in laborious work during the whole time; their condition in this respect would depend much upon the individual for whom they worked. (Evid. 22, 23, 24, 27.)

Class 2. 111. In one case, a man in the employ of a large iron founder contracted with his master to black hurdles. He employed three of his own children. The ages of these boys were 9, 10, and 12. These boys worked for nearly three weeks from about 5 in the morning to 11 or 12 at night. (Evid. 197.)

112. The hours of work in the large chain works are from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. I believe these hours are regularly observed. The men can only work while the blast engine is in operation, and the labour is so severe that the men could not work longer hours. (Evid. 49.)

113. In the small chain shops the little blowers are often worked for 13 or 14 hours. (Evid. 49.)

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114. The hours of work in the brass foundries are from 7 or 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Overtime is very little resorted to in this trade.

115. In the tube works overtime is very prevalent. In some large works at Wednesbury I found that most of the boys had been for some weeks working from 6 a.m. to 8, 9, or 10 p.m. for several days in the week. (Evid. 69, 71, 72, 73, 77.)

116. In the larger tin plate and japan factories in Wolverhampton the employers are opposed to all overtime, and I believe it is scarcely ever resorted to. (Evid. 63.) In the small factories at Bilston Class 3. overtime to 9 and 11 p.m. is occasionally resorted to for one or two nights in the week, but generally Class 4. speaking the hours of work in this trade are less than in the other trades of the district. (Evid. 85, 86, Class 5. 87, 88.)

117. In the nail, washer, and screw factories the machinery is stopped at breakfast and dinner time. Class 6. In the nail and washer factories at Wolverhampton overtime is not common, but in the screw factories at Darlaston it is the general practice to keep the machinery working to 8 or 8½ p.m. on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday in each week. Work ceases in these factories at 5 p.m. on Monday, and 4 p.m. on Saturday. (Evid. 104, 105, 106, 114.)

118. The customary hours of work in the lock trade are very long, but less than they were in former Class 7. years. (Evid. 124.)

In the larger factories in Willenhall the regular hours are from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. in summer, and from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. in winter. On Saturday one hour only is taken off the ordinary working day.

In the small shops in Willenhall and Wednesfield the regular hours are from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. (Evid. 141.) One witness (Evid. 147) says, "The greatest part of them work from 16 to 18 hours a day." Another (Evid. 149), "We work regularly from 7 to 10 every day of the week, and on Friday night "sometimes through the whole night." It is too long for both men and boys.

119. An attempt was lately made in the largest factory in Willenhall to reduce the hours of work to 6 or 5½ p.m. This time for ceasing work was observed for about five or six years, and then given up. The employer's reason for returning to the old system was that no other master in the place followed his example, while his piecework men complained of not being able to earn enough wages in the short time. (Evid. 127.)

120. In almost all the small shops in the district the youths and apprentices cannot leave their work before 8 p.m., while on Thursdays and Fridays they generally work to 9 or 10. (Evid. 109, 126, 128.) It is a common practice to work all night on Friday. (Evid. 138, 143, 168.)

The "little masters" undertake large orders from the factors and merchants, and work themselves and their boys to the utmost of their powers until they have completed the order, and then wait weeks with little or no work to do. (Evid. 164.)

121. The hours of work in these trades are from 7 or 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. In the harness factories overtime to 10 p.m. is occasionally resorted to, but not very frequently. The children employed in these factories are often kept at work to 8 p.m., but not often beyond that. (Evid. 175, 189.)

Hiring and Wages.

122. In most of the works and factories where boys are employed as assistants to men they are hired Classes 8, 9, and paid by the men, and little or no connection is considered to exist between them and the masters. 10, 11.

123. In some large works at Wednesbury (Evid. 42) all the boys on the works, although working as assistants to adults, are hired by the firm. This practice, so advantageous to the welfare of the children, is seldom carried out; never in small works. (Evid. 69, 77, 126.)

124. As in the ironworks and mines it is very common in many of their trades for the masters to contract with a few workmen for the performance of the work of different departments; these men hire their own hands, and thus become almost the entire masters of the works, so far as relates to the wages, hours, and the class of labour employed. This practice, although convenient in some respects to the masters, is undoubtedly very objectionable, and tends much to the employment of young children.

125. The boys employed by the iron and brass casters are hired and paid by the men. Iron casters in the hollow ware foundries generally employ two or three little boys. The wages of these boys vary Class 1. from 6*d.* to 1*s.* a day; generally speaking, the boys wages correspond with their ages, but not always. In one case I found a boy of 10 who had been at work a year earning 8*d.* a day, while another boy of 12, who had only commenced a few weeks, was only earning 6*d.* (Evid. 29.) The earnings of the casters themselves vary very much; a clever workman can earn 7*s.* 6*d.* a day, while another, in the same shop, only earns 2*s.* The casters all work on the piecework system, and employ boys to help them. With their assistance they can do more work, but they are not absolutely necessary, and it appears that some casters abstain from employing boys, as the practice has led to this trade being overstocked with workmen, and a consequent reduction of wages in some works. (Evid. 32.)

126. The boys employed in the chain works are all hired and paid by the men. The smaller boys Class 2. or girls who work at the bellows get from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* 6*d.* per week. Boys of 10 to 14 who work as strikers get from 4*s.* to 6*s.* Boys of 15 get 8*s.* (Evid. 50, 51, 52, 57.)

127. The earnings of the children and young persons in the japan factories in Bilston are very small. Class 5 Boys and girls of 11–13 years of age employed at painting get 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* per week. Girls of 15 and 16 years of age get 3*s.* (Evid. 85, 86, 87, 89, 90.) In the japan factories in Wolverhampton the girls and women employed in the painting and varnishing shops get from 4*s.* to 7*s.* The polishers can make from 10*s.* to 15*s.* a week. (Evid. 80.)

128. In many of the nail and washer factories the masters contract with one or two men for the Class 6. performance of the work. These men are called "fitters." They act as managers, hire the hands, superintend the work, and manage and clean the machinery. Most of the workers in all these factories are paid according to the quantity of nails, screws, &c. they make. The younger children are paid weekly wages. Girls of 13 are paid 2*s.* 6*d.* a week. The girls and women who are paid by the piece, earn from 3*s.* to 6*s.*, or from 8*s.* to 9*s.* with overtime. When children work overtime their parents generally let them keep the extra wages they earn. (Evid. 97, 98, 104, 105.) The little boys employed as blowers by the screw-bolt smiths get weekly wages of 2*s.* to 3*s.* The earnings of the workmen themselves vary from 15*s.* to 2*l.* per week. (Evid. 107, 108, 116.)

129. The majority of the boys employed in the lock trade, and in many other of the trades belonging to this class, are apprentices. An out apprentice of 14 years of age would get 4*s.* a week, and his wages

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would be increased 1*s.* per week from year to year to the expiration of his term. Indoor apprentices have no wages, but are allowed by most masters to earn about 2*s.* a week for themselves, as soon as they are able to do work over and above their regular stints. (Evid. 125, 126.) Where, as is too often the case, the indoor apprentices are already overworked by their masters, 2*d.* or 3*d.*, or perhaps sometimes 1*s.* is given them for pocket-money. (Evid. 138.) The earnings of locksmiths and other workmen of this class average about 1*l.* per week. Many unskilful or old workmen can only earn 7*s.* to 12*s.* in the week. (Evid. 137, 138.)

Class 7.

Class 8.

130. The wages in the harness and saddlery trade at Walsall are rather above the average. The earnings of the workmen vary from 20*s.* to 45*s.* per week. The girls and women can earn from 8*s.* to 13*s.* a week. The wages of apprentices for the first year are 3*s.* In the latter years of their apprenticeship they get from 12*s.* to 14*s.*

131. The workmen in this trade have attempted, and apparently with much success, to prevent the trade being overstocked, by objecting to the employment of more than one apprentice to every five men. (Evid. 171.)

Class 10.

132. The girls under 13 employed in the tin-toy factory at Wolverhampton earn about 2*s.* a week, without overtime. (Evid. 177.)

Class 11.

133. The girls employed in polishing electroplate earn as much as 10*s.* or 12*s.* in the week. The younger girls of 14 or 15 years of age get from 1*s.* 6*d.* upwards while they are learning.

Accidents.

134. Steam machinery is generally used for turning the lathes in the finishing shops of the iron and brass foundries, tube works, &c., but the persons employed at these lathes are generally adults, nor is the machinery at all of a dangerous character.

135. The stamping machines, which are used in iron plate and blank tray trade, and in the manufacture of keys and other articles, are attended with some danger. The stamp is a heavy weight, which, being raised in an upright framework, is dropped upon the plate in the die beneath. The stamp is raised either by a pulley and stirrup or by a windlass. In some cases steam power has been applied. Much of this work is done by boys of 14 and upwards, who from inexperience or carelessness very often get their fingers crushed. If the machinery is at all defective the work is very dangerous. In a blank tray factory at Bilston I found a boy whose arm had lately been broken by the windlass, owing to the catch being defective. Notwithstanding this accident the machinery had not been repaired at the time of my visit, but was being used by another boy. (Evid. 91.)

136. In the cut nail and washer factories the girls are liable to have their fingers crushed by the punches; but serious injuries are not common. (Evid. 93, 96, 101, 103.) In many of the shops, however, the machines are so crowded as to render it very dangerous for females to walk between them. In one of these factories a fatal accident occurred about two years since. One of the girls employed at feeding attempted to fix the band which worked her machine on the shaft pulley; the band caught her dress, and she was instantly killed. On the recommendation of coroner's jury, boxes were made to cover the wheels, but I only saw one remaining. I believe, however, that in all these factories, as well as in the grinding shops, managers or foremen are employed to manage and clean the machinery, and the young persons employed are forbidden to touch it. (Evid. 103.) The screwing machines are less dangerous than the nail and washer machines; accidents very rarely happen in these shops. (Evid. 104.)

Influence of Employment on the Physical Condition of Young Persons and Children. Treatment.

137. From the information I obtained from medical men and others, as well as from my own observation and inquiries in the works and shops which I visited, it does not appear that any of the employments in which the young persons in this district are engaged, with the few exceptions which I have already noticed, are in any way specially injurious to health. (Evid. 181—184, 187.)

138. Cases of children being seriously injured by early work sometimes occur, but I believe are not at all common. (Evid. 188, 190.)

139. The condition and treatment of the apprentices in the lock trade has much improved since the time of Mr. Horne's inquiry, in 1840. The evil effects of overwork, the distorted or stunted figures, are no longer visible in Willenhall. They are, however, still kept at the vice for too many hours, but they are not subjected to ill-usage as formerly. (Evid. 191, 193.)

140. With regard to the state of education among the younger portion of the working population of this district, and the obstacles which their employment offers in this respect, I would call the attention of the Commissioners to the statements of the Rev. H. Sandford, H.M. Inspector of Schools, the Rev. F. P. Hutton, and the Rev. J. Sharwood. (Evid. 186, 187, 188.)

141. From my own inquiries on this point it appeared that although nearly all the boys I questioned or tested (generally boys between 9 and 14 years of age) had been at a day-school previously to coming to work, not much more than one-half were able to read. Many boys told me that they had been good scholars, but had quite forgotten all they had learnt.

142. With the exception of Tipton, it appears that the towns and places which I visited are well supplied with schools, some of which have been provided by iron-masters and other large employers. (Evid. 187, 41.) The large working population of this district are, however, peculiarly isolated from the rest of society. All the large employers live far away from the workpeople whom they employ. A few ministers of religion are almost the only representatives of the upper classes resident in the "black country." No one, unless compelled by duty or necessity, resides in a district from which nature has been so roughly excluded. Huge ugly heaps of refuse, spoil from the pits, or cinder from the iron furnaces, cover the whole surface of the country, to the very doors of the houses in which its denizens live, while smoke issuing incessantly, night and day, from hundreds of furnaces shuts out the sun, and stifles what little vegetation the few patches of soil left unoccupied by buildings, or rubbish, might afford. Although conditions of life, such as these, would seem very unfavourable to the development of either refinement or intelligence, the industrial occupations of the districts undoubtedly offer less impediments to the education of the young, than those of many other places. There is little or no demand for the labour of female children under 13 or 14 years of age, and perhaps too little appropriate

employment for females above that age; while, so far as regards the requirements of trade, all the boys of the district might be kept at school till at least 11 years of age. Undoubtedly the dearth of female employment is considerably felt by families when the elder children are girls, and thus the employment of boys at an early age becomes more necessary than in districts which afford a variety of employment for both sexes.

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143. As reasons for subjecting some or all of the trades of this district to legislative regulations, I would mention:—

(1.) The frequent employment in many of these trades of young persons and children from 6 a.m. to 8 or 9 p.m. for several consecutive days, and occasionally to later hours.

(2.) That many of the boys now at work have never been to school at all, while a large portion of those who have been to school previously to beginning work lose, after a few months, almost all the knowledge they have acquired, owing to the absence of any sufficient provision for continuing their education.

(3.) Some of the mine proprietors consider that the present partial legislation under which the employment of boys in the mines is restricted, while other trades are free from all restrictions, operates injuriously to their trade. They say that miners require early training as much or more than workmen in other trades, but that under the present law miners' sons and other boys, who would otherwise be brought up as miners, get employment in other trades at 10 or 11 years of age, and are thus diverted from the mines, while in the place of hands thus trained they are obliged to employ a raw and shifting class of labourers who never become such good workmen or cautious miners.

144. With respect to the kind of regulations which would be appropriate to the trades of this district, I would observe:—

(1.) That generally speaking these trades offer little employment at which boys under 10 or 11 years of age could be properly or profitably employed, however limited might be the hours of their labour, and still less in which female children under 13 years of age could be employed. Of the boys now employed the majority are employed in the iron works, the chain works, the foundries, and the tube works. In these employments muscular strength is so requisite that it would be impossible to lighten the labours of those now employed by calling in a younger class to share the work with them, while owing to the rough and dirty nature of the work in which these boys are engaged the wear and tear of their clothes is so great that it would seem doubtful whether their parents would be benefited at all by employing them at lower wages than what they now get.

(2.) Many of the younger children now employed are employed in small shops either attached to the house of the workman or forming part of the house itself, and it appears that the workmen in all these trades prefer working at home to working in the large shops or factories, for the express reason, among others, that they can have the help of their children better at home than in the factories. The trades of this district, particularly the lock trade, seem to show that the aggregation of operatives in large factories tends to diminution and regularity in the hours of labour, while the "little master" and factor system, by causing opposition instead of community of interests among the labourers themselves, has a contrary tendency. Any legislation, therefore, which had the effect of impeding the growth of large shops and factories, while it encouraged the "home worker," and "factor" system, would probably be very injurious to the interests of those for whose benefit it was applied.

(3.) The employment in the machine shops of the cutnail and screw factories is of such a nature that the regulations of the existing Factories Acts could be easily carried out in them without any prejudice to the interests of the trade or the workers, but owing to the abundance of female labour in the district, as well as to the nature of the work, probably no children under 13 would be employed under the regulations of those Acts.

Supplementary Report on the Iron Works in other Districts, and Tin Works in South Wales.

145. Blast furnaces, forges, and rolling mills, in which iron is smelted and manufactured, are situated in the neighbourhood of Leeds, in the North of Yorkshire and Durham, in the neighbourhood of Newcastle-on-Tyne, in and about Glasgow, and in North and South Wales. These localities, with Staffordshire and Shropshire, constitute nearly all the iron districts of the kingdom.

146. In all these localities the character and arrangement of the works, most of the manufacturing processes, the system of labour, and the hours of work are the same as in Staffordshire.

The greater number of the blast furnaces are warmed throughout Sunday as on other days. There are about 540 furnaces in blast in the kingdom; at 200 of these the hands employed are released from their labours generally for 10 or 12 hours on Sunday. Many of these furnaces have not been worked throughout Sunday for several years, and employers who stop their furnace-work on Sundays say that they have not only not incurred loss, but have been benefited thereby. The practice is not confined to particular districts. It appears that it is more easily carried out when the hot blast is used, but as many as 40 furnaces worked with the cold blast have been stopped on Sundays, in some cases for 12 hours for many years. Certain ironmasters who appreciate the importance of releasing workpeople from their labours on Sunday have attempted to render the practice universal in the trade, but hitherto without success. The hands employed on Sunday when the blast is not taken off, are generally obliged to work from 9 o'clock on Sunday morning to 6 o'clock on Monday morning, in order to meet the weekly change of hands from the night to the day turn. (Evid. 269.)

147. The proportionate number of young persons and children to adults employed varies considerably in different localities. The operations of filling and drawing the blast furnaces engage about the same number of adults in all works, but the common labour incident to these operations, viz., the carrying material, filling and unloading coal, &c., breaking limestone, is effected in different ways. In some works, particularly those in South Wales, women and boys are employed to a large extent in this work. I should estimate the number of children under 13, male and female, employed in iron and tin works of South Wales at 1,500, and the young persons, male and female, at 4,000. In the forges and mills several

Number and ages of children employed.

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young boys are employed, wherever the iron is manufactured into small rod iron. In the Leeds district, the iron is chiefly made into railway carriage wheels and heavy plates, and accordingly few boys under 13 are employed. In the works on the Tyne, and many of the Scotch works, the operations consist almost entirely in the manufacture of plates for shipbuilding. In these works young boys are employed to "fire" and pull up the doors of the mill furnaces. I found from inquiries in several works both in Scotland and Wales, that there is no necessity for the employment of children for the purpose. (Evid. 257.)

The boys employed for this work are always very young, generally about 10 or 11 years of age.

Underhand puddlers.

148. The employment of boys of 13 years of age and upwards as underhand puddlers is very common in the Welsh forges. It appears that the process of puddling the Welsh iron, particularly when a mixture of pig and refined iron is used, does not require the same amount of labour as the iron used in most districts, and thus the puddler is able to do his work with a less able assistant. The practice, however, of employing young boys for this work is very liable to lead to their being seriously overworked. When a puddler, with a boy of 12 or 13 years of age, produces six or seven heats of iron in a turn, it is most probable that he either overworks himself or his boy, or does his work badly. In the Ruabon works in North Wales I noticed several boys whose faces showed evident signs of their having been worked beyond their strength. (Evid. 264.)

Employment of girls in iron works.

149. The employment of women and girls in iron works seems to be peculiar to Wales. The Welsh iron works having been established in remote valleys, the system of labour has been adapted to the peculiar condition of the population which they have called into existence. The difficulty experienced at first in obtaining adult labour in sufficient abundance, and the want of all other employment for girls, has led to their being employed in work which is done by youths or common labourers in other districts. Although the work of unloading coal, breaking limestone, filling barrows with material, is both laborious and dirty, it is evidently not unhealthy. As in Staffordshire the manufacture of bricks, which is generally carried on in the works, and the preparation of the coke heaps, when coke ovens are not used, is generally effected by a few men, with a number of girls or women as their assistants. These operations are only carried on during the day. Very young girls are employed to carry and place bricks. (Evid. 302–303). The employment of girls about the furnaces and mills during the night turn is admitted to be attended with evils of a moral character. The class of girls regularly employed by night as well as day in the Welsh works are the pilers. They are employed in making up the bales or piles of puddled iron previously to their being reheated for the mill. These girls are generally 15 years of age and upwards. A few younger girls are also employed on both turns for sweeping.

150. The system of labour in the Welsh works tends to afford a good competency to families, however large, which are connected with the works, while the family connexion and intimacy which pervades all classes employed has a protecting influence on the children and girls.

Employment of younger children.

151. Although the number of children of 12 years of age and upwards, and young persons of both sexes, is much larger in the Welsh works than in Staffordshire, few boys under 9 or 10 years of age are employed except as staff carriers. The youngest children employed are in some cases the children of widows, but more often the children of the workmen, who seem to be allowed the privilege of getting their children into the works at which they are employed at the earliest possible age.

Manufacture of tin plates.

152. The manufacture of tin plates is carried on in several works in Monmouthshire and Glamorganshire. A great number of children and young persons, male and female, are employed in this work.

153. The iron after going through the ordinary processes of manufacture is rolled into thin plates. The work peculiar to the tinning process then begins. The plates are first put, cold, through another set of rolls. This work is done entirely by boys of 9 to 14 years of age. In some works these rolls are worked day and night. The plates are then annealed and pickled or washed in a solution of sulphuric acid, preparatory to the tinning process (*vide ante* 80). In these operations girls and boys are employed in carrying and drying the plates.

154. The tinning shops are large covered sheds, along the sides of which are the "stacks" of pots containing tin and grease, in which the plates are dipped. At each stack a man, the tinner, and four boys are employed. The youngest boy is generally about 10 years of age. The operations of each of these hands consist simply in dipping the plates either in tin or grease, and passing them on. From the youngest boy or "list" boy the plates are handed over to the girls. There are four girls to each "stack." Each girl is provided with a bin of bran, in which she rubs the plate and then passes it on. The last girl, generally about 10, dusts the plates, and carries them off to the sorting house.

Hours of work, meal times, &c.

155. All these children are paid by the piece, or quantity of plates finished during the day, but are paid severally by the employer. The tin plates are small and light, and the number passed through the hands of these children in the day is enormous. The labour of the children is regulated by the tinner. The work is only carried on during the day. Although the same regularity as to time is not observed as in day work, it appears that these children are generally in the tinning shop from 6 in the morning to 6 or 7 at night. They do not stop more than about half an hour for breakfast or dinner. As their day's work is regulated by quantity and not by time, they are not necessarily incessantly working throughout the day.

156. The youngest children earn about 4*s.* to 5*s.* a week. There are, probably, few employments where the relay system could be more conveniently carried out.

Education of children.

157. I generally found that in all the iron districts schools, more or less in connexion with the works, have been established. In some cases the owners have themselves built the schools, and support them either at their own expense, or by small deductions from the wages of their workmen. In the Welsh works I found several children who had been many years at school. In the other districts most of the workmen have been so migratory that their children have had little chance of any continued schooling. In every district the majority of the children I questioned confessed themselves unable to read; but many of those who could read, read well the subjects I gave them. The effect of school training on the manner and intelligence of the children and young persons in the Welsh works was very manifest.

I have, &c.

Francis D. Longe,
Assistant Commissioner.

EVIDENCE.

Messrs. Deakin and Dodd's Ironworks, Willenhall.

1. *William Piper*, foreman.—We have two door-drawers ; one for the day and one for the night. They get 1*s.* a turn. Door-drawers generally get only 6*d.*, but these attend to two furnaces, and get double wages. Monday is always a holiday for all the boys on the works ; we repair machinery on that day. During the three years I have been here we have never had any boys disabled by burns. The youngest boys employed at the rolls get 10*d.* a-day. The roller at the small rolls employs three men and seven boys. The proportion of boys to men employed at the rolls depends upon the thickness or size of the iron rod or plate which is being made. Boys of 10 get 10*d.* a turn, boys of 12 get 1*s.*, and boys of 15 years of age get 1*s.* 6*d.* The small roll can be stopped by shifting the loose crab from the main wheel. It has never been stopped in case of accidents, no accident has happened to require it. The roll goes so quick that it could not be stopped in time to save an accident from the wire catching a boy. The iron must be rolled quick, when it is thin, or it will cool and get hard.

2. *John Hughes*, roller's assistant.—I am going 15. I have worked two years. I turn over. I have had some bad burns. I was burnt last Monday night. I have been burnt six times since I have been on this job. I have been burnt three times on the legs. I played a week once, and three weeks when I burnt my arm. I get 1*s.* a-day. I come at 5½. I go away at 9 for breakfast for half an hour. I have half an hour, and sometimes three-quarters of an hour, for dinner at 1. I go away at 6 in the evening, sometimes before, never after 6½. We rest a quarter of an hour sometimes when we change rolls, and often stop for a minute or two. I go to school on Sundays. I can't read. I went to day school. Before I came here I drawed doors for a year. When I go home I get tea and play about. On Monday I begin to work at 6 at night, and work to 6 the next morning. I don't go to bed on Monday when I am on the night turn.

3. *Isaac Phillips.*—I am going 13. I have worked more than three years. I have been burnt several times.

[N.B.—Five boys present. All had been burnt. Two could read, three could not.]

Mr. John Chapman's Spring Bank Ironworks, Willenhall.

4. *Mr. J. Chapman.*—We manufacture chiefly wire iron and heel-tip iron. We employ boys to catch the iron from the rolls, and to run down with it. Boys are employed in straightening the iron with hammers, and coiling it up. Very little boys are able to do the work. Boys from 10 to 12 years of age are the best. Men would not be quick enough. I think that boys ought to begin to learn this work at 10 years of age. They start with 4*s.* a week, and their wages rise to 7*s.* A boy of 13 can get 7*s.* week. We have two lots of boys, one for the day and one for the night turn. They work alternate weeks during the days and nights. The day turn is from 6 or 6½ A.M. to 5½ or 6 P.M. with half an hour for breakfast at 9 and an hour for dinner at 1. The night shift comes on at about 6½ P.M. and work to 6 the next morning. The boys are not working incessantly during the working hours. Between breakfast and dinner, for instance, there are generally five heats worked, and between each heat there is an interval of from five to seven minutes. Boys generally burn themselves at first, until they get a little experience. I knew a case of a man who had his foot cut off by the iron. He thoughtlessly put his leg inside the scroll as he was straightening it. I saw a boy killed by the iron rod being thrust through his body. He was playing marbles, and went up to the roll when it was working to get his marble from beneath it. I have not known any case of a boy being permanently injured or disabled by the iron when engaged in his regular work. I think boys ought to begin this work at 10 years of age. If boys are kept from work longer than this they become disinclined for this sort of work, and do not learn so well.

5. *Edward Lomax*, roller's assistant.—I am going 12. I am 12 on the 10th of May. I have worked a year and a half. I straighten the iron. I have worked six months at the rolls. I have burnt myself three times, once on my foot and twice on my arms. I played for a week when I burnt my foot. I did not play for the burns on my arm. I come at 6 in the morning and leave at 6 at night when I am on the day turn. Sometimes I stop till 9 ; then I get a quarter day's wages more. I get 5*s.* a-week. I stop half an hour at 9 for breakfast, and an hour at dinner time. We always stop a little after every heat. Sometimes we stop a quarter of an hour. I was seven years at school. (Can read well.) I can write. I read the Bible at home, and William the Wood-cutter.

6. *William Plant.*—I was 10 last Monday. I have only worked a fortnight. I have been to school. (Reads well.) I have books at home. I read the Testament and other books. I can't think of their names. I have burnt myself. (Had a bad burn on the arm.) I stayed at home two days. It was at 4 o'clock in the morning when I was burnt. When I work at night I go to bed at 6 o'clock in the morning, and get up at 5½. I come to work at once. I get 8*d.* a day.

Messrs. G. B. Thorneycroft and Co.'s Ironworks, Horsley Field.

7. *Mr. Kesteven*, partner in the firm.—We have great difficulty in getting boys of a proper age, *i.e.* between 13 and 16. There is a strong feeling of objection among ironmasters generally to any partial system of legislation in respect of children. Many of the ironmasters are owners of mines, and we find that the exclusion of boys from pits, while they are not prevented getting employment in other trades, has the effect of diverting youths altogether from the pits into other trades. We are thus driven to employ Irishmen and other persons who have never been brought up to the trade, and are much more reckless and careless in their conduct down the pits than those who have been brought up to the work from childhood.

8. *John Wood*, foreman.—As a general rule I do not think that the men in our trade employ boys too young for the work to which they are put. I have known cases of both boys and men being overpowered by heat in the summer time, but never by hard work. None of the work in which the boys are engaged requires them to work long without stopping. Puddlers' underhands are generally over 16. They get about 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* a turn.

9. *Ely Simcox.*—I am going 10. I work for my father. He is a mill furnace man. I always go to school on Sundays. I went to school before I came to work. (Can read.) I work on the day or night turns as my father works. I have a brother at the forge ; he carries staves. I draw the door and place coals. I like my work. I have rests when the iron is being heated. Sometimes I have nothing to do for an hour.

10. *Joseph Handcock.*—I work for a puddler. I was 16 last September. I have worked three years at puddling. I have worked here about five years altogether. I began at the sheers. I rest about five or 10 minutes every two hours. I can read and write. I was at school till I was 11. I get 2*s.* 4*d.* a day. When we work at night we generally leave off about 5¼. I am generally in bed by 6. I sleep about eight hours.

Trades in the Wolverhampton District.

Mr. F. D. Longe.

a.

We change hands in the afternoon at different times; sometimes at 3, sometimes about 6. When one turn have finished their work they send for the others. We generally keep to the 12 hours each turn.

11. *William Lester*, manager.—I have never known any cases of men employing too little boys to save the expense of bigger ones. I do not think there is any oppression at all. Sometimes little lads will try to do work too strong for them. I have seen lads of poor parents cry because they cannot do it, when they want to get high wages. Men, too, will often try work, at the rolling mills, for instance, and have to give it up. No boys are apprenticed in this trade; except in very rare cases a boy is apprenticed to puddler. I do not think that the boys are at all injured by working by night. They only work during five nights in each alternate week. Drink is the cause of bad health in the iron men. Shingling requires great strength. Men do not often keep on at this beyond 40 years of age. Puddlers do six heats each turn. A heat takes about three-quarters of an hour. The hard work lasts for about half an hour. The underhand puddlers are generally young men. I never knew any in our works under 15 or 16 years of age. Many remain as underhands for several years. If he began at 15 he would have to work the iron when it was melting. He could get 2*s.* a day; a full-grown man would get 2*s.* 6*d.* or 2*s.* 9*d.* per day. Men do not continue at the puddling furnaces beyond 50 years of age. We have about a dozen men on our works who used to be puddlers, and who are now employed at lighter work, getting 14*s.* or 15*s.* a week as day labourers. The greater portion of our mill furnace men have been puddlers. Some of the rollers earn 5*l.* or 6*l.* per week at certain times. I could mention several men who were rollers, and who saved 500*l.* or 600*l.*, and are now ironmasters. Shinglers get 4*l.* or 5*l.* per week sometimes; they generally clear 3*l.* a week. Some of these men are over 55 years of age. Mill furnace men get 2*l.* 10*s.* to 3*l.* per week; rollers get 2*l.* 10*s.* to 4*l.*

12. *Adam Kay*, workman at Messrs. Thorneycroft's Ironworks (patient in South Staffordshire Hospital).—I am in my 71st year. I began to work when I was about 12 or 13 years of age as an underhand puddler; at 21 years of age I began to work at the mill furnace. I have worked 37 years in Messrs. Thorneycroft's works. I have given up the furnace work about 12 years. I had the cholera very badly, and when I tried to work again I found the heat too much for me. I am now employed at "fettling," *i.e.*, looking after the machinery. I was attending to the wheel that works the sheers when I met with this accident. My leg was broken. I was never hurt before. I often have had shots in my face, but never had to play before. I do not work at night now. I am not certain whether I could stand it. I used to work on the night turns regularly. We don't like the nightwork so well as the day; but we get used to it. Little lads begin to draw doors at 7 or 8 years old. In some works they only get 4*d.* a day. They begin too young sometimes. The underhand puddlers are sometimes only 13 or 14. When the foreman is a strong man he does not want much help. When we are working small iron there is very little rest at the millwork. As soon as ever the iron is out we charge and heat again. The work at the mill furnace is charging and drawing the iron. Men often rupture themselves by moving great weights of iron. I do not think there are many men ruptured in our works. Boys do not get strained. They are not put to the very heavy work. The furnaces are generally heated by Monday night, and are then kept working till 4 or 5 o'clock on Saturday afternoon. They cannot be left an hour between those times. Puddling furnaces cannot be left 10 minutes. I have been four weeks here. I am going out next Tuesday.

13. *John Jenks*, roller at Messrs. Thorneycroft's Ironworks, Swan Gardens.—In rolling hoop and wire iron two boys are employed to run down with the iron as it comes from the roll. Each boy has to run up and down 30 times each heat. The length of the hoop iron now being made is 24 feet; say that the boys run 26 feet each time up and down. We do about four heats per hour, so that they have to run 6,240 feet, or 2,080 yards, per hour. The ordinary day's work is between 10 and 11 hours, so that they have to run about 11 miles during the day. This amount of labour is exceeded sometimes, but the work is liable to stoppages, which afford intervals of rest to the boys.

Messrs. Bradley and Co.'s Ironworks, Stourbridge.

14. *Henry Ellis*, at the rolls.—I was 15 last week. I work at the small roll. I matches the hoops. I haven't had no bad burns. I come at 6 in the morning and go away at 5; sometimes before 5; sometimes half past; never later. When I work at night I come at half past 5 and go away at half past 4 or 5 in the morning. I stop at 9, for a quarter of an hour for supper; and at 1 again for another quarter of an hour. We do not stop not much when we are working. I can't read. I worked two years at the ropewalk before I came here. I like the iron work better than the rope work. We do not work so many hours.

15. *Thomas Ellis*, brother of last witness.—I am going 11. I have only worked a week. I heaves the jigger. I do not touch the iron. I get 10*d.* a turn. I can't read. I go to school on Sundays, sometimes. I worked a year at the ropewalk.

16. *Aaron Smith.*—I am turned 12. I have worked 10 months. I hook up at the rolls. I get 10*d.* a turn. I have been burnt once. I tumbled down. I wasn't hurt very much. I can't read.

Messrs. Roberts and Co.'s Blast Furnaces, Tipton.

17. *Mr. J. Roberts.*—The only children employed at the furnaces are the boys who are employed at box filling. We have seven employed during each turn for the four furnaces. We employ rather more boys than others. Their work is to keep filling the scales with the different minerals as the men require the material for filling the furnaces.

18. *Samuel Preston*, box filler.—I am 14. I have worked here two years. I come at 6½ and leave off at 6 in the evening. I stop half an hour for breakfast at 9, and an hour for dinner at 1. I fill boxes all the time between breakfast and dinner. I was four years at the Church school before I came to work. I go to Sunday school now. (Can read.) I can't write. I read the Testament at home. I have no little books. I get 7*s.* a week. I play when I go home. Sometimes I am too tired.

The Crane Foundry, Horsley Fields.

19. *Mr. C. H. Crane.*—Generally speaking our work is heavy, and young children are not of so much use as in the hollow ware foundries. We employ, however, a great many boys between 9 and 12. Each man employs one or two boys to prepare the sand and riddle it, and carry away the articles he casts. When the boys get to 12 or 13 they leave our works and go into the ironworks, except the sharpest of them, who will remain and get places as workmen. Very few of these boys are apprenticed. Masters find it too much trouble to look after them and keep them to their work. We find it a better plan to put boys under other workmen and make an arrangement with them to teach them. The workmen hire and pay the boys. Generally they are paid wages by the day. Some of the boys can earn more wages by working overtime, *i.e.* working for themselves after they have done their stint. They generally can get their stint done by 3 or 4 o'clock. We never have night work. We very seldom have any over time; only once or twice

in the year, before some holidays. There are always three days holiday at the fair in July, and at the races in August, and at Christmas. These holidays are customary throughout the district. Our men are paid at 12 o'clock on Saturday. It is customary throughout all the trades here to have a half-holiday on Saturday, except, perhaps, in the small manufactories, when the workmen have to stop until the master has got his money from the factors. It is becoming common now to pay wages on Friday evening.

20. *Edward Joyce*, caster's assistant.—I am 13 next races. I have been at work about four years. I began to work at an iron brazier's. I come at 6. I go away sometimes at 6, sometimes at 7. I have never stopped after 7. I get my dinner here. I have sometimes half an hour, and sometimes a quarter of an hour for dinner. Sometimes I have more. We have no regular time. I generally get it about 1. I can't read. I have been to school before I came to work. I don't go to night school.

21. *Alfred Longford.*—I am going 17. I began to work when I was about 8 years old. I come at 6. I go away at 6. Sometimes I stop till 7, never later. I have dinner at 12½. I eat it here (in the casting shop). I begin to work again as soon as ever I have eaten it. I have about a quarter of an hour or 20 minutes for breakfast. All the boys have their dinners here; we do not leave this shop from the time we come in in the morning to the time we go out at night, unless we are sent out on an errand. I can't read. The boys here are often boxed on the ears. I get 5*s.* a week; I got 4*s.* a week two years back.

22. *Edward Dewin.*—I am going 13. I come at 6½, sometimes at 6, sometimes at a quarter to 7. I go away at 6½; sometimes, but not often, I stop till 7. I get my dinner at 1. I stop working sometimes for half an hour; sometimes only 20 minutes. The men all get their dinner here. I sometimes stop an hour for dinner, but very seldom. When I do it is on Monday and Saturday. I can't read. I have been about four years at work. I get 4*s.* I am tired at night. I never go to night-school.

23. *Henry Loveridge*, iron caster.—We begin to work at 7. We cannot work without the boys. We generally give over at 6 at night, but sometimes we work later. We all get our dinners in this shop. We only stop half an hour. The day wage men have an hour. It is our own affair, and we only stop half an hour that we may not lose time and wages. Our earnings vary very much. Some only get 15*s.*, some get 45*s.* They have to pay their boys out of this. We generally consider it very healthy work. We sometimes catch cold going out into the air. I have two of my sons working with me. All have their own sons to work for them if they have any old enough.

Messrs. Clarke and Loveridge's Iron Hollow Ware Foundry, Shakespere Works, Horsley Fields.

Casting Shop.

24. *Enock Pritchard*, caster's boy.—I am 15 next March. I have worked six years. I work for a caster. I clean the iron after he has made it, and get the sand ready. I get 6*s.* 6*d.* a week. I got 2*s.* when I began. I come sometimes at 6 and sometimes at 7. I never come before 6. I go away at 6 or 6½. I never stop after 7. I have no fixed time for breakfast and dinner. I generally get my dinner about 1. I eat it in the shop where I work. I have tea when I get home. (Can read.) I can't write. I learnt to read at a day school before I came to work. I go to Sunday school now. Father is a miner.

25. *Alfred Round*, caster's boy.—I am going 12. I have worked three years. My birth-day is in July. I come at 6, sometimes at 7. I leave at 6½. I never stay later than that. I get my breakfast about 9, I have about half an hour. I go home to dinner. I have about half an hour for dinner. I never stop more than half an hour at dinner time. I clean pots. I get 6*d.* a day. (Can't read.) I went to a day-school for about a month before I began to work. I go to Sunday school now. Five times four are twenty. (Doesn't know six times eight). I am tired at night. In summer I play when I go home. I am not too tired to play.

26. *James Parton.*—I am going 13. I have worked three years. I come at 6. I go away at 6, sometimes at 7; never later than a quarter past 7. I get 5*s.* a week. We do not work all day without stopping. We have to run about with things. We sometimes stop and talk. In summer I play after I go home. Sometimes I am too tired to play. On Monday and Saturday we play. (Can read.) I learnt to read at a day-school. Father and mother are dead. I have five brothers and two sisters. There are four of us at home. We have 1*s.* a week from the parish. My younger brother is 10 years old. He goes to school.

Annealing Shop.

27. *Thomas Carter*, annealer.—I employ seven men and one lad of about 12 or 13 years of age. We begin at 4½. I like to get work done as soon as possible. The casters generally come about 7. Their lads come about 6 to get the sand ready for them. They stay a little after the men have gone to batten up the sand for next morning. Very few of the casters' lads are the workmen's own children. The casters would always bring their own boys if they had them. They would bring them at a younger age than they would get other children. Casters earn from 2*s.* to 7*s.* 6*d.* day. A man with three children and 1*l.* a week could afford to keep his children at school till they were 13 years of age, and it would be a good thing for the children. But a lad of 13 would not get more wages for the first year than a lad of 9. A boy wants to be two years in a casting shop before he is of much use.

[Of 16 casters' assistants, some of whom I examined, eight could read and eight could not.]

Enamelling Shop.

28. *John Speke.*—I was 12 last January. I brush the enamel off the hollow ware, open and shut the oven door, and carry the small ware in and out of the drying stoves. I come at 5½ and leave at 5½, when I work in the mornings. I am not working all the time I am here. We have to wait at times for the mills. I have been here since last July. I used to work in a brickyard at Dudley with father. (Can read.)

29. *John Parslow*, covermaker.—There are seven lads working under the men in our shop. The eldest is now 17. They all came at about 10 years of age. I know that five out of the seven were fatherless when they came. Their mothers brought them to us, and asked us to take them, as they were in want of their earnings. They got about 2*s.* 6*d.* a week when they first began. I know that many children are taken by men in manufactories at an earlier age than would be advantageous to themselves, from feelings of compassion for the parents of the boys. Bigger boys could be got for another 6*d.*, and be much more useful. From my experience, I should say that the youngest children in manufactories are not the children of drunken parents, but of poor parents. I was 11½ when I first began to work. I had been to the British school; but I chiefly taught myself.

[N.B.—This young man is the author of a prize essay on "The best Means of Improving the Social and Religious Condition of the Working Classes."]

Hill Top Foundry Company, West Bromwich.

30. *Mr. Joseph Woodward*, manager.—If the workmen were required to have two lots of boys under 13, each lot working half a day, as in the cotton factories, I believe the men would have no boys at all. The men could not do as much work without their boys, and they would have to work harder themselves.

Trades in the Wolverhampton District.

Mr. F. D. Longe.

a.

They would work longer hours than they do now. Many men do not employ any lads now. There has been a strike lately in some other works of this kind It was caused by some of the workmen taking work at too low wages. This is owing to the trade being overstocked with men, and for this reason some of our men refuse to take boys, in order to prevent so many workmen being brought up to the trade. Our workmen helped to support the strike, but the men failed; and now there are many workmen in this trade, in other places, working for wages 15 or 20 per cent. lower than in these works. Casters never work long hours. They begin late and leave off early, often at 5 o'clock. When the men go we have to drive the boys away, they stop in the shops and play.

31. *Job Carter*, caster's assistant.—I am going 11. I have worked about three years. I was 8 when I first went to work. I come at 6, sometimes at 5½. I came yesterday at 6½; I left off yesterday at 5. I leave off at 5 o'clock two or three days in the week. I work for my brother. He gives me 3*s.* a week. I get my breakfast in the casting shop. My brother does not come till 9. I have to get the sand ready for him. I can't read much. I have read a little.

32. *Michael Burns.*—I am 11 years old. I have worked two years. I come at 6. I go away at 5 or 5½. I never stopped later than 6. I get 3*s.* I work for a caster. It is not very hard work. I am never tired when I have done work. I can't read. I have been two years at school. I have got four brothers. Two of my brothers go to school.

33. *Thomas Williams.*—I am 9 years old. I have no father. My mother has had her leg cut off. She was working at a thrashing machine. I have one brother. He is down a pit. He is about two years older than me. I get 2*s.* a week. I carry saucepans, and blows for the tinner. I go to Sunday school. I can't read.

Messrs. J. Evans and Co.'s Iron Foundry, Southampton Street.

34. *Mr. Joseph Evans, junior.*—Our trade is principally the manufacture of castings for building purposes and machinery. There are a few other small manufactories like ours in the town. Boys under 14 would be of no use in our work, as it is too heavy. No girls or women are employed at all. The lads employed are all hired and paid by the men. We never have any night-work; our regular hours are from 6 to 6. Sometimes, but very seldom, our men work to 8.

35. *Charles Davis*, errand boy.—I am 14. I have been at work six years; five years here and one year at Walker's. I used to pick up iron for shoe tips. I come at 6 and leave at 6. I am hired and paid by Mr. Evans. I go to night-school sometimes, and on Sunday. (Can read a little). I always go home for an hour at dinner time.

Messrs. James and Co.'s Iron Foundry, Bridgeman Street, Walsall.

36. *Mr. James.*—Our hours of work are from 7 A.M. to 7 P.M. We never work after 7. A great many boys are employed in the casting shop. They work for the casters. They are a shifting class. Their work does not require any skill. They are principally Irish, or the children of poor parents. In many cases they work with their fathers. I am certain that their parents are actually in want of their earnings. The casters themselves earn from 1*l.* to 2*l.* per week. Those are the better workmen. Others can only clear 12*s.* to 15*s.* a week after paying their assistants.

Casting Shop.

37. *William Wallace.*—I have just turned 10. I have worked four months. I come at 6½ in the morning. I get my breakfast at 9. I stop about 10 minutes for breakfast. I stop half an hour for dinner. I go away at 6½ in the evening. Sometimes I don't go before 7. I get 2*s.* 6*d.* a week. I can't read.

38. *Benjamin Russell.*—I am going 10. I have worked four months. I get 3*s.* a week. I can't read. I have three brothers and three sisters. My father works here. One of my sisters is in service. Two of my brothers work here. One gets 4*s.* 6*d.* and the other gets 4*s.* a week.

39. *Joseph Smith.*—I was 8 last Walsall wakes. I get 1*s.* 6*d.* a week. I always go home to dinner. I play when I go home in the evening. Another boy works with me. I can't read.

[N.B.—I examined seven boys, and found only one who could read.]

Messrs. Lloyd, Foster, and Co., Engineers and Iron Founders, Old Park Ironworks, Wednesbury.

40. *Mr. J. F. Cannell*, manager.—The business of this firm consists almost entirely in executing large time contracts for railways and other concerns. The business of these undertakings is thus dependent upon our completing our contracts with them in time. Much of the work is done in the open air, and is thus liable to be stopped by rain. We are therefore often compelled to work overtime, and indeed all night. Our regular hours are from 6 to 6. On Saturday we give over at 2. The workmen do not work a whole day on Monday. We have a good many boys employed. The youngest are employed by the rivetters. There are two boys to every three men. The boys heat and carry the rivets to the men. About 30 of these boys would be under 13. These boys would be employed at blowing the bellows for the rivetters. We have a school in connexion with the works. We always advise our men to send their boys to school, and in taking boys we give a preference to those who can read and write. All the boys are employed by us. We do not allow the piecemen to employ their own hands. If we were required to employ two lots of boys under 13 we should not have any under that age.

We have 160 boys now in attendance. Of these 35 are over 10 years of age; and of these eight are over 11, and two over 12. Nearly all the boys attending this school go into Messrs. Lloyd's works. With the exception of 30, the boys now attending are all sons of men in these works. This school has been built four years. It is now quite full. The boys generally leave before they can read well; and then they find it too much a burden to them to carry it on afterwards.

41. Mr. George Price, Patent Safe and Lock Manufacturer, Temple Street, Wolverhampton.

Our hours of work are from 6 to 6, except on Saturdays, when we close at 1½. We are, however, obliged to have recourse to overtime, more or less, all the year round. Our usual overtime is a quarter-day, *i.e.*, to 8 p.m. Neither I nor the men like it. We both think it a disadvantage. As for the men they are physically incapable of doing more than a regular day's work for any number of days together, and I, as the master, do not reap a corresponding advantage to the expense. We pay more for overtime labour and get less work for it, and the men are fatigued by it. Notwithstanding this, it is necessary at times. We often have orders sent us which are required to be finished in a shorter time than possible with regular hours. If we refused to complete the order in time our customers would probably go elsewhere. We recently had an order for five iron doors for China; had not got them in stock, and could not make them in time. We are now trying to complete an order for Alexandria in nine days instead of a fortnight. Our

customer wanted to have it done in a week. No one else could do it any quicker than we, but for all that we do not like to refuse our customers; the men themselves like overtime in order to make up time they have lost in sickness, or it may be drunkenness, or when an accident to machinery has prevented their working. I generally find drinking habits associated with hard work rather than with light employment. The exertion the men undergo leads to exhaustion, and more beer is required. My locksmiths are all steady men, but some of the safe-workers are very bad. The painting is the only unhealthy work in this trade.

Messrs. Thomas Perry and Sons' Iron Foundry, Highfield Works, Sedgeley

42. *Mr. T. Perry.*—Our business consists a great deal in making and repairing heavy steam machinery. These things are generally required to be done in the shortest possible time. In the case of repairing machinery, or fitting new parts, it is of the utmost importance that we should be able to complete our orders in the shortest time, as the works must be kept standing until they are completed. We are accustomed to have periodical slack times followed by a great pressure of work. It would thus require a greater outlay of capital, larger premises, and more hands, if we were restricted as to the hours of work. We now are casting a piston for the engine which works some large furnaces in the North. The works are standing till it is repaired, and the owners are losing pounds per day. Our ordinary hours of work are 58½ hours per week. We leave off at 1 on Saturdays. Absolute regularity of times is impossible in casting large things.

Painting Shop.

43. *David Rudge.*—I am 15 on the 12th of next September. I have worked two years. I never worked before I came here. I paint safes. I was two or three years at school. (Can read well.) I come at 6 and go away at 6. Sometimes I stop till 7. I worked to 10 o'clock four nights last week. I go away for breakfast at 8½. Have half an hour. I have an hour for dinner at 1. I get 4*s.* 6*d.* a week.

44. *William Rodgers.*—I am 13 on the 14th of next May. I have worked rather better than two years. I get 5*s.* a week. (Can read well.) I read at home. I have the "Basket of Flowers" and some other books at home. Our regular work is to 6 o'clock. From 6 to 8 counts as a quarter of a day. From 6 to 10 counts as half a day. We always have overtime money to ourselves as pocket money. The other money we give our parents. I like working overtime. I don't feel tired. I am always in the shop, except when I go away for dinner. I don't dislike the smell of the paint. It gives me an appetite. I have one brother and three sisters at home. They do not work. Father works here. Seven times six are 42. There are 100 shillings in 5*l.*

Great Western Railway Company's Locomotive Works, Stafford Road.

45. *Mr. J. Armstrong*, Superintendent of Locomotive Works.—Our rule is to take no apprentices under 14 nor over 16. All our apprentices can read and write. Situations in our works are so much sought for that we have premiums with all apprentices who are not the children of our workmen. These premiums are paid to the funds of an institution which we have in connection with our works. Our hours of labour are from 6 to 6, with three quarters of an hour for breakfast and one hour for dinner. All the apprentices are put to mechanical engineers' work. Their wages are 4*s.* or 5*s.* a week at first, and they rise to 14*s.* Skilled workmen can earn from 33*s.* to 2*l.* per week. The labourers employed on the works earn from 15*s.* to 18*s.* a week. Many of the apprentices are the children of labourers on the works. The apprentices who are not the children of our own workpeople are children of trades-people.

Messrs. Parkes' Chain and Anchor Works, Tipton.

46. *Mr. Edward Shaw*, manager.—We manufacture chains and anchors. We employ the anchor-smiths, and they employ a mob or gang of men to help them. Each smith employs about five men. The anchor work does not require boys. No boys under 16 or 17 are of any use. In the manufacture of chains a great many boys of 8 years of age and upwards are employed by the men; they help them to strike. Each man would have two or three boys. Some would be as old as 18 or 19. Boys are not wanted to blow for the large sizes, as we have the blast. The boys are wanted because in welding the iron the more strokes and the quicker they are given the better; one or two could not strike fast enough. We have about 50 chain-makers working in the works, and about 80 working out, either in large or small shops. All the small sizes are made out, the blast being no use. The large chain is all made in the works. In making the small sizes men always have little children to blow, and give them 1*s.* 6*d.*, to 2*s.* 3*d.* per week. Some would have a striker and give him about 3*s.* 6*d.* There are more children employed by our out workers than in the works. Men employ their own children when they can, to save the expense of another. Blowing is very hard work for children. Little girls often are kept at it for 14 hours in the day. I wish it could be stopped. I do not think the double number of boys could be got; the wages they get now are so small. At the large chain the men cannot work after 6. They are done up themselves.

47. *Joseph Tilley*, blower.—I was 12 last month. I have worked three years altogether. I worked with my father two years, and one year here. I blow. I don't strike. I have been a month at school. I can't read. I go to Sunday school. I get 3*s.* a week. There are six of us at home. None of them work. I have two sisters older than me. The rest are younger. Father was burnt some time ago. He has played nearly 12 months. He works at the iron-works. Mother had relief when father was bad. I was the only one at work.

48. *Sarah Hancox.*—I am turned 11. Father works the engine in the new chain yard. I have been in service at two places. I nursed. I got 6*d.* a week and my food. Mother found me clothes. I have been here three months. I blow. I get 3*s.* a week. There is eight of us altogether besides father and mother. The eldest is a girl. She is 16. She is in service. One of my brothers blows at the other chain works. He gets 3*s.* One sister is 15. She stays at home to help mother. The others are little.

[N.B.—The father was receiving 18*s.* a week.]

49. *Joseph Tomlinson.*—I am going 8. I have worked about nine months. I get 2*s.* 6*d.* a week. I blow. I have one brother; no sisters. Father is a boatman. I come at 6; sometimes at 7. I go away about 8 at night; sometimes at 7. We only work to 8 on Friday. We generally go away at 7. I can't read. I go to school on Sundays. I am always tired at night. I don't play when I go home. I go to bed directly. We have an hour from 9 to 10 for breakfast, and an hour at 1 for dinner.

50. *Thomas Matthews.*—I am going 10. Don't know when my birthday is. I have worked about three years. I can't read. I blow. I get 3*s.* a week. I have got three brothers; no sisters. I work for father. I go to school on Sundays.

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Messrs. Wood Brothers' Chain Works, Wednesfield Heath.

51. *Mr. C. Morgan,* manager.—In making the largest size chain a man employs two men and one boy. This boy's work is to draw up the furnace door, to carry the links to the men, and to wait on them, and occasionally to strike a little. In making the smaller sizes each man employs two boys; one boy of about 15 to 18 years of age, and the other of about 10 to 13 years of age. These boys strike and help him to make the chain. In one case a man employs his two sons, one is 10 and the other 8 years of age. There are no other boys so young as that in the works. All the chain-makers work by the piece. They can only work while the engine is working, *i.e.* between 6 A.M. and 6 P.M.

[I questioned 37 of the boys employed in these works, and found that 20 professed themselves able to read, and 17 unable.]

52. *William Coley.*—I am 13 on the 12th of October. I have worked three years here. I work for my father. (Can read.) I learnt at Queen Street school. I was three years at school. I come at 6 in the morning and go away at 6 at night. I never work after 6. I strike for father. I am not tired at night. When I go home I sometimes read or write. I get my breakfast at 9¼. I stop half an hour. I have an hour for dinner at 1.

53. *William Birch.*—I was 11 on the 26th of last January. (Can read well). I learnt at the Church National School. I have been six months at work. I was at school before I came to work. An island is a place in the sea with trees on it. I have heard of France but don't know anything about it. I read the Bible at home and other books; Uncle Tom's Cabin and books like them. I read all manner of books. I always go home at 6. I read when I am at home. I am not too tired to read. Six times eight are 48. I get 3*s.* a week. Father works at the pits. I have only one sister.

54. *John Jones.*—I am 15 next August. I have worked two years. I was nine years at Mr. Phillips' school. (Can read a little.) We used to play a good deal at school. I learnt to write. I did not learn any arithmetic. Father is a miner. I have worked in a pit. It was 12 months ago. I left it because it was dangerous work. I got 1*s.* a day down the pit. I get 1*s.* 4*d.* a day now. I strike for S. Allen. I read when I go home. I go to bed at 9. Sometimes I help father to dig in his garden. I am sometimes too tired to dig. We make nine fathom of chain in the day. There are 28 links in a fathom. That is a full day's work. I can dig after a full day's work. I sometimes have a pain in my side after work. I have felt it for about six months; it is worse sometimes than at others.

55. *Edwin Henry Tamlyn.*—I am going 13. I have worked eight months here. I was at school before that. (Reads well.) I get 5*s.* a week. Five times six are 30. Eighteen pence and half-a-crown are 4*s.* I have to fetch pork for father after work most nights. He sells pork. I read to father and mother. I read the Bible, never any other book. I never have any pain in my side.

Messrs. Fellows' Brass Foundry, Snow Hill, Wolverhampton.

56. *Mr. Frank Fellows.*—The registration district of Wolverhampton includes the township of Wolverhampton, Willenhall, Bilston, Wednesfield, and a few villages. The working population of this district (excepting the villages, which are agricultural,) is almost entirely engaged in the manufacture of iron, and of the various articles which are sold in an ironmonger's shop. Boys of 12 years of age and upwards are employed more or less in all the trades of the district, but children under that age are seldom employed, and indeed would be of little use. When younger children are employed they are used only to run errands for the men, light their fires, or hand them their tools, but there is no regular work for them. The operations employed in our own works consist of—(1) brass casters, (2) workmen engaged in filing and finishing the castings, and (3) women employed to lacquer the goods. A caster employs one lad to help him. He must be strong enough to lift his casting. The other workmen sometimes have a lad to help them, if we give them enough work, often a son, or a friend's son, who wants to learn the trade. The men are all paid by piece-work. The shops are open to them between 7 A.M. and 7 P.M. and they can come when they like between those hours. We have no more control over our men than if they worked for us in their own homes. We have nothing to do with the lads they employ, except that we sometimes require reference as to their honesty. The women are employed in the warehouse. No girls under 17 or 18 are employed. The process of lacquering requires care and skill. The women also make cores for the moulds.

57. *James Burton,* brass caster's assistant.—I am going 13. I have worked about two years and a half. I work at brass casting for William Lawton. I come at 8 in the morning and go away at 7 at night. I have an hour from 1 to 2 for dinner. I always go home. I have been to school, but not before I came to work. I go to night-school now, every night from 8 to 9. I worked for a year before I came here at Mr. Bishton's Zinc works. I got 3*s.* a-week then; I get 4*s.* a-week now.

58. *Joseph Hodson,* brass finisher.—I am now 26. I began when I was 9½ years old. I got 1*s.* 3*d.* wages then. I used to run errands, and wait on the men in this shop. I had to light the fire in the morning. Boys of 9 years old could not do any of the regular work. After a year or so I began to edge. Then I was put to filing and turning. I never had an hour's illness in my life, except perhaps a little headache. I believe the brass casters feel bad effects from their work when they get about 40.

Messrs. Lea's Brass Foundry, Poole Street.

59. *Mr. John Lea, jun.*—We have no boys under 13 and no girls under 18 employed in our works. A few boys work for the casters, but they would probably be all over 13. Our men never begin to work before 8 o'clock now. In the summer they begin at 7. They give over at 7½; on Saturdays at 2. The lads often have both breakfast and tea during working hours, besides their hour for dinner. None of the work in brass foundries is considered unhealthy except the casting. The fumes from the molten brass are unhealthy, and the casters get so much money that they are very apt to drink a great deal. Asthma is common among casters after they are about 21 years old.

60. *Thomas Burton,* iron-founder.—We do not consider iron-founding unhealthy. We use small sand, just as the brass founders do. Perhaps our work leads us to drink a good deal. I do not find it spoils my appetite. I generally have a lad to help me. I should have one about 14 years old. A boy of 8 or 9 would not be strong enough to lift the moulds. I should give any boy 3*s.* to 5*s.*, according to what he could do.

61. *John Smith,* assistant to brass caster.—I was 14 last Clement's night. I have worked about three years. I went to school before I came to work. I can't read. I come at 8. I go away at 7½. I get 3*s.* 6*d.* I riddle sand and help the caster.

62. *Robert Brookes,* brass caster.—This work is unhealthy. The white powder which arises from the combustion of the spelter flies about the shop and gets into our lungs. I am beginning to feel the effects of it. I have been 21 years at it. I know of men who have died of it. One died at 27 years of

age; he was not a heavy drinker. I remember one man of 70 years old, who had been a brass caster all his life. I know of several who have died at 35 years of age. Few live beyond 40. I began when I was 10. I never felt any bad effects until lately.

63. *Joseph Jones*, key maker.—I began as an apprentice at about 15 years of age. I am now about 31. Boys are no use at key making until they are 15. Our trade is quite healthy.

64. *William Stuart*, locksmith.—I began when I was 12 years old as an apprentice. Boys sometimes begin at 10, but I do not think they are put to it now so young as they used to be. The public schools, I think, are the reason why they do not begin to work so young. Our work is unhealthy from the brass filings, but not very. The copper in the brass turns the hair green. I have known men work at lock-making to 80 years of age. I know several locksmiths 60 years old. Many locksmiths are out-workers. They work at home in their back rooms. They make cabinet locks. They sometimes have apprentices. They sell their locks to the master manufacturers or factors. I dare say there are 100 of these outworkers. There are as many outworkers as men who work in the manufactories. Boys are not essential to locksmiths, but they are employed to help them in making small common locks, so that the men can earn more wages with them than they could without them.

Messrs. Fell and Co.'s Brass Foundry, St. James's Square.

65. *Thomas Whitmore*, assistant to caster.—I am going 12. I have worked three months here. I worked at Fellows' before I came here. My father is a brass-founder. I have two brothers and two sisters, all younger than me. Mother does not work. I have been to school. (Can read a little.) I come at 7. I go away at 7. I stop to 8 sometimes. I get 2*s.* a-week.

66. *Frederick Twiss*, assistant to finisher.—I am 11 this month. I file castings. I get 2*s.* 6*d.* a-week. I have worked nearly three years. When I first went to work I worked at the rope walks. My father is a brass finisher; he works here. I have three sisters and two brothers at home. One sister is 18; she works at a japanner's. One brother works here. The other three are at home and do not work. (This boy's father was earning 28*s.* per week).

Messrs. Russell and Co.'s Crown Tube Works, Wednesbury.

67. *Mr. Joseph Smith*, cashier.—We employ about 400 hands altogether, and of these one-third are boys under 16 years of age, a few of these would be under 13, but the work in which the boys are engaged requires strength, and it would not be to our advantage to employ very little boys. Our hours are from 6 A.M. to 6 P.M., with half an hour for breakfast and an hour for dinner. We occasionally have overtime; generally a quarter day, *i.e.* to 8 o'clock; sometimes, but very rarely, we have a half-day overtime, to 10 o'clock. Our regular hours are 10½ each day except Saturday, when the men break off at 1 o'clock. Some overtime is always going on. Overtime is not profitable; we have to pay 20 per cent. higher wages for it, and we get no corresponding profit on the work done. An absolute restriction of the hours of work would not so much affect our own interests, as those for whom we manufacture. For instance we often have orders to supply new tubes to boilers; these tubes must be of particular dimensions, such as we could not keep ready in stock. They are required to be supplied in the shortest possible time. We often have government orders for such things. At present we meet these requirements of our customers by resorting to overtime; if we were prevented working beyond 6, our customers would have to wait. As regards the education of the boys employed, we are now building a school. We shall have the boys taught the simple rudiments of education, but we shall not encourage any education which would tend to give them a dislike to hard work. The boys in our works are hired by the men. The work is divided into different departments. Each department is managed by a head man, who contracts with us to do the work, and then hires his own men and boys to do it. All these hands are hired on the piece-work system. We employ day-wage men besides.

68. *John Cuxson*, manager of the screwing department.—I hire the boys who are employed in this department. I should like to have no boys under 13 if I could get enough above that age. We have some under 13. I find a great difficulty in getting boys between 14 and 17 years of age. We can get plenty of boys under 13, between 9 and 13, but we don't want them. The boys under 13 only carry the tubes, wipe them, &c. We never put little boys to the screws. We could get a double number of boys under 13, but I would rather have none at all.

69. *John Ward*.—I was 13 on the 17th of last May. I have worked about three years. I was three or four years at school before I began to work. (Knows his letters, but cannot read.) I wheel coals. I come at 5½, and begin to work at 6. I give over at 6 generally. We are now working half days overtime. I have worked the last three days overtime. I work once a week to 10. I get 6*d.* extra when I work to 10.

70. *Edward Hardiman*.—I am 7 years old. I clean tongs. I get 2*s.* a week. I can't read. I have been to school. I have no father. My father was killed three years ago. I have two brothers and three sisters. One brother works here; one sister is in service. I come at 6. I did not go away till 9 last night. I was not tired when I got home.

71. *Thomas Evans*.—I was 13 two days after last pancake-day. I have worked here two years. I went to Sunday school. I can't read. I come at 6, and go away at 6. Sometimes I don't go till 8½. I work piece-work. I earn 5*s.* a week without overtime. I have worked to 10½. I have not often worked so late as that. I have earned 6*s.* in the week.

72. *Abraham Britton*.—I am 16 next June. I have worked here four years. I blowed bellows for six months before that at Archer's screw bolt factory. Blowing bellows was not hard work. I carry pipes. It is hard work. I generally give over at 6. I seldom work overtime. When I go home I have tea, and then we play. I generally go to bed at 9½ or 10. I come at a quarter to 6 in the morning.

73. *George Hardy*.—I am going 12. I have worked three years. I used to run errands before that. I get 5*s.* a week. I have three sisters and two brothers at home. I was two years at school. I can't read.

74. *Frederick Moseley*.—I am going 13. I have worked here four years. I was five years at school before I came. I was in the first class in Walsall Bridge school. I used to read well. I read the Bible and little books. I cannot read now. I had a good many little books but I have lost them all. Mother can read. I never read after I left school. I can write now. (Writes his name pretty well.)

[N.B.—I questioned 31 boys as to their powers of reading, and found that seven could read, 24 could not. Many of the latter said they used to read pretty well at school.]

Messrs. Russell and Co.'s Old Tube Works, Church Hill, Wednesbury.

75. *Mr. T. Hardy*, manager.—I myself hire all the boys who are employed in these works. I make it a rule never to take any boys under 12. If there are any exceptions to this rule it is in the case of the sons of widows or distressed parents, whom I take at an earlier age. Boys under 12 do not suit us. We want strength and height. I should like to have all the boys able to read and write before they come. I should give a preference to boys who can read and write over others who cannot, where their parents

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are equally able to give them education. If I was compelled to employ boys under 13 for only six hours a day, I should have none, and it would be a very bad thing for their parents. Formerly the work in this establishment was done on the contract and piece-work system. The effect of this was that the men employed lots of small boys. I observed that the men who contracted for the work did nothing, while their men and the boys did the work for them, so I changed the system. The lowest wages I pay any of the boys is 8*d.* per day. The principal difficulty I see about preventing children being employed at an early age arises from the necessities or requirements of their parents. Many colliers, for instance, are not earning more than 2*s.* 9*d.* per day ; others earn 3*s.* or 3*s.* 4*d.* They are prevented from working as many hours in the week as they could wish, because their employers do not want so much coal drawn. If these men have five or six children they must be in difficulties, and they want the earnings of the older children to help them in maintaining the younger. That is no more than the ordinary state of things throughout the whole of this district. All trades are liable to slack times, and during these times the earnings of the children are wanted by the parents. Our hours of work are from 6 A.M. to 6 P.M., with an hour and a half for meals. Our day's work is 10 hours, with half an hour extra for the first five days of the week to compensate for the Saturday half-holiday. We break off at 2 o'clock on Saturday. We have overtime occasionally. Generally some of the men in the fitting shops are working one day overtime in the week. A few of the boys would also be generally working a day overtime. In some weeks they work two or three days overtime.

[N.B.—I questioned 15 boys as to their reading, and found that seven could read and eight could not.]

Messrs. H. Loveridge and Co., Tin Plate Workers and Japanners, Wolverhampton.

76. *Mr. G. Hodgkinson.*—The boys employed in our works are nearly all apprentices. They are apprenticed at the age of 14 or 15. They generally come a year or more before they are apprenticed. We have mechanics' institutes belonging exclusively to our works, one for the men, and another for the women and girls.

77. *Samuel Stephenson*, apprentice, tinplate worker. —I was 15 last August. I have been apprenticed about six months. I first came about four years ago. When I first came I worked in the warehouse. (Can read and write.) I never went to a day-school, but I go to night-school and Sunday school now. There are about 18 boys in the night-school which I attend. They all work in the daytime. We pay 8*d.* a week. I come to work at 8 all the year round, and leave at 7. I never stop after 7. I have an hour for dinner. I always go home.

78. *Ann Oldport*, japanner.—I have worked at japanning 20 years. I have never felt any evil effects. We never consider it unhealthy work. It is rather hot in summer, but the heat of the stoves is comfortable in winter. I think it is always best to get girls to work as young as possible ; they learn their work so much better ; but masters will not have them very young, except when they are working for their parents.

79. *Fanny Totty.*—I am 15 next April. I have been here 6 or 7 months. My work is to carry things from one room to another. (Can read and write.) I was four years at school before I came to work. I come at 8. I go away at 7 in the evening. I have my tea here, and I go up to the institute. I am learning reading and writing there. On Tuesday night I learn sewing. There were 14 girls there last night. I get 2*s.* 6*d.* a week.

80. *Elizabeth Cotterill.* — Girls begin to learn polishing about 14. I have worked at polishing for 40 years. It is quite healthy work. The hands are blistered at first ; but they soon get hard. Neither men nor boys are employed at this work; their hands would be too rough. Some girls are apprenticed to this work. They are paid day wages during their apprenticeship. Journeywomen work by the piece. We can make from 10*s.* to 15*s.* a week.

81. *Charles Russley.*—I am going 15. I have been two years at work. I work in the tinning shop. I get 3*s.* 6*d.* a week. I come at 8 ; I go away at 7. (Reads a little.) I went to a day-school for two years ; but I have forgotten all my reading. I go to night-school about four nights a week, from 8 to 9½. Six times seven are 42. There are six fives in 30. There are 100*s.* in 5*l.*

Frederick Walton and Co., Tin and Japan Manufacturers, Old Hall, Wolverhampton.

82. *Mr. Frederick Walton.*—In our manufactory children are of no use. Boys between the ages of 14 and 18 are employed. Most of the boys are employed by myself in making small articles, such as extinguishers, coffee-pots, &c. Some of them are employed by the men to help them. We employ so few under 13, that no law affecting children under that age would touch us. Young women are employed in polishing japan ware. All work people are employed on the piece-work system. They begin at 8 o'clock in the morning, and work to 7 P.M. The gas is put out at that hour. On Saturday they do not work after 2 P.M. When I first took the business the hours of work were from 6 A.M. to 8 P.M. I gave up that system because I knew it was impossible for men to work well all that time. I have since found that I can get much more work by short hours than I ever could by long hours.

Mr. J. Rowley, Japanner and Tin Plate Worker, Mount Pleasant, Bilston.

83. *Mr. James Rowley.* — I began to work myself at 6 years of age. I do not think it is right that children should begin to work as young as that, but I think that they may well begin at 9 years of age at light work, such as that which they do in my works. I have had several little children applying for work this morning. Their parents are very poor and want their wage ; partly owing to the badness of trade, and partly to their own extravagance. Our trade is very healthy. Both the spirits of tar and the turpentine are very wholesome. We have a sick-club on our works. The men pay 2*d.*, boys and women 1*d.*, and children ½*d.* per week. At the end of the year, after payment of all expenses, they always get back about two-thirds of their payment. I think it is a very bad thing to keep children away from work very long. In the Unions they are kept too long without learning any trade. Only the other day a boy of 16 came to me at the Union, and wanted me to get him a situation. He had learnt no trade and could do nothing.

At Mr. T. Jones', Japanner and Tin Plate Worker, Cambridge Street, Bilston.

Polishing Room.

84. *Margaret Davis.*—I am 16 next birthday. I have worked two years at polishing. I come at 8 in the morning. I leave off sometimes at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. Sometimes I stay till 7. I have a stint to do, and I can go when I have done it. I sometimes come before 8, when it is my turn to sweep the shop. I then come about half past 7. I go home at 1 o'clock for dinner and come back at 2. I get my breakfast and tea at home. I get 3*s.* a week. I have never worked after 7. I was six years at school before I

came to work. (Can read.) I read at home sometimes. I learnt to sew at school.

SIZING SHOP.

85. *Henry Doman.* — I am going 12. I have worked a little more than a year at sizing. I come at 8 in the morning, and go away at 7 at night. I never stop after 7. I can't read. I have been to school many a time. Father is a brass-caster. I have three sisters at home. They are younger than me. I get 1*s.* 6*d.* a week.

STOVE ROOM.

86. *Ann Howley.*—I am going 13. I have worked about a year and a half. I went to the Colliery School for about 12 months. I always work in this room. We call it the stove room. I never feel ill after my work. I come at 8 and leave off at 7. I sometimes stop till 9, but not once in a week. My work is oil varnishing. I get 2*s.* a week. I have four brothers and three sisters ; two of my brothers and two of my sisters work. I have no father. Mother does not work. (Can read.)

87. MR. THOS. FARMER, JAPANNER AND TIN PLATE WORKER, OXFORD STREET, BILSTON.

The hours in our trade are generally very light. Sometimes, in case of a pressing order, some of the workpeople will work to 9 or 10, but that is only for one night at a time. The children can all go to night-school after their work. I always encourage this as much as possible. I think there would be some difficulty in getting the double number of children required by the half-time system, and if we did get them it would have the effect of bringing up a much larger number of persons to the trade than there would be employment for in the trade afterwards. It would cause much competition and lead to reduction in wages in that branch to which the double number of children had been brought up. All the children in my works are learning the trade, and in the ordinary course of things become regular workers afterwards in my works.

AT MR. J. DEAN'S, JAPANNER AND GALVANIZER, TEMPLE STREET, BILSTON.

88. *Mr. J. Dean.*—I should not object if the employment of children under 12 years of age was prohibited in the whole trade. The young children are employed in decorating cheap trays ; trays which are sold for a penny or even a halfpenny apiece. They earn from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* at this work. Children who did not begin till they were 13 could not earn more than this for some time.

GALVANIZING SHOP.

89. *Patsy Hennessy.*—I have turned 11. I have worked two years, I think. I went to Catholic school before I came to work. I go on Sundays now. I am in the first class. I am reading the fifth book. I get 2*s.* a week. I come at 7, sometimes at 6. I clean up the shop and light the fire. I always go away at 7 at night. I have half an hour at 9 for breakfast, and at 1 o'clock for dinner. I never stop more than half an hour for dinner. I have no brothers nor sisters nor father. Mother goes out washing. I never have stayed away from work for illness.

STAMPING SHOP.

90. *Charles Heseltine.*—I am going 16. I have worked four years. I stamp convex and oval trays. I get 5*s.* a week. I come at 6. I go away at 7 at night. I never stop after 7. I have an hour for breakfast and an hour for dinner. I can't read. I go to school on Sundays sometimes. I have crushed my fingers in the stamp. Since I have been here I have only known of one other case where a boy got his fingers crushed. One boy got his arm broken the other day by the windlass. The catch is not strong enough to hold it.

MESSRS. DANKS, AND WALKER AND CO., MANUFACTURERS OF CUT NAILS, SHOE TIPS, WASHERS, &C., STAFFORD STREET, WOLVERHAMPTON.

91. *Mr. R. Walker.*—The young persons engaged in our nail manufactory are employed by the men. One man has about four to six machines, and he finds the feeders. We pay him piece-work, and he pays the feeders day wages. They get from 5 to 7 shillings a week. Sometimes the feeders work by the piece. Our hours of work are from 6 to 6, with half an hour for breakfast at 8 and an hour for dinner at 1. We hardly ever work after 6. We perhaps have worked to 8 for two months during the last six years to get up some shipping orders. On Saturdays we close at 4. We have accidents sometimes from the machinery, but very few. We have had two instances where the feeders have had their fingers crushed. The youngest boys are employed by the men who make the shoe tips. We employ two men, father and son, and they employ about seven boys to help them.

92. *Abraham Williams*, nail cutter.—I am going 14. I have worked six years. When I first came I used to blow bellows for my brother. I used to go to school at the old Church school. (Cannot read). I go away every night at 6. I go to night-school at 7½ to 9½. I have gone every night for the last three months. We begin work at 6 in the morning. The feeders very seldom get their fingers hurt now ; they are used to the work. I never saw one, either woman or boy, caught by the bands which work the machines.

93. *Richard Butler*, shoe tip maker. I and my son employ seven boys. The youngest boy is 12 years old. Boys would be no use before that. Some of these boys do the same work that we do. Some are "underhands." What we call "wormers." They bevil, *i.e.* they flatten the tips after they have been turned by us. We pay them weekly wages of 2*s.* 6*d.* to 9*s.* or 10*s.*

94. *John Edwards.*—I am going 15. I have worked about five years. I can't read. I have been to school. I don't go now. I go home at 6. I come at 6 in the morning. (Does not know what county this town is in, nor how much six times seven are ; never learnt arithmetic.) I turn tips. I never stay away from work, except when I am bad. I do not think I have staid away six times since I have been here. (Looks healthy).

MR. JOHN NEVES' NAIL AND TIP MANUFACTORY, HORSELY FIELDS, WOLVERHAMPTON.

95. *Ellen Morrell*, feeder.—I am 15 next June. I have been at work nearly six months. I come at 6. I go away at 6 at night. I have half an hour for breakfast at 9, and an hour for dinner at 1. I always go away to breakfast and dinner. (Can read well). I learnt at St. Matthew's school before I came to work. I work piece-work. I earned 3*s.* 6*d.* last week. When I work overtime I can earn 5*s.* I never worked here after 6. I never hurt my fingers with the machine or the iron.

96. *Harriet Evans*, feeder.—I shall be 13 next Sunday week. I have worked 12 months. I feed a nail machine. I come at 6 and go away at 6. I never stop after. The machinery always stops for breakfast and dinner. All of us go home to dinner. I am not very tired when I get home at night. I never have hurt my fingers. I can earn from 4*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.* 10*d.* I earned 4*s.* 2*d.* last week. I can't read. I go to Sunday school now. I never went to a day-school.

MESSRS. MEANLY AND LEA'S WASHER MANUFACTORY, RAGLAN STREET, WOLVERHAMPTON.

97. *Mr. J. Meanly.*—We very rarely have accidents of any kind. Sometimes the girls who "hole" the washers get bits of their fingers pinched off, but I have not known more than three or four cases of that sort during the last six years. It is only the older girls who hurt themselves ; they get careless, and look about while they are working. I never knew of a girl being disabled by an accident of this kind. The youngest

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children are employed to string the washers and carry scraps. All the punches are worked by girls. Our regular hours are from 7 to 7. We are now working only from 8 to 5. The hand pressers work piece-work. The feeders are paid day wages. We never have any overtime.

98. *Ellen Stevens.*—I am going 9. I think I have been here over a year. I pick up scraps and string washers. Sometimes I feed; but there is no machine for me now. I have 1*s.* 2*d.* for 4 days, and 1*s.* 9*d.* for six days. I stand when I "feed." I have worked at the machine all day. I began at 8, and gave up at 5. I went away at 1 for dinner, and came back at 2. I like stringing better than feeding, because feeding is dangerous. I work for Mr. Cresswell. He pays my eldest sister for us three. My father is a collier. I have two sisters here, and two little brothers at home. I can't read. I go to school on Sundays. I have better clothes. (Was very ragged.) I am tired when I "feed." I like to come to work better than stop at home.

99. *Mary Ann Hately.*—I am going 11. I have not been here a year yet. I get 1*s.* a week. I carry scrap. When I "feed" I get 2*s.* or 2*s.* 6*d.* We are paid by the week. I come at 8; I go away at 5. I have "fed" from 7 to 7. I generally sit when I "feed." I do not go away to dinner; I bring my dinner with me. The machine stops at 1 and begins at 2. We have breakfast before we come now. When we work from 7 to 7 the machines stop at 9 till 9½. I can't read. I go to school on Sunday. I have three brothers and three sisters. One of my brothers works at Clarke's. He gets 4*s.* a week. The others are younger than me.

The Crown Nail Company, Union Mill Street, Wolverhampton.

100. *Mr. W. Elkington*, manager.—Our machinery is put in motion at 6, stopped at 8½, put in motion again at 9, stopped at 1, put in motion again at 2, and stopped at 6. We have only had overtime once during the last two years. Three-quarters of the feeders are girls and young women. They are hired and paid by the fitter. We have never had any accident from the machinery; but a girl at one time, and a boy at another, were nearly pulled into the machine by the band. We never had any case of the fly-wheels catching any of the feeders. The shafts are all out of reach. The large fly-wheel is guarded.

Mr. J. Steward's Washer Manufactory, Union Mill Street, Wolverhampton.

101. *Mr. James Steward.*—We had one fatal accident about two years ago. It was caused by the girl attempting to fix the band on the shaft pulley. The shaft is underneath the floor of the shop. She was kneeling over the band with the band touching her dress; as soon as she had put the band on the pulley it caught her dress, and she was pulled down and killed. The girls are always forbidden to touch the shaft. There is a man employed on purpose to keep the machinery in order. After the inquest, we had boxes made to guard the bands. The wages of the girls vary from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 6*s.* We cannot work the machines very fast, or the girls would spoil their work. The girls sit while they "feed" the machine. The girls who work the hand "holing" machines stand. We could not get boys for this work.

102. *Henry Moore*, washer maker.—There are three men and about 12 girls employed in this manufactory. One of the men is a blacksmith. The girls are all between 14 and 18. Sometimes they are as young as 11 or 12. The girls can earn from 4*s.* to 10*s.* in a week. We work from 6 to 6. On Saturdays we leave off at 1. We have had one bad accident. It was about four years ago. The bands that work the machine are protected. Sometimes the girls get their fingers pinched a bit, but they are never hurt more than that.

Messrs. Horton's Screw Bolt Manufactory, Darlaston.

103. *George Norton*, manager.—Our regular hours are from 6½ a.m. to 6½ p.m., with half-an-hour for breakfast, and an hour for dinner. The machinery is always stopped for breakfast and dinner. Some of the workpeople stop for tea, but the machinery is not stopped. We have about 150 hands altogether. All the men and women work piece-work, but about 12 of the younger girls are on day wages. The two youngest get 2*s.* 6*d.* per week; the others get 3*s.* and 4*s.* When we have a great deal of work to get done they work over. Our regular over-time is a quarter of day, *i.e.* 2 hours extra, from 6½ to 8½. We never work over-time more than two days in the week. On Monday the girls generally want to get away early, and we stop the machinery at 4½ or 5. We let them work later on other days to make it up. We have only had two accidents during the four years I have been here. In one case which occurred about six months back, a girl had her arm broken. She was not attending to the machine, but let it throw the bolt out before she stopped it, as she ought to have done, and the bolt hit her on the arm. Another girl had her wrist put out in the same way. Screw bolts are made in a great many small shops in Darlaston, by screwing engines worked by hand. There are about 50 of these small shops. In many cases a man forges the bolts and his wife and children screw them. It is very hard work, but the girls get higher wages. We only require two girls to every six men. When the work is done by hand eight girls are wanted to every six men.

104. *Elizabeth Lawrence.*—I am going 11. I toss nuts. I have worked about six months. I work from 6½ to 6½. I am not tired when I only work to half-past 6. I go home and nurse the baby. I sometimes work over-time. Mother lets me have the money I get for over-time. I put it in a box and keep it. I am tired when I work over-time. I have been to school. I can't read. I have two brothers and one sister. My eldest brother is going 13. He works. My father is a collier.

Mr. F. W. Cotterill's Screw Bolt Works, Butcroft, Darlaston.

105. *Mr. F. W. Cotterill.*—We have 35 women and girls, and 26 boys in our works. The boys are principally blowers. They are from nine years of age upwards. They begin at 6 and work to 6 in the evening. They have half an hour for breakfast and 1 hour for dinner. The girls work at the screw machines. During the last fortnight the machines have been kept working to 8 on Friday. The women can earn as much as 9*s.* a week. The lowest earnings the girls get are 3*s.* There are only one or two girls under 13. If the Factory Act was extended to our works it might cause us some inconvenience, but the persons who would suffer most would be the poor girls under 13, who can earn as much as 4*s.* in the week. They work piece-work, and one girl can earn twice as much as another in the same time. The boys employed as blowers get from 6*d.* to 10*d.* a day. The work in the screw manufactories in Darlaston goes on regularly, generally speaking, throughout the year. We generally work full time. A restriction of the working hours to between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. would be an inconvenience to us in the case of shipping orders. As it is, however, we cannot get our hands to work much on Monday. They prefer working late hours on Thursday and Friday. It is only of late years that men have had lads to blow. They used to blow for themselves. Now they find they can earn more wages by having lads to help them. The earnings of men vary. Some can make 2*l.* a week, others only make 15*s.*

Mr. E. Wilk's Screw Bolt Works, Darlaston.

Forging Shop.

106. *Isaac Phaley*, blower.—I am going 9. I have worked about two weeks. I blow. I get 2*s.* a-week. I have no father nor mother. I have a brother. He works here. Grandfather takes care of us.

107. *William Marlow.*—I am going 12. I have four sisters and two brothers. Two don't work. (Can read.) I come at 6 and go away at 7. I have half an hour for breakfast and 1 hour for dinner.

108. *John Manders.*—I am 11. I have two brothers and one sister. Father is out of work. Mother doesn't work. I get 3*s.* a-week. I can't read.

109. *Thomas Forster.*—I am going 12. I have worked four years. I have three sisters and two brothers. One sister and two brothers work. Father works. Mother doesn't. I have been seven years at school before I came to work. (Can read.)

110. *William Barritt.*—I am going 11. I've worked three years. I get 3*s.* a-week. There are seven of us at home besides father and mother. Father is a navvy. I am the only one that works. Mother doesn't. I can't read. I never went to school.

111. *James Bestherson.*—I am about 9. I have worked nearly two years. I can't read. I have four brothers and three sisters. All my brothers work. They are older than me. One is married. I get 2*s.* 6*d.* Father works.

112. *John Hinnersley.*—I am going 7. I am 7 next December. I work for my father.

[N.B.—The father of this boy could earn 26*s.* a week if he was a steady man.]

Messrs. Carter's Screw Bolt and Wrought Iron Bridges, &c. Works, Darlaston.

113. *Mr. S. Carter.*—We have only had two accidents in the screw shop during the last 17 years. One girl had her arm jammed in the machinery, and the other girl had the end of one of her fingers cut off. Neither of them were disabled. We always give over at 4 o'clock on Saturday. Our girls are all paid day wages; none of them are under 13. The lowest gets 4*s.*, and the highest gets 8*s.* The regular hours are from 6 to 6, but they do not keep them. We work to 8 on two or three nights in each week. I should not have any objection to the factory regulations being extended to the screw trade. The girls' work is simple; the standing so many hours is the only labour. The boys employed by the rivetters in the yard cannot work in wet weather, and as we are always bound by our contracts under time penalties it would be impossible to have absolute regularity of hours in that work.

Mr. Thomas Ford's Screw Woks, Wednesfield Heath.

Forging Shop.

114. *William Smith.*—I am 14. I come at 6 and go away at 6½. I used to work in the pits. I left because I did not like it. I have had the rheumatics. Father is a collier. I get 3*s.* a-week. I go home for meals. Have half an hour for breakfast, and 1 hour for dinner. I leave at 4 on Saturdays.

115. *Joseph Gilbert.*—I am going 13. I come at 6 and go at 6. Sometimes I stop later. I stopped to 9 last night. I get breakfast at 9. I go home. I have dinner at 1. I blow the bellows. I do nothing else. I get 4*d.* a-day. (Very little boy, does not look more than 10 or 11.)

116. *Sarah Sharper*, screw maker. I and my sister Margaret make screws. She is about 12. We have no father. Mother does not work. We have no other brothers or sisters. We work piece-work. I get 5*s.* and my sister gets 2*s.* 6*d.* a-week; sometimes less.

117. *William Seymour.*—I am 14. I have worked four years. I worked two years at Clarke's foundry. Father is a pointsman on the railroad. He has three children at home besides me. I always go home for meals. I go away at 6½ at night.

118. *Henry Davis.*—I am 10½ years old. I have worked about one year. Father is a collier. He has been ill about six months. He was crushed down the pit. There are three other children besides me at home.

119. *James Down.*—I am 13. I have worked about four years. Father is a collier. Father has been ill about two years. There are two other children at home. I always go away at 6½; on Saturday at 4. I could manage to go to school at night. I am tired sometimes, but not always.

[I examined 10 boys, and found that only two could read, eight could not.]

At Mr. E. Morris', Screw Manufacturer, Willenhall.

120. *Mr. E. Morris.*—I have never heard of any case of ill-usage of an apprentice by his master in this town for a long time. I have heard it stated many a time, that some 20 years ago they used to be worked very hard, and punished too, but that state of things has quite passed away. Most of the in-door apprentices of the little locksmiths come from unions: many from Atherton Union. I have observed men with their shoulders distorted and their legs bent, from having been kept too long standing and working at the vice when they were growing. But these men were all over 40. Boys are not thus overworked now. The persons I employ in my manufactory are nearly all women.

[The shop in which the women and girls worked was old, and accordingly small and very dirty. The lathes were placed as close together as possible, so that when all were worked the shop would be densely crowded.]

At Messrs. Chubb's and Co.'s, Lock Manufacturers, Wolverhampton.

121. *John Hilton*, locksmith.—I was a little master locksmith for 22 years. The "little masters" find all the materials, make the locks, and sell them to the factors. Some have shops, and some work in their rooms. They could make their locks without employing children, but they generally have one or two children to help them by doing the rough work. They always employ their own children if they have any. Boys would be of little use to them until they had been with them two years or more. Now, I should say, very few had any other children but their own to help them. They cannot afford to pay for them. I think the small masters are becoming fewer every year. We nearly all work in large shops now. There are very few key makers; one key maker would supply 16 locksmiths. The little masters generally have very irregular hours. They lose two or three days and then work all night to make it up. The little locksmiths earn from 15*s.* to 20*s.* They lose much time in running about getting materials and selling their locks.

At Mr. T. Turner's Lock Manufactory, Great Brick-kiln Street, Wolverhampton.

122. *Mr. Thos. Turner.*—The boys in my shop are most of them bound apprentices, but some work for the men. The general custom is to bind. I think that is the best plan both for the boys and the master. There are about 400 small master locksmiths. They would not have any men, but one or two boys. These

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boys would generally be their own children, but they often have another person's child of about 8 or 9. They would pay him about 1*s.* 6*d.* or 2*s.*

123. *Joseph Devey*, manager.—I have been here 10 years. There are about 13 boys employed here. The majority of them can read and write. There is plenty of opportunity for education in Wolverhampton. I teach and manage the boys. It is useless to attempt correcting them. We once had a boy very stupid and impudent, and the master boxed his ears, and his mother immediately took out a summons. The case was dismissed. The boy came back and behaved worse than ever, and at last absconded. In the last 20 years there has been a great improvement in the condition of apprentices. I was apprenticed myself to a little master. He had two or three apprentices. We were indoor apprentices. We used to begin work at 4 or 5 o'clock, and work up to 8, 9, and 10 on Thursday and Friday. There is nothing of that sort now. There are very few indoor apprentices now. Boys are too independent, masters will not have them. There is so much general intelligence now-a-days that this tyranny is at an end.

124. *Edward Lucas.*—I am turned 14. I have worked nearly 4 years. I get 4*s.* a week. I am not bound. I come at 8 and go away at 7. I have dinner at 1. I have an hour for dinner. I can always get 2*s.* 3*d.* over my regular week's work without working beyond 6 o'clock. We sometimes work overtime to get extra wages. Before Christmas I worked to 9 o'clock. I got 4*s.* 1*d.* extra in a week. (Cannot read.) I go to school on Sundays. I always take my wages and give them to my parents.

[N.B.—Of 11 boys in the shop, nine could read and two could not.]

At Messrs. Carpenter and Tildesley's Lock and Curry Comb Manufactory, Willenhall.

125. *Mr. James Tildesley.*—We manufacture locks and curry combs. The children who work in our manufactory are all employed by the men. They are chiefly employed in running errands for the men and doing some of the rough work, such as filing the small parts of the interior of the locks. The women and young persons employed by ourselves work an hour less than the men. The children who work for the men seldom work more than six hours a day, as they can do in that time as much filing of the small parts of the lock as would serve for 10 hours work of the men. I have never had any apprentices. I would not have the trouble of indoor apprentices. I prefer letting the men employ their own boys. One of my workmen has an indoor apprentice, the son of another of my workmen. There are more than 100 little locksmiths in this town. Most of the padlock makers have apprentices, but even in this trade the more respectable have abandoned the system. The great evil of the apprentice system used to be that masters would employ lads of 10 years of age and upwards at making particular parts of locks, instead of teaching them to make a lock, so that they never learnt their trade. Though there are less apprentices in the town there are more lockmakers than there used to be. I think that the use of steam power has dispensed with much of the hard work which used to be put upon the lads. Lads are now employed at 15 or 16 years of age in making locks, so that they are now quite independent of their masters. For instance, bolts used to be made by forging and filing. Now the iron is drawn through dies, and made round and smooth, and of the proper size for the bolt. There is a very great improvement in the treatment of apprentices now. I have heard of their being worked all night, but that is very rare, only sometimes on a Friday night. The system of stinting is generally adopted. I have never heard of any complaint of ill usage by an apprentice against his master. As a rule I believe they are well fed and in many cases compelled by their masters to go to the Sunday school. The general term of indoor apprenticeships is from 12 to 21. They used to be taken at eight years of age. I have been acting as overseer, and during the last year I have not had more than three applications for apprenticeships. I think the sole cause of the great number of apprentices there used to be was the practice of the guardians of unions in various parts of the country, particularly in agricultural districts, getting rid of the pauper boys by offering premiums of 8*l.* or 10*l.* to any one who would take them as apprentices. By getting these premiums locksmiths could get enough capital to start business as masters. We only allow our good workmen to have any child to teach. The general effect of letting men have boys is that they do not make such good locks. When men have large families they want to have the help of their children to enable them to earn more wages. This leads them to leave a manufactory and work at home, either for a master or a factor. When these little masters work for factors, if trade is dull and locks are not wanted, the factor reduces the price of the locks; but as the locksmith must get enough money to live by, he is compelled to make more locks in proportion to the scarcity of the demand for them. Thus the trade has been greatly injured.

Messrs. Harper and Tildesley's, Manufacturers of Locks, Bolts, &c., Albion Works, Willenhall.

126. *Mr. Matthew Tildesley.*—Nearly all the boys under 13 in our works are employed by the men. Their wages vary from 2*s.* to 5*s.* There are plenty of boys of this age to be got. We are very desirous that the children should be educated, but there is no system that we are aware of by which we could carry that object out without the assistance of the law. Our hours now are from 6 to 7. We did try to reduce them to from 6 to 6, and then to from 6 to 5½. We carried on these hours for five or six years, but no one followed us in the town, and our piecework men complained that they had not enough time to do their work in, and the children were nearly all employed by them. So we were compelled to return to the old system, though, I believe, we got as much work done with the short hours. The casters now work only from 6 to 6. These are the usual hours in the casting trade. If the half-time system were applied to us and all the little locksmiths and other shops in the town were exempt, we should be very much prejudiced. Machinery gives large manufacturers a great advantage over small, but not enough to allow of our paying more money in wages.

127. *Moses Dangerfield.*—I am 14 next Willenhall Wakes (September). I have worked two years and a half. I come at about 10 minutes past 6 in the morning, and go away at 7 in the evening. I file brackets. I go away for half an hour at 9 for breakfast, for an hour at 1 for dinner, and for half an hour at 5 for tea. I have worked to 9, but only once or twice during the last year. I always get extra wages when I work after 7. (Knows the letters.)

128. *Joseph Ballfield.*—I was 11 last Christmas. I have worked since I was nine years old. I come at 6 and leave off at 7. I go away for meals. (Reads a little.) I get 3*s.* a week. We work to 9 sometimes on Friday night when the engine goes on.

129. *William Parker.*—I am 12 next March. I have worked three years. I come at 6 and give over at 6½. I get 3*s.* 6*d.* I am never tired at night. I can't read. I go to Sunday school.

130. *Edwin Walker.*—I am 9 years old. I have worked three months. I get 2*s.* I have two brothers and one sister. Father and one brother works. Mother doesn't work. I go to school on Sundays. (Can read a little).

131. *Daniel Hill.*—I am 12 years old. I have worked four years and a half. I have four sisters and two brothers. Three of my sisters are older than

myself. Both brothers are younger than me Two of my sisters are in service now. I go to school on Sundays.

132. *Arthur Hill.*—I am 11 next month. I have worked eight months. I get 2*s.* 6*d.* I never stop after 7 in the evening. I am not tired when I go away. When I get home I wash, and then we play. We play "holla" sometimes. I can't read. I never go to school.

[I examined 12 boys and found that six could read and six could not. Shops large and high.]

Polishing or "Bobbin" Shops.

133. *Joseph Johns*, bolt, &c., polisher.—I am 32. I have worked at this work since I was 14. I have never suffered at all from my work since I gave up drinking. I have to spit at times. The boys sometimes get down into the hole where the shaft works to pick up things they have dropt. I never knew of any serious accidents from the shaft or the wheels in a bobbin shop. I never let the boys get down when I can help it.

134. *Isaac Dagrune.*—I am 27. I have worked in the bobbin shop since I was eight. I never felt any bad effects. I am a teetotaller. I have never felt the dust in my throat.

135. *John Balls.*—I am 15. I have worked here for four years. I worked three years before that. I come at 6 and go away at 7. On Friday we sometimes work over that. I feel the dust from the wheel in my throat every now and then, and I spit a lot of emery and stuff out of my mouth. I should like to have some cleaner work to do.

136. Mr. R. Cooper, Locksmith, Brick-kiln Street, Wolverhampton.

There are no boys under 13 now in our manufactory. Sometimes we have one or two about 12. No law affecting children under 13 would prejudice our trade, nor do I think that children ought to be put to work before they are 13. Brass castors would average 20*s.* a week while they are employed, exclusive of their boy's wages. A first-rate locksmith can earn 24*s.*, or even 30*s.* a week, but many, working regularly through the week, cannot earn more than 12*s.*, whether they work at home or in shops. If these men had any family, and children of 9 or 10 years old, they would be compelled to send them out to earn wages somehow or other. A locksmith would probably pay 2*s.* 6*d.* a week for rent.

At Mr. Forster's, Locksmith, Canal Street, Wolverhampton.

This is the worst specimen of the lowest class of lock manufactories. The shops are situated in a yard at the back of the lowest street in the town. Adjoining the shops are the masters house pigsties, &c. The whole establishment is in the style of the most degraded Irish life. In the house, or hovel attached to the shops, lived Forster, his wife, and his 6 apprentices. I could not get his consent to my looking over his shops, but he did not oppose my taking the evidence of his foreman. This evidence was given in the presence of most of the men and boys.

137. *Enoch Banister*, foreman.—We have three men, and five lads working here. All the lads are indoor apprentices. The youngest is about 13 or 14. Four of the others are about the same age. One is nearly 20. They are all bound by deed to Forster. They chiefly come from Wolverhampton and the neighbourhood. I do not think any are parish apprentices. I know some were apprenticed from the house here. There is besides one little boy about 11, who runs errands. He also lives in the house, but is not apprenticed. The apprentices have no regular time for work; we work at all hours. They often begin at 5; sometimes, but very seldom, at 4. We work up to all hours at night. We often have worked up to 10 at night, occasionally up to 11. We, in fact, work pretty well as hard as we can. We have no regular time for meals. Sometimes we have five minutes only for dinner, and sometimes we take two hours. Forster generally works himself in the shop. The apprentices work under the men. Their treatment depends more upon us than Forster. He has not much to do with them. They all live in Forster's house, with him and his wife. The boys do not get any wages themselves. The men pay Forster something out of their wages for the use of them. The boys have meat for dinner sometimes. They have four beds between the six. Sometimes the master gives them something for pocket money, 2*d.* or 6*d.*, or perhaps 1*s.* They cannot earn any extra wages for themselves here as in other places. The master never paid the parents anything for the boys. I never knew of any complaint by an apprentice against Forster. The men's wages vary. Some can only earn 7*s.* in the week, others can get as much as 15*s.* I should say 10*s.* or 12*s.* would be their average earnings. They have to give the master something out of this for the boys. I do not think any other work is so badly paid as this work.

At Mr. Bellamy's, Padlock Maker, Wednesfield.

138. *James Thomas*, apprentice, padlock maker.—I am 16. I am an out apprentice. I have been apprenticed four years. I come at 7 in the morning, and go away at 7 at night; that is my regular time. I get 6*s.* a week. I have half an hour at 8½ for breakfast, an hour from 12 to 1 for dinner, and a quarter of an hour at 4 for tea. (Can read.)

139. *Joseph Tomkis*, padlock maker.—Boys begin to work at nine years of age. They ought not to begin before 12; but boys of nine can earn 2*s.* 6*d.*, and the parents can't always spare their wages.

[New shops, neat and clean. Two or three men and two boys at work. In a small shop adjoining a woman was varnishing padlocks.]

At Mr. E. Forsters', Key-maker, Wednesfield.

140. *Mr. Edward Forster.*—There are about 40 key makers' shops in Wednesfield. The persons working in these shops are generally the owner and one or two journeymen, one or two apprentices, or the owner's sons. In some there are as many as 10 at work, in others only one or two. There are not many apprentices now in this town. They are nearly all in-door apprentices. The general hours in these shops are from 6 in the morning to 8 at night. Sometimes we work longer and sometimes less. In-door apprentices get no wages, but apprentices of 14 or 15 and upwards, are allowed to get a little money for themselves at certain times by working overtime. Some apprentices are worked harder than others, but I do not think that they are worked too hard now. From 6 to 8 is too long, but the work is so badly paid we must work long. There are too many of us. We only get 8*d.* or 10*d.* a gross for filing keys.

[Small, dilapidated shop. Hens roosting on the bellows. Three men and no boys at work.]

141. Mr. Enoch Hall, Locksmith, Wallsall Road, Willenhall.

I have two apprentices (in-door). I get them from the Wolverhampton Union. I got no premiums with them. They were each about 12 when they were bound. They are bound to 21 years of age.

Trades in the Wolverhampton District.

Mr. F. D. Longe.

a.

I have five workmen in my shop besides the apprentices. They generally all work the same hours. The boys have regular stints to do. They can do their stints in eight hours each day. They generally work from 7 in the morning to 7 at night, with half an hour for breakfast, and tea, and an hour for dinner. When they have done their stint they can work for themselves, and earn 2*s.* a week. Both my apprentices are educated. I attribute the better condition of the apprentices to their being educated before they are sent out of the workhouse. The parish apprentices formerly were often not educated.

142. David Littleton, Apprentice to Mr. T. Hartle, Lockmaker, Crescent, Willenhall.

I am going 19. I was 9 years old when I was apprenticed. I was apprenticed by my parents, who live at Lichfield. We generally begin to work between 7 and 8. I give up at ½ past 7 in the evening because I work through meal times. The others work till 8. If I liked I could have half an hour for breakfast, an hour for dinner, and half an hour for tea. I cannot go to Sunday school because I have not got good enough clothes. I cannot go to night school because I cannot get away from work in time. (Strong healthy lad).

143. John Clarke, Apprentice to Mr. E. Groves, Locksmith, New Road, Willenhall.

I am 18 years of age. I am an in-door apprentice. I was 13 when I was first apprenticed. I was apprenticed from the Coventry Union. We sometimes begin to work at 4 o'clock in the morning, on Saturdays, and work to 6 in the evening. We have worked all night on Friday, but then we have left off at 11 on Saturday. It is not more than once in three months that we work all night. As a general rule we begin at 7 and leave off at 8. We stop at 1 o'clock for dinner, but never for more than half an hour. We stop for half an hour at breakfast, and tea-time. (I can read and write). I learnt before I was apprenticed. (Heavy and stupid, but healthy looking.)

144. *Mr. E. Groves* (master of last witness).—We cannot work a full day on Monday, and often not on Tuesday either. We have to get our brass for the week ; and sometimes we are kept waiting till Wednesday morning. That is why our work is put off so much to the end of the week.

145. Mr. J. Harper, Locksmith, Wolverhampton Street, Willenhall.

I have two in-door apprentices. The regular hours are from 7 to 8. On Monday and Saturday we work two hours less. On Friday night we sometimes work later when we have work to finish. Both my apprentices belong to the town. Generally the apprentices are from unions in the country.

146. *Thomas Barnet*, apprentice to last witness.—I am going 19. I was between 14 and 15 when I came here first. I begin to work at 7 in the morning. I give up when I like in the evening. I have a regular stint to do in the week. When I have done that I can either work for myself or go away. Sometimes master gives me a dozen of locks to make for myself. He gives me 2*s.* for a dozen locks. I could make them in three-quarters of a day. Sometimes I work to 9 on Thursday and Friday. On Monday I leave at 7. On Tuesday and Wednesday at 8. On Saturday I generally leave at 5. I am well treated, and have plenty of good eating and drinking. I can read and write. I learnt at the Church school before I began to work. I began first when I was 10 years old. I used to run errands at a locksmith's. I worked the same hours then that I do now. (Strong and healthy).

147. Mr. Thomas Yates, Locksmith, New Invention.

I have been a locksmith 50 years. Men do not work less hours now about here than they used to do. The greatest part of them work from 16 to 18 hours a day. Those who have the proper machines do this. There are many young locksmiths about who have nothing to do.

148. Mr. Joseph Parkes, Locksmith, New Invention.

I have eight sons in the lock trade. I have seven sons and an apprentice in my own shop. One of my sons is apprenticed to another locksmith in this parish. The youngest of my sons is now 18 years old. George Squire has five sons, all brought up to this trade. William Clewley has five sons, they are all brought up to this trade. William Tarbutt is a miner himself, but he has brought his five sons up to this trade. These men are neighbours of mine. In my shop we begin generally at 7 in the morning and work to 9 at night, with two hours for meals. Those who have apprentices work longer than this. There are about 30 locksmiths and 6 key smiths in New Invention. There are 10 or 12 men in Short Heath.

149. Mr. Abraham Fletcher, Locksmith, New Invention.

I have two apprentices, and one son of about 15 years of age. We work from 7 to 10 regularly every day of the week, and on Friday night sometimes through the whole night. It is too long for both men and boys. It is no use denying it. I should like to have the hours limited from 7 to 6, if only we could get enough money to live by. I sell the locks we make, and I consider that my earnings are from 3*s.* to 3*s.* 6*d.* a day, and that the boys earn 1*s.* 6*d.* a day. I have had seven children, but I only have three now. These hours are common about here with both locksmiths and keysmiths, the keysmiths have apprentices also.

150. *Joseph Smith*, apprentice to last witness.—I am 14. I have been apprenticed about two years. I lived at Rugeley, and came out of Lichfield workhouse. The governor comes over sometimes to see me. I have as much to eat and drink as I can. Last Monday I began at 8 and worked to 8. On Friday we worked to 10. We work longer than that sometimes, as master says. (Well clothed.)

151. Mr. Thomas Yates, Keysmith, New Invention.

I have three men and three apprentices. They have just come, and were all 12 last birthday. Two come from Dudley, and one from Willenhall. When we have work to do we work from 6½ to 8½. We never work later than that. I am sure that the boys are much better treated than they used to be, and do not work so long. I could work less hours if I had regular work. I work for several lockmakers and factors. I have not had a full week's work for a couple of years till just now. I do not think that factors now will buy locks or keys, except when they want them. They will not buy them for stock as they used to do, and give a man a low price for them. I know they did do this, but I do not know that they ever do so now, as a practice at least.

152. *Thomas Blackmore*, apprentice to last witness.—I was 12 last Christmas. I have been here three years. I generally begin to work between 6 and 7 in the morning, and give over at 8½ at night. I never work later than that. I have half an hour for breakfast and tea, and an hour for dinner. I go to bed when I leave off work.

[Mrs. Yates said she always sent the boys to church and school on Sunday. She showed me a large Bible she had bought for the boy with his pocket money.]

153. Mr. Thomas Duncombe, Jun., Locksmith, Short Heath.

I have three apprentices, the youngest is 14. They are all from Warwick. The parish gave me a premium of 5*l.* with each. Out of this I had to lay out 2*l.* for clothes for each boy. We work a great many, too many hours about here. We work regularly from 6 in the morning to 9 at night, with 1½ hours for meals. We do not work all this time every day. Some weeks we have hardly any or no work to do.

154. *William Higginson*, apprentice to last witness.—I am 14 next June. I was apprenticed last September. I generally begin to work before 8 in the morning, sometimes at 6. I generally stop a little before 10. I have half-an-hour for breakfast at 9, half-an-hour for dinner at 1, and half-an-hour for tea at 5. I have supper when I have done my work. I have bread and cheese and beer for supper. Sometimes I have beef. I go to Church twice a day on Sundays, and to school.

[The master told me that he had had to punish this boy with the stick. He was sly and badly disposed. Had gone off with a bargeman once, but was brought back by his mother.]

At Mr. Joseph Broadbent's, Door-bolt Manufacturer, Brick-kiln Street, Wolverhampton.

155. *Mr. J. Broadbent.*—The number of our workpeople varies. Perhaps 12 would be the average number. They would consist of six men, two women, and four boys. Poor people often send their boys here at seven or eight years of age, that they may earn a little money, and learn the trade. Then when they have been here for three or four years the parents will take them away, and get them into a larger manufactory, and apprentice them. We never pay less than 2*s.* a week, generally the boys get 2*s.* 6*d.* At first they can do nothing but carry things about for the workmen; after a time they learn to file. Our hours of work are from 7 in the morning to 8 at night. Out of those hours they have three-quarters of an hour for breakfast, one hour for dinner, and three-quarters of an hour at 5 for tea. I hire and pay all the boys myself. Sometimes the mothers will come for the money, where the lads spend their wages. It is a common thing for boys to get 2*s.* 6*d.* and pay their parents only 2*s.*; but I attribute this a good deal to the parents' fault, in not taking proper care of their children. The children who come very young are all the children of very poor parents. We have one case of a boy, who has been here for a long time. He came and worked for the men for nothing but his meals, because he liked the meals they gave him better than what he had at home. He was between six and seven when he came; now he is going 12, and he is earning 3*s.* 6*d.* a week. He is going to be bound apprentice to me. He will have 4*s.* a week when he begins in June. Then his wages will rise 1*s.* every year till he is 21. Some of the men work piece-work. All these men lose the first two days in every other week. They never will work two whole weeks together. They sometimes work to 10 on Friday night; but they never work the boys so late as that. The boys will not work beyond the regular hours except to earn extra wages for themselves. The boys generally work overtime before the holidays, to get a little money for themselves. There are three days holidays at Easter, Whitsuntide, and Christmas, and also at the fair and races. They generally have a week at the races.

156. *Charles Smith.*—I am going 12. I live in Church Street. My father is a locksmith. I have been here six years. When I first came I got victuals and no wages. I stopped because I liked to be here. I got meat here, and I only got bacon and taties at home. I now get 3*s.* 6*d.* I come at 7, sometimes not till nearly 8, and I go home at 8. I get my breakfast at 9. I have half-an-hour for breakfast. I stop at 1 for dinner; I go home for dinner. It is very seldom that we have meat for dinner. I come back at 2. I never begin work before 2. I stop at 5 for tea. I have 35 minutes for tea. I know how long I have by the clock. I always go away at 8. I have stopped to 9 about 12 times since I have been here. I have stayed away and played some days. It was wrong. When I go home I wash, have my supper, and go to bed. I am often tired. It is not hard work I have to do. I often get a box on the ears; but I was never hit with a stick or anything of that kind. I got a box on the ears the other day for not doing my stint. Sometimes my stint is too much to do. (Reads a little.) I went to school for six months before I came to work. I go to Sunday school now. I have got two testaments given me at Sunday school. Mother reads the testament. I have three brothers and two sisters. I am the oldest.

[N.B.—I examined five boys, and found that only two could read.]

At Mr. J. Hughes' Hinge Manufactory, Temple Street, Wolverhampton.

157. *Mr. G. Hughes.*—I am now employing four men, and they employ five lads. I also employ one woman in the warehouse. The boys are not apprenticed, but they do the same work as if they were apprenticed. Their employment is to blow the bellows, and to strike for the men. They are all between 12 and 16 years old. Boys under that age would be of no use to the men. Our hours of work are from 7 to 7. We frequently have overtime to 9. The men stop two hours for meals. The men are paid by piece-work. They pay their boys by the week. The boys have extra wages for overtime. Their wages are from 2*s.* to 6*s.* A lad who only blows gets 2*s.* and 2*s.* 6*d*; if he strikes too he gets from 4*s.* to 6*s.* Overtime, in the two hours from 7 to 9, counts as a quarter of a day. We never begin before 7 in the morning.

158. *William Monro.*—I am turned 14. I have been three years and three months at work. I come at 8; I go away at 7. When I work overtime, I work to 8 or 9. I get a penny an hour extra wages. I get 5*s.* a week. I have dinner at 1. I go home and come back at 2. I never in my life worked through dinner time. I am treated well. I never had a box on the ears, or a hit from the men. I used to go to school before I came to work. I now go on Sundays. (Can read.) I have two months at night school. I have some little books; one is called "Following the "Cross." I have been to Chillenham. Chillenham is in Gloucestershire, I do not know what county this town is in.

159. *Thomas Murphy* (Irish).—I am 12 years old. I have worked four years. I have been here three weeks. I worked at rope spinning before I came here. I get 4*s.* 6*d.* a week. I come at 7. I go away at 7. I have not stopped after 7 since I have been here. I go away from 1 to 2 for dinner. I can't read. I went to school for a week. I work for a hinge maker. He treats me well. He never hit me at all.

Trades in the Wolverhampton District.

Mr. F. D. Longe.

a.

At Mr. W. J. Plant's Steel Toy Manufactory, Poole Street, Wolverhampton.

160. *Charles Everidge.*—I am 13½ years old. I have worked four years. I began to work at Taylors' a locksmith. I used to run errands. I got 1*s.* 6*d.* a week. I now get 3*s.* 6*d.* I file and burnish. I come at 7 in the morning, and go away at 8 at night. On Monday I leave at 7. And on Saturday at 5. I always go home for dinner, breakfast, and tea. (Can read a little). I should go to night school if I left off earlier. My father was a shoemaker. When I first went to work, there were 6 of us at home. (Does not know what county Wolverhampton is in).

At Mr. W. Newman's, Door-spring Maker, Stafford Street, Wolverhampton.

161. *Mr. W. Newman.*—We have no boys now under 13. Boys under that age are of no use except as errand boys. These boys are generally the children of the workmen, or hired and paid by them. We do not have any apprentices. I do not think any of the spring makers in the town have apprentices. The workmen in this trade generally come to it from the lock trade. Children cannot be used in the trade, as in making locks.

Mr. J. Veal, Curry Comb Manufacturer, Willenhall.

162. *Mr. J. Veal.*—We employ about 20 hands altogether, of them eight are men employed in forging and handling the curry combs, making iron candlesticks, &c. There are seven women and girls employed at the presses cutting the teeth of combs, and there are four boys, one little one about eight years old, is employed out of charity to his father, who is disabled.

163. *Joseph Forster.*—I am going 8. I have two sisters and one brother. (N.B. his father gets 15*s.* a week). I come at 7. I go away at 8 ; sometimes a little after 7. I have once worked to 9. I get 1*s.* 6*d.* a week. I came at Christmas. I cannot read. (Works a press).

164. *John Gallagher.*—I am going 14. I have only been one year at work. I used to work at Clarkes'. I left because I burnt my foot. (Reads well.) I learnt at the Roman Catholic School. I live at Portobello. I get here about 7½, and generally get home at 8½. I generally have half an hour for breakfast and tea, and one hour for dinner.

At Mr. E. Blakeney's, Iron Brazier, Wolverhampton.

165. *Mr. E. Blakeney.*—I employ seven apprentices. They are all bound by deed. They are generally about 13 when they are bound. This apprenticeship lasts till they are 21. Our hours are 10½ exclusive of meals. In winter we begin at 8, and in summer at 7. An hour for dinner at 1. All go away for dinner. The boys wages are fixed in their deeds. They generally have 2*s.* 6*d.* for the first year, and their wages rise gradually up to 9*s.* a week.

166. *Henry Smith.*—Apprentice. I am 19. Mr. Blakeney taught me the trade. When we are busy we have a regular stint given us to do. We come at 7, and go away at 7½ in the evening. We always go away for meals. We work after 7½ when we are busy, but we get paid extra for all we do after that time. I get 2*d.* an hour extra. It is just as we like whether we work overtime or not. We are generally most busy about three weeks before Christmas. We sometimes work then to 10 or 11½. Men can earn from 30*s.* to 36*s.* at this trade. I do not go to night-school. We cannot get away soon enough. If we began at 6 and worked to 6 in the evening we could go.

167. Mr. Titus Summerfield, Awl-blade Manufacturer, Short-heath Works, Bloxwich.

I employ twelve men and four lads. Three of them are in-door apprentices, and one an out-apprentice. In-door apprentices are seldom taken before they are 12 years of age ; but some would be as young as 11. They are little or no use until they are 17 or 18, when they have learnt their trade. There is no work for little children, either boys or girls, except for one or two in the warehouse. I should think there were about 200 awl-blade makers in the place, working either in their own or in other persons' shops. There would be about 50 apprentices. Formerly nearly all the apprentices were from workhouses. These boys seldom make good workmen. All my apprentices can read and write. They never miss going to Sunday school. My hours of work are from 6 A.M. to 8 P.M., with three-quarters of an hour for breakfast, one hour for dinner, and half-an-hour at 5 for tea. We begin at 7 on Monday, and on Saturday leave off at 5. I never work later than 8, not even on Friday, Men working at home work all hours. I know one man who always works up to 11 at night, but then he does not begin till 9.

At Mr. J. Hales', Saddlers' Ironmongery Manufactory, Hatherton Street, Walsall.

Casting Shop.

168. *Samuel Dennill*, caster's assistant.—I was 10 last April. I have worked about a year and a half. I come at 6, and go away at 7. Last night I went away at 7½. On Thursday and Friday we stop to 8. On Saturday we give over work at 4, but I stop to sweep up ; we stop till about 7. I get 2*s.* 6*d.* a-week. I have five brothers and one sister. Two of my brothers and my sister doesn't work. I can read a little, but I can't read the Testament yet. I go to school on Sundays. I was two years at school before I came to work.

169. Mr. William Llewellyn, Bit Maker, Hatherton Street, Walsall.

I make bits of all kinds. There are about 100 bit-makers in the town, including those who own shops and those who work for others. I employ two men. There would be on an average four or five men, and two or three apprentices to each master. The apprentices are generally in-door apprentices. Some men have five or six. Boys are no use until they are 12 or 14, except as errand boys. They are first put to smoothing with the files. Our trade is very similar to that of the locksmiths. We work for factors, and sometimes for manufacturers. Many men can only get 10*s.* a-week, but a good many get as much as 1*l.* a-week. Out apprentices get 11*s.* or 12*s.* during the last year of their apprenticeship. No girls are employed in the trade. I only know of one case, where a girl works for her father.

170. Joseph Kent, Spring Bar Maker, Doveridge Street, Walsall.

I began to work at 7 years of age in a cotton mill. Boys begin here at 9 years of age and upwards. Poor parents cannot keep them longer. I have six children myself, and have been out of work for some time. We work very long hours in the small shops when we have any work to do. The regular hours in the shop in which I work are from 6 to 9, except on Saturdays, when we give over at 5. In the larger shops and factories the hours are much shorter. It would be a good thing to stop people working so long. When a little master has any work to be done he and his men work very long hours, and then they

go a long time without any work at all. These small shops are of different sizes. In some there are only three or four men and boys, in others eight or nine. The boys are employed filing. They keep the same hours as the men. We generally have full work for about three months, and then a slack time. The hours are too long for both men and boys.

171. Mr. John Turner, Malleable Ironfounder, Bridgman Street, Walsall.

There are about 25 or 30 malleable iron-founders like myself in Walsall. We cast bits and snaffles, and sell them to the small finishers. Each caster employs one boy, in some cases two boys. These boys are generally 11 or 12 years old : some do not begin until they are 13. The in-door apprentices are generally taken at 13. We generally work about 12 hours a-day : but the furnace is not got up to the proper heat till breakfast time, and we finish at 5 or 6 in the evening. We never work at night. Some in our trade do. Casting malleable iron is very healthy work. It is not like brass casting.

Mr. H. Brace's Saddlery Manufactory, Walsall.

172. *Mr. H. Brace.*—My workpeople are employed in making saddles principally, that is, cutting the leather, putting the saddle together, and stitching, &c. The ordinary saddler's work is done by men. The light stitching is done by women. The earnings of brown saddle makers vary from 20*s.* to 45*s.* per week. They all work on the piecework system. They generally get their wives to help them with the light work, they take it home to them. Girls and young women can earn from 8*s.* to 13*s.* a week. We take apprentices. All the boys are bound by stamped deeds. I have four apprentices to 20 men. The men object to our having more than one apprentice to five men. They get 3*s.* their first year, and their wages rise gradually to 12*s.* or 14*s.* a week. Our hours of work are from 8 A.M. to 7 P.M. We close the factory at 8. We very seldom work later than 8.

173. *Joshua Roper.*—I am 14. I work for my father. He is in this shop. I have worked here two years. I go of errands. I have not begun to learn the trade yet. I was six years at school. I can read and write. I come at 7. I go away at 7. These are our usual hours. I have worked to 8 in the winter. We begin at 8 in the morning in the winter.

174. *John Stone*, bridle maker.—Boys are generally apprenticed at 12 or 14 years of age. They are not apprenticed so early now as they used to be. They are apprenticed either to the men or the master. I take the work and employ the men. Our regular hours are from 7 to 7, or rather 8 to 7½. They have an hour for dinner at 1, and a quarter of an hour for tea if they like.

175. John Aldridge, Foreman to Messrs. Myering, Harness Makers, Bridgman Street, Walsall.

The regular hours in our trade are from 8 in the morning to 7 at night ; with an hour at 1 for dinner. The lads and girls have half an hour for tea, when they work to 7½. The girls are sometimes employed up to 9, but very rarely. Overtime is from 7 to 9, but it seldom occurs. The girls begin to learn to stitch at 10 years of age. The sewing machines have done away with children very much. Buckles used to be sewn by little girls, now they are sewn by the machine. One woman with the machine can do the work of 12 girls. A law restricting the work of girls under 13 would not affect us at all.

Electro-Plate Company, Peel Street, Wolverhampton.

Burnishing Room.

176. *Jane Barton.*—There are 10 girls employed in this room. There are nine more in another room. Girls generally begin to work in the polishing room at about 14. We begin at 8 in the morning, and leave at 7 in the evening. About two or three nights in the year we might work to 8 or 9. We have breakfast before we come. We have from 1 to 2¼ for dinner, and half an hour at 5 for tea. I believe all these girls can read. Girls who are learning get from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.* After we have learnt we can earn from 10*s.* to 12*s.* a-week.

Plating Room.

177. *John Taylor*, electro-depositor.—I employ two boys about 12 years old. Their work is to keep up the fire, and do other odd jobs. The preparation in which the metal is immersed consists of a solution of cyanide and silver. By the action of the galvanic battery the silver is deposited on the metal. So long as the apparatus is working properly no poisonous gas is emitted, so that the employment may be considered perfectly healthy. I have enjoyed particularly good health ever since I have been engaged in it.

178. George Southall, Foreman to Messrs. Davies, Galvanizers, Snow Hill, Wolverhampton.

We employ about seven boys to 33 men. The boys' work is to carry the plates, clean them, and dry them with sawdust. Our hours of work are from 6 in the morning to 6 in the evening. On Saturday we give over at 12. We sometimes have a quarter-day over-time, *i.e.*, till 8. About two days in the month we have over-time to 10. Over-time is very irregular. We sometimes do not require it for two or three months, and then we might have a fortnight or three weeks of over-time to 8. None of the boys who work here are under 13. They would not be strong enough. Two of the seven are under 15. We use muriatic acid for pickling the iron. This is done by the men. It is not unhealthy work. We use salts of ammonia to cover the metal. It smells very strong, but is quite wholesome.

At Messrs. Cartwright and Evans' Tin Toy Factory, Dudley Road.

179. *Mr. Sydney Cartwright.*—This is the only manufactory for tin toys in the kingdom. The persons employed are chiefly women and girls. The work is light. It consists chiefly in working the presses, which cut and shape the tin, and in pointing the tags. I should have no difficulty in getting children above 10 years of age if the law were to prevent their being employed under that age, but would it be right or wise to prevent parents employing their children under that age in circumstances of necessity ? I am of opinion that there is too great a tendency in these days to interfere with and attempt to regulate the industrial habits of the people. These philanthropical interferences induce a considerable amount of insubordination among the labouring population without any very beneficial results. The theorists of the day are ignorant of the difficulties affecting the efforts of the working classes to gain their livelihood. They are also ignorant of the difficulties which employers feel under the excessive

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amount of expenditure which is necessary to carry on their concerns. Competition is in these days so extremely keen that profits in many cases are so reduced, that they are not sufficient to enable employers to meet their engagements. Consider, for instance, the circumstances of a workman who has 6 children, the eldest of which is not more than 13. That would be only an ordinary case. His wages on the average would not be more than 1*l.* per week. His family would be too expensive for him to maintain without the earnings of his children of 10 years of age and upwards. I am strongly of opinion that all children should be taught reading, writing, and the first rudiments of arithmetic, and after that they should be left to their own resources for further improvement in intellectual pursuits; but, in my opinion, if children are educated too highly at first they are unfitted for labour, which is so necessary in a country which is so highly taxed as this is. Most of the workpeople in our manufactory work piecework. They do not average more than four or four and a half days' work in the week, not in times of regular work. They are all very much dependent on each other. If they all worked regularly every day they could get all their work done between the hours of 8 and 5, but as it is, they always take Monday for themselves.

180. *Fanny Boxer.*—I am going 11. I have worked about two years. My work is painting little toys. There are five of us at home, besides father and mother. The eldest of us is a boy of 16. He works at the pit. Father is a collier, but he cannot work. He has asthma. Mother takes in washing. I get 1*s.* 9*d.* a week. I have got 2*s.* 6*d.* by working over work. Just before Christmas I worked to 9 o'clock. I then got 2*s.* 9½*d.*

181. Mr. William Dunn, Surgeon, Bilston Street.

Of the various employments connected with the metal manufactures in this town, I think the employments of enamelling, galvanizing, and japanning are the most unhealthy. The preparation used in these processes are unhealthy. They contain acids and lead. The rooms, too, in which this work is carried on are very hot. The persons employed in galvanizing are generally men of a middle age. Young children are not much employed in any of these trades, except in the cut nail trade. Young persons of both sexes of 13 and upwards are employed in that trade. That trade is not unhealthy unless the rooms are too crowded. The brass casters suffer from bronchial diseases. They are injured by the sulphur which is emitted from the brass during the operation of pouring. Speaking generally, I do not think that children are employed too young in any of the trades.

182. Mr. W. M. Handcox, Surgeon, Bilston.

I have been resident in Bilston for 25 years. I am the district medical officer for the Union of Wolverhampton. I do not consider that any of the trades in this district in which young persons are employed are of a character to produce any injurious effects on their constitutions. I do not consider that they are employed at too young an age, so far as regards their health. I do not think there is much employment for very young children in this town. I have never been called upon to treat any case of disease, either in children or adults which I could attribute at all directly to their work. I should say that, speaking generally, the children in this town are well fed, and enjoy robust constitutions.

183. Rev. R. J. Heyfield, Vicar of St. Luke's, Bilston.

I have resided here 16 years. During that time our population has slightly decreased owing to the exhausting of some of the mines in the immediate neighbourhood. Last year there were 600 houses vacant in this township. The tin trade in this town has also diminished nearly one-half during the last 30 years. It is now confined to a second rate class of goods. There is no alteration as to the age at which children begin to work, except in the mines, where children are prevented by law from working under 10 years of age. The employment of children certainly prevents their being kept at school beyond 10 years of age. I have 91 children in my school, and not more than three of them would be over 10. The children go to work at times of good trade, when their parents are in work themselves. In many cases children are put to work when their parents do not require their earnings, but I should say that in the majority of cases in this town the parents are actually in want of the wages of their children of 10 years of age and upwards.

184. Mr. F. Edwards, Surgeon, Russell Street, Walsall.

The manufactures in the town are principally connected with saddlery and harness making. I should certainly say that the working population of the town are not injured by their employment, indeed I believe that this town is as healthy as any town in England. I do not think that any of the manufacturing processes in which the people are engaged are in themselves injurious to health. I am not speaking of the collieries, which are already under inspection. I doubt not but that the girls are sometimes rendered consumptive by too much confinement at bridle stitching, but consumption is not prevalent among the women here.

185. *Mr. F. Edwards, jun.*—I had a night school from last September to May in the present year. I had about 50 names on my books, and about 38 or 40 boys was my average attendance. I took no boys under 10, nor any boys who were at school. The ages of the boys attending ran from 12 to 21. The majority of them were 13 to 15 years of age. They had all been at work in the daytime in the leather-cutting, brass-casting, and plating shops. The hour for school was at 7½ P.M. I could only get the smaller boys at that time. Very few were able to come before 8. A bare majority of the boys were able to attend school regularly every night for four weeks together. I had school three nights in the week. It was a frequent occurrence for seven or eight boys to be detained at work. They often told me they were kept working until 10. They got extra wages. The regular hours of work in the winter are from 8 to 8. I think the boys are kept too late in the manufactories, but they are not worked so many hours as the apprentices in the tradesmen's shops.

186. Statement of Rev. H. R. Sandford, H. M. Assistant Inspector of Schools.

I have inspected schools for 10 years in this district (South Staffordshire) under Mr. Norris, and have during that time frequently turned my attention to one of the chief subjects of your inquiry, viz., the effect which the employment of children in the works has on the education of the district. I have also inspected schools in Shropshire and Cheshire, in Hampshire, in the cotton districts, in the North and East Ridings of Yorkshire, and have noticed that education suffers less from the cause mentioned in any of these counties than it does in South Staffordshire; in the North Staffordshire Potteries it suffers more.

The effect which the employment of children has on education may be considered, first in regard to the day schools; secondly, in regard to the night schools.

First, with regard to the day schools* :—

* My experience only extends to the Parochial Schools and schools connected with works that are under inspection.

I. The proportion of older children (boys) who are under education is on the whole smaller in the immediate neighbourhood of the South Staffordshire ironworks than I have found it in any of the above-named districts except the Potteries.

II. The proportion of boys who remain any length of time at school is very small in the South Staffordshire iron district.

In the following Table the South Staffordshire Schools are compared with the Country Schools in Yorkshire (North and East Ridings) in regard to the above points.

—	Per-centage of scholars over 10 years old.	Per-centage over 12 years old.	Per-centage of those over 12 that belong to the middle class.	Per-centage of those who have been two years or more at school.
Bilston, St. M.	26	6	—	28
Brierly Hill	12	4	11	24
Brockmoor	18	10	30	—
Capponfield	18	6	20	29
Congreaves	33	10	—	50
Gold's Hill	22	9	28	30
Moxley	14	3	40	23
Smethwick	15	4	60	28
Tipton, H. Heath	17	7	50	33
Tipton Hall	14	4	—	24
Tipton, Ocker Hill	17	1	—	48
Wednesbury, St. James	13	2	—	33
„ St. John's	13	4	35	60
„ Old Church	23	9	18	55
West Bromwich, Ch. Ch.	17	5	20	10
„ Hill Top	14	3	75	30
„ St. Peter's	10	6	—	80
„ H. T.	13	5	25	40
Wolverhampton, St. James'.	14	5	16	22
„ St. Matthew's	13	5	—	29
Mon-more Green	10	2	—	25
Average	17	5⅓	23	29

—	Per-centage of scholars over 10 years old.	Per-centage over 12 years old.	Per-centage of those over 12 that belong to the middle class.	Per-centage of those that have been two years or more at school.
Barton	33	28	33	33
Bilsdale	38	32	10	73
Bishop's Wilton	40	25	55	73
Croft	30	20	50	50
Duggleby	33	—	—	70
Garton	22	9	35	60
Gilling	18	9	—	45
Holme	20	14	10	50
Husthwaite	44	24	—	—
Hunmanby	35	22	40	44
Huttons Cranswick	30	10	—	48
Londesborough	60	25	—	50
Rudstone	12	7	—	34
Settrington	35	14	—	70
Shenff's Hutton	30	15	2	60
Weaverthorpe	20	7	30	60
Welton	40	14	—	60
Welburne	29	14	25	66
Wetwang	30	10	10	—
Whitwell	36	25	40	—
Wressle	45	26	30	48
Average	32	16	17	55

It will be seen from this table that the proportion of children at school over 12 years of age is only 5⅓ per cent. of the whole number in the coal and iron district of South Staffordshire, which is three times less than it is in the country schools of Yorkshire; it is also three times less, as I have shown elsewhere, than it is in the country schools of North Staffordshire.

It might be supposed that the average age of scholars is lower in the iron district schools because fewer children of a higher class attend, but the table shows that the proportion of children over 12 years of age who belong to this class is larger in the iron district schools than it is in the village schools.

Again, the proportion of children (boys) who have been two years or more at school is only 29 per cent. in the iron district, which is little more than half what it is in the Yorkshire rural schools.

I next wish to draw attention to the ignorance that prevails among a certain number of the lads employed in the forges and other hardware factories which have come under my notice as scholars in the night schools and in one or two of the Sunday schools of this district.

In the following Table I have given the Statistics as to the young Persons employed in each different Trade separately, so that the Commissioners may see the more easily in what class there appears to be the greatest want of education.

From	Name of Night School or Institute.	No. of boys present.	Proportion per cent. that could not read.	Proportion per cent. that could not write.
Iron works, forges, mills, and furnaces.	Bilston (Independents')	9	55	65
	Congreaves	12	30	30
	Gold's Hill	27	20	—
	Smethwick (Chance's)	2	50	50
	Tipton, Ocker Hill (Sunday.)	9	25	25
	Do. Ragged School	7	70	—
	West Bromwich, St. Peter's.	10	40	60
	Summary	76	41	46
Mines	Bilston	22	75	75
	Congreaves	42	55	40
	Gold's Hill	5	40	40
	Tipton, Ocker Hill	3	—	—
	„ Ragged	5	100	100
	Walsall, Caldmore Row	2	50	50
	Summary	79	64	60
Foundries, screw works, tube works, tin-plate works, and chain works.	Gold's Hill	3	—	—
	Smethwick (Messrs. Chance's.)	4	50	50
	Tipton (Ragged)	2	50	50
	West Bromwich, St. Peter's.	2	50	50
	Wolverhamptom, Ragged.	8	25	25
	Do. St. George's	10	25	25
	Summary	29	33	33
Locksmith's shops.	Wolverhampton, Ragged.	15	40	50
Both works and mines.	Summary	199	44	47

Thus 44 per cent. of the whole number were unable to read, 47 per cent. unable to write.

From the above table it would appear that the greatest ignorance prevails amongst the collier boys. In one night school at Bilston out of 17 boys of this class whom I examined 14 could not read the simplest words without spelling them. An employer of labour, Mr. Hatton, of Bilston, was present while I examined them.

Possibly if greater efforts could be made to enforce the educational clauses of the Mines' Inspection Act it might effect more than it does for education in this district. I have only met with two or three instances in South Staffordshire where boys had received certificates from a schoolmaster according to the Act, and they were in the employ of the British Iron

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Company at Congreaves, where the manager, Mr. Hunt, takes considerable interest in the state of the young operatives; only two instances of boys who came to school according to the Act, and they, I found went to the mines before the schoolmaster could certify that they were able to read and write; they were both under 12 years of age. The coal masters in this district profess not to employ boys under 12. In a night school near Leeds (Messrs. Armitage's) visited by my colleague, Mr. Sharpe, there are some 30 collier boys under 12 years of age who come to school two nights a week from 5 to 8 P.M. The master says they can learn very little on this plan; they are too tired.

From the above table it appears that 41 per cent. of the night scholars who came from the ironworks could not read (the Testament).

A great deal of ignorance prevails amongst this class; there are, of course, exceptions; at the Messrs. Bagnall's excellent evening school, and also at Congreaves there are very intelligent classes of boys and young men from the ironworks.

But as a rule lads from ironworks do not attend night schools well as compared with other young operatives. When they are employed at night every alternate week it is discouraging work trying to learn at a night school even for those who wish to improve themselves; they who are most rude and ignorant seldom care to attend, or, if they do, they soon give it up. A schoolmaster of great experience, Mr. Talbot, of Messrs. Chance's schools, told me he did not think 25 per cent. of those who came to a night school without having been previously grounded continue as scholars for half a year, while of those who had been well taught in a day school perhaps 75 per cent. would become regular scholars.

The statistics with regard to the boys from foundries and screw-works do not, I believe, give a true idea of their state of knowledge or rather want of knowledge; they are often the most untaught class of any.*

With regard to the physical state of the lads from the different kinds of works and mines that I have seen in night schools, I should say that, after the collier boys, who look more pale and exhausted than any others, the boys from foundries are the most unhealthy; one or two from brass foundries that I met with at St. George's night school, Wolverhampton, were the worst. Of the boys from the ironworks some were hearty enough, others pale and miserable looking; one or two I have met with of whom I should say that the heat or exertion connected with their work and want of proper food were shortening their lives; the worst instance was a boy at a Tipton ragged school who, though not 12 years of age, worked, the teacher, himself an iron worker, informed me, as under hand puddler, with another boy.

THE following TABLE relates to Girls attending Night Schools.

From	Name of Night School.	No. present.	Proportion per cent. that could not read.	Proportion that could not write.
Japan works.	Bilston, St. L. - -	13	18	18
	„ Independents' -	27	50	50
	Wolverhampton, St. John's.	14	—	36
	Summary -	54	34	38

Thus, full a third of these girls from the Japan factories were unable to read. I have remarked, too, that girls of this class have often a jaded, unhealthy look.

The education of these young people at the night schools is greatly interfered with by the late hours up to which they frequently work in the japan factories, tin toy-works, &c. At Wolverhampton it is found to be of no use opening the night schools till 8 P.M., as most of the girls and lads work till 7 P.M., and towards the end of the week in some works till 8 or 9 P.M.; at Bilston, too, it is often late before the girls can get away from the factories to attend the night schools.

It is obvious that it must be physically injurious to girls and young persons to study in a night school after having worked in a factory till 7 or 8 P.M., especially when they have worked by gaslight, which makes the rooms hot and consumes the oxygen needed for respiration. If adults chose to go through this it is more than ought to be required of children, or of young persons under 16, this late work and study after it; yet I have seen a mother and daughter, the latter a girl of 13, poring over a book at the same night school (St. John's, Wolverhampton) after having worked in a close factory till 7 P.M.

There are one or two night schools in the nailing district, East Worcestershire, close to South Staffordshire, that I have visited. The nail girls, who work very late, often till 10 P.M., about Dudley and Stourbridge, are very glad, when they can, to come and be taught at night. One clergyman in that district, Rev. J. H. Thompson, of Cradley, who has an excellent night school, writes to me as follows on the subject:—

"The nailing business, which is bad for the mind if not for the health, does not prevent those who are willing to stir themselves, from getting to school at 6 o'clock, though other nailing girls work an hour or two later, and even still later towards the latter part of the week.

"The girls are very anxious to get their parents in the mind to let them attend school. They wash and change their dress at tea time, and this is good for them, to say nothing of school influence."

It appears, then, that in places where there is a good night school, and a clergyman or school manager of influence gives attention to the subject, girls can be brought to attend it, and so escape the bad effects of late work over the nailing forges two or three nights in the week, but it is the exception where this is the case.

By way of remedy for the evils affecting the education and general condition of the young in this district, I should propose:—

First, that the educational provisions of the Factory Act, according to which children under 13 must attend school every half day or alternate whole day, be applied, with certain modifications, to all the works and factories of the district where it can be shown that the physical and moral state of the children employed require it.

Secondly, that young persons under 18 should not be allowed to work, except in the ironworks, after 6 P.M.

In this case they could attend night schools, and obtain the educational certificate spoken of by the Commissioners in their report for 1862. (First report, 286, page XLVII.)

It would be well if the age for full-time work could be 14 instead of 13 in the ironworks. I urge this because, as, owing to the night-work, it is impossible for boys to attend an evening class regularly as soon as they begin to work full time in an ironwork, it is the more important to keep them, as long as possible, as whole-day or half-day scholars at school.

Indeed 14 might with advantage be made the age up to which children should work as half-timers in all hardware factories, as in many works only a few would be brought under education if the age for full time were 13.

The question whether proper regard for the health and growth of the young people employed in all the above-named works and factories requires that such protection as I have spoken of should be extended to them is one about which personally I have no doubt,

* Out of 22 boys of this class that I once questioned only 10 professed themselves able to read. Four (boys from a screw-work) whom I saw in the presence of a clergyman (Rev. C. White, Darlaston) and their employer, could not say any of the commandments, only bits of the Lord's Prayer; had not heard of Christ being crucified; *professed* not to know what stealing meant.

but, of course, it is one which medical evidence alone can decide to the satisfaction of the Commissioners.

If children in the different works mentioned had to go to school according to the Factory Act, employers would, of course, be at liberty either to dispense with those who are under the full-time age or to employ them on the half-time plan.

As it is only where the half-time is adopted that much is done towards bringing neglected children under education I proceed to consider one or two of the objections that might be urged to it.

First, in the case of those works where boys are employed at night it would be very inconvenient, it is urged, to have relays, and so have a change of boys at midnight.

No doubt this is a difficulty; but is night-work indispensable in the case of all the mills, *e.g.*, the hoop mills, where young boys are most wanted? Even if it cannot be dispensed with, it is not so bad, I am told, for young boys to work half the night, as to work the whole night. If they worked only half the night they could go to school 2 or 3 hours in the daytime. In the glass trade both men and boys work half the night or half the day.

Again, the Factory Act allows children to be employed alternate whole days instead of daily for half days; if boys were employed on alternate nights they might go to school for 2 hours between 9 A.M. and 12 P.M. one day, and between 2 P.M. and 4 P.M. the other day.

Should ironmasters decide, in cases where night-work is required, rather to dispense with the labour of children under the full-time age than to employ them on the half-time plan, there would still remain the numerous class of boys who are employed in gas-tube works, foundries, screw-works, where generally there is no night work with regard to whom the half-time plan might be adopted.

Secondly, it is urged that there are many children employed in small works, *e.g.* nail-shops, chainworks, locksmiths' shops, with regard to whom (it is said) it would be impossible to see that any half-time Act be enforced, and that if it were not enforced in the case of these children it would be unfair to enforce it in the case of those who are employed in the large ironworks.

To this I would answer, that, even if it be impossible to enforce a half-time Act in the case of children employed in small workshops, the ironmasters would, one might suppose, suffer little by competition with such works. With regard to the nail shops it will, I believe, be found that, in the neighbourhood of the large ironworks, it is chiefly girls, not boys under 13, who are employed. Lock-making and, I believe, also chain-making, is likely soon to be carried on in large factories, and there children would be under the same regulation as it is proposed they should be under in the ironworks.

But, secondly, I do not see that it is impossible to enforce a half-time regulation with regard to children who work in small workshops.

These small works are not more private than the larger manufactories; they are, in most cases, detached from the houses in which the nailers, chainmakers, &c., live. So that there would appear to be no valid reason why a factory inspector should not visit them, and see that the half-time regulation with regard to the children be observed. The duty of registering the attendance of the children at school would devolve, not on the employer, but, according to the Factory Act, on the teacher.

The difficulty in regard to inspecting numerous small factories and work shops is considered in the report of the Belgian Commission* on Child-labour in Manufactories. In that report the Prussian practice, which is to entrust to the communal authority the office of visiting factories and certifying the lists of children employed is noticed with approval. "The "local magistrate (burgomaster) or commissary of "police," it is urged in that report, elected by those whose actions he has to overlook, is "invested before-"hand with the confidence of all, his entrance into the "workshop or even family circle has nothing in it "wounding to the feeling of the manufacturer or the "workman."

The municipal officers might, at any rate, as this report suggests, visit the schools of the town to see whether the law is observed with regard to the factory children whose names are on the school register.

It certainly would be a great point if the leading laymen in the different towns could be brought in this way to see something of the working of the schools, and to have more acquaintance than they have at present with the difficulties that teachers have to contend with in regard to the attendance of the children.

With regard to the difficulty which it is alleged there would be in getting boys enough for the double set if a half-time system had to be carried out, I venture to question whether the difficulty would be found to be so great as is imagined. I will quote what Mr. Akroyd, late M.P. for Huddersfield, who has large mills and schools attached to his works, says on this point:—"We had the same objection to the "Factory Act; in practice I think the employers "would discover as we did that their fear is exag-"gerated; a slight increase of wages will in-"crease the supply of juvenile labour from many "sources."

I should think the supply of boys between 9 and 14 would be plentiful enough in South Staffordshire; there are, in some places, a good many running about the streets without employment.

The Commissioners are aware that the introduction of the half-time system into certain manufactories has tended to diminish rather than increase the number of young children employed. Practical men would be able to show whether the number of children employed might be reduced either in the ironworks or in any of the works I have alluded to. Is it impossible that certain changes in the manufacturing processes may be introduced by which the children might be released from their labour at certain branches?

But whether it be in this way, or by employing children on the half-time system, or in certain cases older lads instead of little ones, that the evils I have pointed out are to be got rid of, and a numerous and hitherto neglected class are to be brought under the influence of proper teaching and discipline—the object to be gained, I submit, is so important, that no slight temporary inconvenience ought to stand in the way of introducing a proper remedy.

I have on several occasions brought the evils which education suffers from the present system of child-labour in this district before the employers, and have asked their opinion with regard to the remedies mentioned above which I have suggested for these evils. From the ironmasters as a body I have not been able to obtain any opinion in favour of any plan of half-time education for boys in their works. Yet several ironmasters, *e.g.*, Messrs.† Hartley, Samson Lloyd, Arthur Sparrow, Solly, J. P. Hunt, have told me they would gladly see the boys excluded from the works and kept at school till they were 12 or 13 years of age—provided, some of these gentlemen have added, they could be excluded from the small works and factories that are in the neighbourhood of the ironworks. At Bilston I attended a meeting of manufacturers, chiefly japanners, to whom I explained how the schools

* *See* "Social Science Review" for December 6, Dec. 13, 1862.

† In a letter dated December 26th Mr. Hartley writes:—"I may further say that I do not object to the system of half-time "which you advocate; what I have wished to impress on you was this: that manifest injustice would be done unless legislation, "if adopted, be applied to all iron-working districts alike, and also extended to all kinds of shops, and manufactories employing "young children."

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in that town were affected by the employment of girls in the japan works. Mr. W. Hatton (of the Old Bank, in Bilston, owner of tin-plate works in the neighbourhood,) explained to the meeting, the advantages of a system combining education and work as the half-time plan does ; and the result was that the meeting was favourable to a half-time regulation for children under 13 employed in japan factories. The advantage, also, of a rule providing that young persons (girls under 18) should not work after 6 P.M. was recognized after I had explained how the late hours of work impeded their attendance at night schools. The manufacturers present were, besides Mr. Hatton, Messrs. Baker, Farmer, Jones, Rowley, and Smith. At Darlaston, where only two out of 249 boys in the parochial schools are over 12 years of age, a few of the screw manufacturers met me; they acknowledged the evils of the present plan of employing very young boys in their works. One of them, Mr. Jeffs, thought a half-time regulation for boys under 13 years old would do great good ; the others anticipated great difficulty in carrying it out ; but they acknowledged that some restriction on the employment of boys under 13 would be an advantage both for other reasons and because it would render it easier for them to introduce the steam blast as a substitute for the hand bellows which are worked by boys ; hitherto, while they have found it easy to get young boys, the workmen have opposed the use of the blast. At Wednesbury I took the opinion of some few of the managers and workmen. The usual objections to the half-time plan were urged ; one, however, of the workmen present, who had formerly been employed in a flannel mill at Newtown, stated that the same objections had been urged both by parents and employers with regard to half-time in flannel mills ; but that these objections had all been surmounted when actual trial of the plan had been made.

Lastly, at Congreaves, where there are excellent schools maintained by the British Iron Company, I was present at a discussion bearing on this subject. The meeting which took part in it was made up of managers of works, forgemen who employ the boys, others from the works and mines of the district. Mr. Hunt presided. A hearty interest appeared to be taken on the question of education. The opinion here, as well as at Wednesbury, appeared to be that the parents who sent their children at the earliest age to work were, in most cases, well paid operatives who wasted their earnings. It was allowed by one speaker, a forge manager, that such premature employment was physically as well as morally injurious. The general feeling appeared to be in favour of a law which would prohibit it, and at the same time secure the children being educated. The half-time plan was not thought to be practicable ; yet it is not easy to see how, except by a half-time Act, the objects above-mentioned can be secured.

H. R. Sandford.

December 31, 1863.

187. Statement of the Rev. F. P. Hutton.

(1.) I was ordained for a parish in Wednesbury in the year 1849, since which time I have been resident (with a brief interval) in the Black country. For the last 10 years I have been ministering as chaplain to the Messrs. J. Bagnall and Sons' ironworks, and have thus been brought into direct contact with the men and boys employed therein, and am consequently in a position to form a pretty correct estimate of the condition and habits of the people.

(2.) In my immediate neighbourhood the manufacture of raw iron is mainly carried on ; here and there we find a hardware factory and an establishment for the getting up of engines and engineering inplements, inclusive of boiler making. In all of these works boys are more or less employed, the ages of whom differ according to the character of the work to which they are placed ; *e.g.* in hoop mills the lads are much younger than those employed at the puddling furnaces, whilst many in the hardware trade are younger still. This arises in consequence of the wages given being small, and because (in the hoop-mills especially) lowness of stature and great agility are absolutely required.

(3.) In the hoop-mills boys commence work about 9 years of age ; in the hardware factories and boiler yards, they begin still younger ; whilst in the mines there are none younger than 10 years, and in the forges, than 14 years of age. In thus giving the various ages at which lads begin work I speak from actual experience, having oftentimes enquired the ages of the boys I have found working both above and below ground, from themselves, their master, and their parents. Of course, in all the above works exceptional cases may be met with of boys being at work of an earlier age than those stated.

(4.) So far as I can judge, the boys are not in anywise physically injured by the work to which they are placed, and I attribute this partly to the fact, that they are never required to do any work calculated to tax beyond their power their health and strength, but, beginning at easy "jobs" rise to heavier ones by degrees, as they are inured thereto ; and partly because in infancy the weakly ones generally die, leaving the more robust to grow up as men ; and it is a remarkable circumstance that the rate of mortality amongst young men in this district is very small, so that during the 10 years in which schools have been established for boys by the Messrs. Bagnall's schools numbers on the aggregate 400 to 500 boys and young men, only five deaths have occurred, two out of the five being the result of accident from machinery. Moreover, the strong and healthy frames of the young men prove, to a certain extent, that their early labours do not exercise an injurious influence upon their physical development.

(5.) The very nature of the work requires that the men employed at it should have highly nutritious food, palatably cooked, and in a plentiful supply ; consequently the outgoings domestic are comparatively large. To provide for these increased expenses, mothers naturally look forward to the time when their children will be able to earn something to add to the general fund, and are led hereby to seek employment for them at an earlier age than they would otherwise do. With regard to the poverty of the district, this is mainly owing to the improvidence of the women and the intemperance of the men, the present time being to the generality all and everything ; they act up too literally to the command, "take no thought "for the morrow," and the result is, that, let the works stand for a brief period, either by reason of an accident to the machinery or slackness of orders, or a strike, the direst poverty and distress quickly manifests itself; and were it not for the small shopkeepers selling on credit, the destitution on such occasions would be deplorable. I must here state, however, that in this immediate neighbourhood great good has been effected by the establishment of the Post Office Savings Bank, as many of our puddlers have been induced to lay by a little of their earnings for a rainy day in that treasury.

(6.) With respect to the favour education meets with in the eyes of ironmasters generally, I will say nothing. The eminent firm of the Messrs. J. Bagnall and Sons have, however, set in this respect, a noble example to the trade ; for, at their sole expense, they have erected capacious schools both here and at their Caponfield furnaces (and support the same) primarily for the children of their workpeople, though no children are refused admission into them, even should their parents be employed under other firms. As to the plan proposed "that none but educated children "be employed in the works," the Messrs. Bagnall find it would not be feasible to adopt it at present,

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until education is more general, as, were such a rule rigorously acted upon, the works would be sadly crippled by the lack of boys it would undoubtedly occasion. To remedy this defect, the firm have opened their schools on several nights during the week, and afford every encouragement to the boys and men employed under them to avail themselves of the advantages thus afforded, which very many do, so that our night schools are, I believe, at once the largest and most efficient in the district.

The Chillington Company at Wolverhampton—the British Iron Company at Cradley—and the firm of the Messrs. Cochrane at Dudley, have established schools in connexion with their works; but with regard to these I can offer no observation, not being conversant with what is going on in them.

(7.) There can be no doubt of the fact that the number of the educated class is rapidly on the increase in these parts, and this would be more apparent were the habits of the people more stationary than they are. In the works of the Messrs. Bagnalls (under my immediate eye) I found on inquiry that there were but very few in their employment who could not tell their letters, whilst by far the majority of them could read more or less intelligently. Since the opening of the night schools a stimulus has been given to the cause of education in the works, which promises to produce the most satisfactory results. On this head I might furnish some interesting statistics, but want of leisure forbids my doing so.

(8.) Very few lads of 10 years of age are employed in the ironworks, and the few exceptions are met with in the mills, where they are placed in situations at which no labour is demanded unsuitable to their age or strength.

The night school forms a natural supplement to the day schools in the education of the working classes; and it is found that many boys on leaving the day school for work draft themselves into our night schools, and thus, not only do they not forget what they have already been taught, but add considerably to their stock of knowledge.

As to the adoption of the half-time system, so far am I from being satisfied that the exigencies of the case demand it, that I feel morally positive that the introduction of such system would be impracticable in consequence of the opposition it would meet with from all classes; unwise, as education is gaining ground quietly and perceptibly without it; and impolitic, as it would deal a severe, if not a fatal blow, to the prosperity of South Staffordshire; since, under existing circumstances, the demand for boys considerably exceeds the supply, and were a double or treble set required the present difficulty would be immeasurably increased.

If the Legislature interferes at all, let it be in the matter of night schools, which stand greatly in need of encouragement, and which the difficulty of raising funds necessary for their support prevent the clergy and managers from establishing in their various districts.

F. P. M. Hutton, M.A.,
Chaplain to the Messrs. J. Bagnall and Sons, Ironworks, Goldshill, West Bromwich.

188. Rev. J. H. Sharwood, Vicar of Walsall.

The obstacles to education which I meet with in my parish do not arise so much from the employment of children in the manufactories in the town, as from the habits of parents to employ their children in their own homes to help them with their work, such as stitching harness, and other work which is called horse millinery, and in brush making. A great many girls are employed at this work at a very early age. It is done for the most part at home, or in small shops. There are not so many indoor apprentices now as there used to be. The out apprentices get about 4*s.* a week. They are worked too late to be able to attend night school. They are employed at bitmaking, snaffle making, japanning, &c. I do not think there are 12 boys in our schools over 12 years of age. The standard of school attendance has been raised by the prize scheme. It is generally expected that the boys who remain in our upper class will attain better situations than the others; and they do generally get places as errand boys in shops or clerks. The boys who go into the foundries, and such low class labour, leave before that time. They go at much too early an age, and are worked beyond their strength. And the children who work at home are also injured by too early work; they are dwarfed. I think the cupidity of the parents is often the cause of this early employment of their children. From 20 years' experience, I should say that education has advanced very considerably, through the operation of the Privy Council grants. Many of the parents themselves are now educated, and value education for their children, and make great sacrifices to obtain it for them. I have great doubts about the half-time system as applied to the trades in this town. I doubt whether the masters could adapt their work to it, and also whether the children would be sufficiently active in mind to turn their attention to two distinct lines of work in the same day. I have seen a great deal of the half-time system, and I like it where it is well carried out. At Rochdale, for instance, I found it difficult to distinguish between the half-timers at school, and the whole-day scholars; but at other places I found the contrast very striking, from the want of proper discipline. Where the schools are not well managed, I doubt whether the time spent in school is any benefit to the children. I think that legislative interference with labour, in order to enforce education, would interfere with the present liberty of the persons to whom such regulations would apply, and give rise to public agitation, which might have the effect of impeding the progressive improvement in education, which is now so evident. Although legislative restrictions as to the age at which children should be employed, would appear to be highly advantageous for the improvement of the moral, religious, and physical condition of the children, yet I do not consider that it would be practicable, while I think that the education which is now progressing is likely to effect the same ends in a much more satisfactory manner.

189. Rev. John Barrow, Incumbent of Bloxwich.

The population of the district to which my church belongs was about 7,000 according to the last census. We have about 450 children in our schools, which are the only large schools in the district. Very few of these would be over 10. The boys leave school at that age for employment, either in the pits or in the shops of the awl-blade makers, and the makers of saddlers' ironmongery. There is only one place where many workmen are employed, all the other persons engaged in those trades work at home in little shops, and have in-door apprentices. There is no employment for girls here. They all go away into service. A few women and girls are employed in filing tacks. There are hardly any girls in our Sunday schools, owing to there being no employment here. The apprentices in the awl-blade and saddlers' ironmongery shops work long hours; but those in the drapers' and grocers' shops are always kept to 8 every night, and on Saturday night to 11½ or 12. Not a single shop shuts up before 11½.

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190. Rev. B. Wright, Vicar of St. Matthew's, Horseley Fields, Wolverhampton.

I have been about eight years in this place. Children are employed at a very early age in the manufactories and iron works. Many boys begin to work at 9 years of age, at that age they are employed as errand boys by the men. At 10 years of age they are put to hard work both in the mines and iron works. In the course of the year I should probably meet with two or three cases of boys of between 9 and 11 years of age, suffering from some spinal complaint, brought on no doubt by hard labour. A boy of the name of Powell was laid up for a year and a half with a spinal complaint brought on by work in the iron works. He was 9 years of age when he first began to work, and about 11 when he was laid up. I think it would be much better for children not to be employed at so early an age ; at the same time I think the injurious effects which I have mentioned only occur occasionally. I am always surprised that there is not a greater amount of injury apparent. All the children in my district are in the mines and iron works. They are all boys. There is little or no work here for girls under 14 or 15 years of age, at this age they get employment in the nail works. The average number of boys in the two day schools connected with my church is 130. In the two schools there are not more than 12 boys above 10 years of age. There are 110 girls in the two schools. We have had night schools during the winter, but they have not been successful. There is the utmost indifference to education here. Several boys in my parish are employed in the mines. There has never as yet been any application made either to me or to the schoolmasters for the certificate required by the Act, and I am of opinion that the Act is not carried out.

191. Rev. John Stone, Coseley.

I have resided in this parish for eight years. The working population are almost entirely employed in mines and iron works. The younger boys would be found in the mines and iron mills. Many girls of 14 years of age and upwards are employed on the pit banks at the coke hearths, and in washing cinders at the iron mills. Girls are not employed under that age in any of these employments. Boys begin to work at the mills at eight years of age. There are no very young boys at the furnaces. The principal employment of the young boys in the mills is dragging the iron from the rolls. I have known some cases where boys have been seriously injured, and burns are common, but on the whole I should not call it dangerous work. I do not remember any cases of boys suffering from spinal complaints or injuries caused by hard work. Much of the work in which the men are engaged is injurious, particularly puddling, on account of the great heat and the severity of the labour. I do not think that there are many boys of 10 or 11 years of age in this parish who are neither at work nor at school. Within the last 10 years there has been a great improvement in the number of children receiving education. I think the number has nearly doubled within the last eight years. As new schools have been opened the numbers of children in the old schools have been increased instead of being diminished. One of the greatest evils is the keeping men at work at the furnaces on Sunday. It would be a very great boon to the men if this could be stopped. Messrs. Bagnall's furnaces are not worked on Sunday ; and it has been proved that the furnaces can remain for 12 hours without receiving any injury.

192. Mr. W. Bolton, Clerk to the Magistrates of the Wolverhampton Division, Snow Hill.

We very seldom have any cases brought before the magistrates of complaints by apprentices against their masters. I think that they are much better used now than they used to be some 20 years ago. I should say that they are now very well off. We sometimes have cases brought by masters against their workmen. Ten years ago it was a very common thing for workmen to borrow money of their masters, and then bind themselves by contracts to work for them until they had paid the money back by instalments of 1*s.* or more per week. The practice is still too common. The tommy shop or truck system is still carried on by some masters. In some cases this system has the effect of saving the men's earnings for their families, but it is undoubtedly carried on by the masters for their own advantage rather than for that of their workpeople. It is a common practice with the coal masters to pay once a month, and advance cash to their workmen at the end of each intermediate week. The cash is given in the shop ; the men take it on one side and lay it out on the other.

193. Mr. William Jennings, Relieving Officer, Bilston.

I have resided in Bilston all my life. Bilston is a poor district. The population is 24,000, and 1 in 25 are in receipt of relief. The population is very migratory. They are employed in mines, ironworks, and in the japan ware manufactories. The miners are much the lowest class. They are the poorest and the most improvident. Two-thirds of the paupers are miners. Very few of the japan workers come for relief. The principal cause of pauperism among the miners is the frequency of accidents. My attention has lately been called to the fact, that 90 of the persons receiving relief were the widows and children of persons who had been killed in the mines or ironworks. The large majority had been killed in the pits, but we had a very serious accident in some ironworks, from the bursting of a boiler. Very few of the old men who come into the house have been workmen in the ironworks. The workmen always bring up their children to the same trade, and in the majority of cases they are kept by their children in their old age. The first applications for relief in times of bad trade are from the old men, whose sons are no longer able to keep them. The workmen in the ironworks are not often laid up by accidents, except in cases where boilers have exploded. I do not consider that boys are employed at too early an age in ironworks : there is much light work to be done, such as sweeping up, carrying scoops, &c. I consider that the wages of the children in Bilston are, in the majority of cases, actually wanted by the parents, particularly in the case of widows with children between 10 and 16. The wages of colliers vary according to their capabilities. In times of good trade colliers would, most of them, get upwards of 1*l.* per week. Trade has been good during the last 12 months, but not so good as before 1857. Children in Bilston do not go down mines under 12 years of age. I think the law acts hardly upon parents in Bilston, because there is no other trade for the boys betwen 10 and 11 to go to, and I do not think they would be at all hurt by being employed in the pits between 10 and 12 years of age. In some cases the guardians give relief to children up to 12 years of age. I have a case now of a lad of 18 who has relief and medical attendance for a bad burn which he got from the cinder burning in some iron works. I should not think I had six applications in the year for medical attendance for boys under 16 years of age who had been injured in iron-

works ; but in cases of accidents in these works, the persons are generally taken to the hospital. We have a rifle corps in Bilston. They have mustered as many as 87. The band is composed, I believe, entirely of miners. The men are principally tradesmen and shopmen. The children in Bilston are, generally speaking, well dressed on Sundays, except the Irish. I have noticed a great improvement in this respect during late years. Monday is generally an idle day in all the trades. It is necessarily so in the ironworks, as the furnaces are always repaired on Monday. The reckoning Monday is always an idle day with the workmen. Men are paid once a fortnight, or once every three weeks, in some cases only once a month. They draw on the intermediate Saturdays. The tommy shops still exist. The workmen pay extravagant prices for their goods, but they are, in some cases, the means of preserving the money for the family, which they would not get at all otherwise.

194. Mr. J. Osborne, Relieving Officer, Willenhall.

I was born in Willenhall, and have held the office of relieving officer for the Willenhall and Wednesfield district for 7 years. I was apprenticed to a factor. There is certainly a great improvement in the condition of the workpeople in Willenhall since I was a boy. They do not work so many hours. I think generally speaking they are better off. There are greater facilities in getting up the work. In the manufacture of bolts and locks, steam machinery (in the bobbin shops, as they are called), is used for polishing the surface of the iron, which formerly was done by file and hand labour. There are not so many apprentices in Willenhall and Wednesfield as there used to be. In 1841 there were 615 apprentices in these two places ; in 1851, 376 ; in 1861, 255.

These numbers include apprentices to locksmiths, keysmiths, boltmakers, gridiron and curry-comb makers, latch makers, miners, &c. All were and are indoor apprentices. Nearly all parish apprentices imported for different unions. Very few indeed would be natives of the town. I have known apprentices work from 5 in the morning till 10 at night, and sometimes all night on Fridays. It is my duty to visit and inquire into the condition and treatment of the apprentices who are apprenticed by parish authorities. In only two cases, one in Wednesfield and the other in Willenhall, have I heard complaints which led me to inquire into the treatment of apprentices. In the Wednesfield case, the master had beaten the boy with a stick or strap, I forget which ; the neighbours complained of it to me. The boy was a sullen tempered boy. He soon afterwards ran away. The Willenhall case was a complaint by a boy, that he had not proper clothes to go to church in. In that case the master promised to get him some clothes, but he did not ; and that boy also absconded. Neither of these men have been allowed to have any apprentices since. There are now three magistrates in Willenhall. I never heard of a case brought by a boy against his master. I generally go round about once every six months. I generally find that one or two have absconded during the six months. There has been a wonderful improvement in this district generally since 1841. There have been three new churches, two or three new chapels, four or five schools, and a literary institute built since that time ; besides this, private schools and night schools have been established. Our poor rate is now 3*s.*, but it will be 3*s.* 6*d.* for this year. It has never been higher than that of late years. The earnings of the workpeople vary much. Some cannot get more than 12*s.* a week in the lock trade ; others get more than 1*l.* I should think 1*l.* would be the average earnings of good workmen.

195. Mr. Jevon Parkes, Relieving Officer, Tipton.

The population of Tipton is about 28,000. They are employed in mines, iron works, chain works, and brick yards. There are about 40 nailers' shops, where women and children work. Hinge making is also carried on a little at Horsley Heath. On the 1st of July 1862 we had 1,043 persons receiving relief. The majority of the persons receiving relief are labourers, nailers, casters in foundries and miners. A great many girls of 10 years of age and upwards are employed in the brick yards. It is very dirty work, and some of it very hard work. The girls are employed by the men. Many of these girls are very respectable, and come out well dressed on Sundays. They earn 6*s.* or 7*s.* a week. Girls are also employed at cinder washing at the iron works. They are a lower class than the brick girls. Miners' wages here average 1*l.* a week so long as trade is good. The men employed in the mines and iron works want a good deal of food. I should say they want more than 1 lb. of meat a day. I have two sons in the iron works, one is a shingler, and the other a roller. They eat as much as 2 lbs. of meat every day. A puddler would be none the worse for two or three quarts of beer a day if he could get it. I have noticed that men who come to this work from agricultural districts, and who have not been accustomed to eat and drink much, become very soon greater eaters and drinkers than those who have been brought up here. The wear and tear of clothes at the puddling furnaces is very great, the men are always having their shirts and trowsers burnt. The guardians do not as a rule give relief to girls of 9 years of age here. We had a case the other day of a widow with five children. The eldest was 9 years old. She was learning the nail trade. The guardians allowed her 1*s.* 6*d.* for six months, until she would be able to earn wages at nailing. The men in the iron works use their little children a great deal in bringing them their meals; they want to have their meals brought three times a day.

196. Mr. S. Dangerfield, Relieving Officer, Darlaston.

We had 403 persons receiving relief on the 1st of last July. I do not think any of them were locksmiths. They are not extravagant, they must have saved money or they would be in more distress now. Locksmiths get work as fitters, or forgers in the screw shops, when their own trade is bad. Their children also get work in the screw factories. The boys here begin work in the screw shops at 10 or 11 years of age.

197. Mr. W. Butler, Master of the Old Church National School.

I have been 23 years in this town. This was the only school 25 years ago. Now there are four other day schools besides this. Children leave school much earlier now than they used to do 20 years ago. There were not so many screw factories then. There are 127 boys now attending my school, and of them not more than six are over 10 years of age. I think the children are injured by being worked at too early an age. The numbers in my school go down in time of good trade.

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198. Mr. G. A. Wilkes, Registrar of Births and Deaths, Darlaston.

I have resided here all my life. The population is now between 13,000 and 14,000: it has increased 2,000 since the census of 1851. The people are employed in coalpits, iron works, in the gun-lock trade (which is the staple trade of the town) and in the screw-bolt factories and shops. The lock trade has been very good for the last four or five years, up to two or three months since. Now it is very bad, particularly the rifle-lock trade. In good times the locksmiths could earn as much as 2*l.* per week, now the prices have been so reduced that they cannot earn half that sum. Locks, which used to be 4*s.* 6*d.*, are now reduced to 1*s.* 6*d.* The people are very extravagant, and spend all their earnings on meat and drink. There are about 700 lock-masters in Darlaston, working either in little workshops or in factories. Each man generally has a boy to help him. Boys begin to file at about 10 years of age. Very few girls are employed.

199. Mr. Joseph Stainton, Master of Wolverhampton Ragged School.

This is the only "ragged" school in this town. It has been established 11 years. It is supported by voluntary contributions; the manufacturers in the town being the largest subscribers to it. We have a night-school every night except Saturday and Sunday. The average number of children attending the night-school would be about 120 or 130. These children are all at work during the day, or so required at home by their parents, that they cannot come to the school in the day time. Since last August 341 boys have entered; out of these 196 are under 13, 135 between 13 and 18, and 10 above 18 years of age. Of those under 13, about 20 are between the ages of 7 and 10. These little children would be either the children of little locksmiths, working at home with their parents; or children kept at home to take care of the babies. Several children get to work in the little manufactories at 9 or 10. Of the 40 boys who attend the day school not more than one or two are 12 years old. There is plenty of work for boys of 11 and upwards. I do not think there are many children of English parents idling in the streets; but in Staffordshire and about that neighbourhood you will find plenty of Irish children playing about the streets. The youngest children employed are to be found in the little locksmiths' shops, the cut-nail factories, and in the foundries. The little locksmiths and key smiths are the poorest of the metal workers. Many of them do not earn more than 12*s.* in some weeks, and 17*s.* or 18*s.* in others. There are, I should think, between 300 and 400 of these poor locksmiths and keysmiths in the town. There is no other large class of little masters. The makers of edge-tools, hinges, files, tin-plate workers, &c., generally work in manufactories, and earn nearly double the wages which these little locksmiths get. The children who attend the ragged schools are generally the children of the locksmiths and the keysmiths. The other workmen ought to be able to send their children to the national schools. When I first came here, about 10 years ago, there was a large class of vagabond children of ages from 8 to 14. The number of this class has now been considerably reduced. I attribute this to the improvement in the habits of the people, and to schools. The employment for children of this age has always been much the same.

200. Mr. John Kenney, Master of St. George's National School, Wolverhampton.

I know that parents in many cases work their children at too early an age, and for too many hours. There is a man of the name of ————, an engineer, in Mr. Matthews' foundry. He is a preacher among the Mormonites, and a very steady man. He gets 30*s.* a week, regular wages. This man contracts with his master to black the hurdles which are made in the foundry, and other heavy iron work. He employs his own boys to do it. The father has worked these boys from 4 in the morning to 12 at night, and then had them at work again at 4 or 5 o'clock the next morning. He did this for two or three weeks together last summer, when they were getting up an American order. The other men called shame upon him. I have heard them reproach him for working his boys. I live close to foundry. I know a little boy of 8 years old, who is getting 4*s.* a week in Perks' edge tool factory He wanted to come to night school, but was too young. I do not know that he is overworked. I do not know of any other cases so bad as ————. I have had boys leave my school at 7 or 7½ years of age to go to the rope spinning shops. The boys go into Ready and Meynell's at about 10 or 11. In the foundries they work from 7 years of age and upwards. Formerly the masters of the japan workers used to take children at an early age, to teach them before they were apprenticed. Lately we have taught boys drawing, and now they do not go till they are 13, and the masters say that these boys are worth much more than other boys who have been at work before.

201. Mr. Howarth, Master of Wednesfield National School.

Boys are sometimes taken into the shops of the keysmiths and locksmiths at 8 and 9 years of age; but they are generally about 12 or 13. I do not think that these shops interfere much with our keeping children in school up to 12 years of age. There is a bad system in these shops of keeping the lads at work up to 8 o'clock at night, and they are thus prevented from going to night-school. We sent notices round to the masters to let their apprentices leave off work in time for night-school at 7½. Some allowed their apprentices to come, but most did not. In most cases the masters are more ignorant than the boys, and do not like their boys to be educated. At first I had 60 boys in the night-school, but now they have fallen off to 20. Only myself and my assistant were the teachers. The clergyman of the parish helped us sometimes. We have school four days a week, and charge 3*d.* a week.

202. Mr. James Pritchard, Master of the Blue Coat School, Walsall.

I have been here nearly seven years. The actual number of boys now in attendance is more than 300. There are also 150 girls and 150 infants in the other schools. The school is as full as it can possibly be. I should say that 60 of these boys are over 10 years of age. At St. Peter's school there is an attendance of 80 boys, at the Burchell's school 60 boys, and there is another church school, a mixed school with about 140 children. I do not find that the manufactories in this town interfere with the education of the boys. In some cases masters in the saddlery trade have sent back boys because they were under 11, wishing them to have more education. The larger manufactories will not have them very young, but encourage their being educated; but the small bit-makers, and other workmen of this class, take their children away at 8 or 9 to help them at home. The girls do not remain so long as the boys. They leave in great numbers at 9 years of age, in order to assist their parents in stitching harness at home. They do not work in the manufactories.

At the Farnley Iron Works, Farnley.

203. *Mr. Clarkson*, manager of forge department.—We have no boys under 13 years of age employed in these works. The staff carriers are the youngest boys employed; they are above 13. Our staffs are too heavy for boys of 10 and 11 years of age to carry. They are heavier than those used by the shinglers in Staffordshire. Our shinglers, or rather lumpers or knoblers, as they are called here, use paddles, which do not require heating. All the iron made here is refined before it is put into the puddling furnaces. The puddlers heat this iron in the furnace called the dandy before they put it into the puddling furnace. The iron thus heated boils in about ten minutes after it is put into the puddling furnace, instead of taking half an hour; thus the puddlers make about nine heats instead of six during the turn. Each heat requires puddling for about three-quarters of an hour. Each puddler has two under hands; they are generally boys of about 15 years of age and upwards. They get 2*s.* 6*d.* and 3*s.* per day. We have no young boys employed at the blast furnaces. We have no box fillers. There are two men employed as fillers to each furnace. They have three barrows of particular sizes, in which the coke, limestone, and ironstone are put. We have no women at all employed in any part of the works. One or two little boys of about 14 years of age are employed by the coke burners to daub up the doors with clay. The stone breakers are young men; there are two to each furnace.

204. *Joshua Thornton*, underhand puddler.—I am over 16. I began to work as underhand puddler at 13 years of age. I now work for my father. I should have 2*s.* a day now if I worked for another man. When I was 10 years old I went down a coal-pit. I earned 3*s.* 6*d.* a week. I run coal. I liked that work. I would go back to the pit if it were not for my father. I can read and write a little. I work at night alternate weeks.

205. *Jubal Kershaw*, staff carrier.—I shall be 14 the 5th of February. I have worked a year and a half. I carry staffs. I get 7*s.* a week. I got 5*s.* when I first came. I can read and write.

At Messrs. Hurd, Dawson, Hardy & Co.'s Iron Works, Low Moor.

206. *Mr. Henry B. Woodcock*, manager of the forge department.—In all the different branches of work in the forge there are no regular times observed for meals either by the men or the boys, except at the small rolling mill. The times the hands take for their meals are such as their work allows them, but during each turn they have several opportunities of taking their meals, both by day and night. In the small roll work the labour is more continuous during the turns. The heats are much shorter. This work permits of a regular stoppage for meals. The hands employed at the small mill stop half an hour for breakfast at 8½, and an hour for dinner at 12½. In the night time they would stop about half an hour at 9, and an hour at midnight. When on the night turn, the men generally get a good meal at 9 o'clock. There are no boys employed as scrap gatherers in these works. The youngest boys we have are the door drawers. There are not more than three or four of these boys at work during a turn. Their work is to assist the puddlers. They draw the iron from the hammers. They are paid by the firm; they are of 12 to 14 years of age. We have staff carriers; they heat and carry the staves to the hammer-men as they are wanted. They are rather older than the other boys. I do not think we have any under 13 now. A few boys of the same age are employed at the small mills. I should say that there were not so many as forty boys under 15 employed in the forge. Some of the under puddlers might be as young as 15, but very few would be so young. Overtime never occurs in a forge. On a few rare occasions we have worked the small mill during the daytime only, and then the work has been continued to 8 o'clock. Such an occurrence would be very rare. The hands would be paid for a quarter of a day overtime. They would have another half hour for tea at 6 o'clock. The shearers are labourers employed in taking the iron from the rolls and cutting the ends off; there are no boys employed by them.

At Messrs. Hopkins & Co.'s Iron Works, Middlesborough.

207. *Henry Astbury*, ball-furnace man.—No lad under 20 years of age would be of any use to us as an underhand. Our underhands must be strong men; they must be able to lift the piles, and take them from the furnace to the hammer. Our work is much the same as that of a mill furnaceman, but we do not employ any boys to fire.

208. *Michael Hand*, puddler.—A puddler's underhand ought to be 20 years of age. It is very hard work. I don't know of any underhand puddler that is under 18. Boys under that age would be no use. We make six heats in a turn, sometimes we can only make five when the iron is bad. It is very hard work to get six heats out.

209. *William Hill*, roller.—I work one of the small mills in these works. There are smaller rolls at Bolchow and Vaughan's. There are six boys at my mill, and six others at the other small mill, that is three at each during each turn. My boys are about 12 to 14 years old. If we had lighter work to do we should have younger boys. They have smaller boys in Staffordshire at the small mills. I used to have them as young as 10 there. We always stop for dinner. I should say that the hands employed at the small rolls in Staffordshire always stop for dinner; they always did when I was there. When a mill is only worked in the daytime, the hands only work the usual number of hours, 6 to 6 o'clock; if more work was wanted a double shift would be put on.

210. *John Anderson.*—I am 15 years old. I hook up at the roll. I can't read. I began to work when I was 10. I began in the foundry at Bolchow's. I was at school about half a year. My father was a sailor. It was my fault not going to school.

211. *Richard Rees.*—I am 14. I hook up. I began to work when I was 9 years old. I began at firing for a mill furnaceman. I got 1*s.* a day. I can read a bit. I read the Boy's Second Book. I was 5 years at school.

212. *John Connell*, firer at a mill furnace.—I think I am only 12, but I ax'ed mother when I went home and she says I am 13. I fire a mill furnace. I get 1*s.* a day. The mill furnaceman pays me. When I work at night, I get my supper at 8 o'clock, and my dinner at 12. I generally take a quarter or half an hour to eat it. I pull the door open four times during a heat, and put coal in the furnace when it is wanted. I can read. I learnt to read at Leeds. I was not a half-timer.

At Messrs. Hopkins & Co.'s Blast Furnaces, Middlesborough.

213. *Phillip Tregan*, filler.—There are no boys employed in any of the works connected with the furnaces. We have no box fillers. Men do all this work. We charge the furnaces by waggons and bogies. Men only are employed to break the limestone.

Metal Trades in the Northern Districts.

Mr. F. D. Longe.

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At Messrs. Head, Ashby, and Co.'s Engineering Works, South Stockton.

214. *Arthur Coar*, rivetter's boy.—I am 11 years old. I have worked here two years. I heat rivets. I did the same work when I first came. I come at 6 in the morning. I generally go away at 6 o'clock at night. I sometimes work till 8. I have worked to 8 about twice a week. I have worked in the night about 10 nights in my life. We have been working out abroad. It was repairing work. I never went to school. I can't read. I get 8*s.* a week now. The man I work with is working piecework. I got 6*s.* a week when I first came.

Casting Shops.

215. *Charles Morrison* (employed in cleaning castings).—I am 13. Mother told me I was 13. I have worked here 3 years. I scrub chairs. I come at 6 in the morning and leave at 6 in afternoon. I go home for breakfast and dinner. I get 6*s.* a week. When I first came I got 3*s.* 6*d.* I am not tired when I go home. I never work after 6. I was 2 years at school before I went to work. I can read. I used to read little books. I forget the name of the book. I have none now.

216. *William Walker.*—I am 16. I have just come here. I have only worked here a fortnight. I was 5 years in a glass manufactory at Shields. I was a taker in. I went to school before that. I have read tracts and Reynold's newspaper. I got 5*s.* and 6*s.* as a taker in. I like working in the ironfoundry better than at glass. The glass work is so hot. I have no father nor mother. I have one little brother and a sister at Shields. I walked from Shields here for work. I get 4*s.* a week now.

217. *Henry Smith*, foreman of the founding department.—There are about 20 boys employed in this work. They are from 11 to 16 years of age. There are no boys under 11. We sometimes work a little after 6, but never more than half an hour. We never work at night.

Darlington Iron Company, Albert Hill Works, Darlington.

218. *John Skidmore*, mill furnace boy. — I am turned 12. My birth-day was about three months back. I fire a mill furnace. I only fire one furnace. No boy fires two furnaces here. I get 1*s.* a day. I have been here a year about. I got 1*s.* a day when I first began. Before I came here I worked at a pipe manufactory. I was a year there. I can read middling. I can only read the Testament. I was two years at school. When I work at night I go to bed at 7 in the morning and get up at 4. I sleep as well in the day as in the night. I don't care whether I work by night or by day.

219. *John Lind*, firer to mill furnace-man.—I have worked three years as a firer. I think I am more than 12 years old. I can't read. I never went to school. Father is gone away. He could'nt get work here. I don't know where he is. He has been gone three weeks. He is a labourer in iron works. I have two brothers and five sisters. One sister and two brothers work. My mother does not work.

220. *Henry Cullen*, firer.—I am going 11. My birth-day is St. Patrick's Day. I have worked one year. I get 1*s.* a day. I can't read. I have never been to school. My father is a labourer here. I have three brothers and one sister. One of my brothers fires here.

221. *Peter Cullen*, brother of last witness.—I am 10 years old. I have been to school. I can't read. I have worked half a year. I get 1*s.* a day.

222. *William Lunn.*—I am going 14. I have worked four years. I worked as an errand boy at a grocer's. I have only been here two months. I can read a little. I was not quite a year at school.

The Weardale Iron and Coal Company's (Limited) Tudhoe Iron Works, Spenny Moor, Durham.

223. *Mr. John Hillhouse*, sub-manager.—We have one small mill, a guide mill, at which we make hoop and small bar iron. There are from eight to ten boys employed at this mill on each shift. The youngest of these boys would be 9 or 10 years of age ; perhaps a younger boy than that might sometimes work at this mill. They are now all away owing to the absence of the mill furnace men, who are on strike. We always work the small mill by two shifts, *i. e.*, during night and day. The boys employed at this mill do not have any regular time for dinner ; they take their meals as the heats are out. The mill goes on all day as fast as we can keep it going, but there is always a good deal of leisure time occasioned by stoppages in the heat. Sometimes the boys have to wait half an hour and sometimes longer when they are rolling the larger sizes. There would be as many as half a dozen intervals of half an hour during the day. We often find that they have too much spare time. Small quantities of iron heat rapidly, but large piles take longer to heat than the time required for working them up in the mill. The boys at the small mill get from 1*s.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* per day. We always use grooves for conducting the hoops and small iron from the rolls along the floor. It saves the boys the labour of running down with the iron and is also much safer. When the iron is in a groove, the boy has plenty of opportunity of catching hold of it as it passes down, without the same danger of being hurt as when he has to seize it at once from the roll. I have seen a boy killed by the bar being sent through him from the roll. He missed catching it. That occurred some time ago in Fifeshire. Besides the boys employed at the small mill there are 16 young boys employed at the mill furnaces. There is one boy to each furnace.

224. *James Duffy.*—Firer for mill furnace man. I am 12 on the 15th of next August. I have worked here one week. I worked in Dod's foundry before I came. I was one year there. I went to school before that. I can't read. I was a year at school, not more.

225. *Burley Morris.*—I am going 13. I have worked here better than six months. I fire a mill furnace. Each boy fires one mill furnace. I get 1*s.* 3*d.* a day. Before I came here I fired at Middleboro' at Bolchow and Vaughan's. I was five months there. I did not work regularly. I was at school two years. I could read the first class books. I can read still pretty well. I have not got any books at home.

226. *Jacob Fellows*, staff carrier.—I am 9 years old. I have worked here some months, not a whole year. I carry staffs for three forges. I am not always working.

Messrs. J. Abbot & Co., Chain and Anchor Manufactory, Park Works, Gateshead.

227. *Mr. C. Bass*, manager of works.—We have about 1400 hands employed in the manufacture of anchors, chains, and general founding work, boiler making, &c. There are about 30 forges used by the chain makers. They are all worked by the blast engine. The smallest chain we make is one-eighth. The blast is as good for making that size as for making the larger sizes. There is no objection whatever to using the blast in the manufacture of small chain. We have no boys employed blowing bellows. Some time ago we had, but we have now entirely substituted the blast. There is no necessity whatever for employing children in chain making, either for blowing the bellows or for striking ; of course we have apprentices. They begin at 14 years of age. The Staffordshire chain makers sell their chain at a much cheaper rate

than the northern makers. The difference in the price is to be attributed to the lower cost of the labour employed by the Staffordshire makers. Boys are employed there much more than here. We would not use boys here at chain making. It is too hard work for boys, and of course men are better. I believe the objection of masters to employ boys at this work is the only reason why they are not employed here as in Staffordshire. Besides the apprentices in the chain shops, there are a few more apprentices of 14 and 15 years of age in the casting shops. The core makers are the youngest boys in these shops. There are also rivetter's boys about 12 to 14; they get from 4*s.* to 7*s.* a week. Our works close at 6 o'clock.

228. *George Bonnington*, rivetter's boy.—I can't read or spell. I am going 15. I have worked here a fortnight. Before I came here I worked at a pottery. I used to turn jigger. It was at Fell's pottery. I was six months there. I was one year at the Ragged School before that. My father has been dead a long time. Mother sells fish. I have two sisters. I couldn't get any work before, or I should have worked.

Messrs. Palmer and Co's. Iron Works, Jarrow (on the Tyne.)

229. *Mr. Bladen*, manager of rolling mills.—There are between 300 and 400 men employed in the mills. We only rolls plate-iron for ship plates. There are not more than 12 boys employed in the works, and none of them are under 12 years of age.

230. *John Dodds*, firer to a ball furnaceman.—I am turned 12. I have worked here about eight weeks. I was at school before I came. I was two years at school. (Can read a little). I can't write. I get 1*s.* a day.

Messrs. Bell and Co., the Walker Iron Works (on the Tyne.)

231. *Mr. Thomas Bell.*—We have eight mill furnaces, at each of which one boy is employed on each shift. These boys are between 10 and 15 years of age. There are about twelve boys of the same age employed at the small roll, and a few other boys employed as pilers by the ball furnacemen. We have a school in connection with our works. For the last year we have deducted 2*d.* a week from the wages of the men, and a 1*d.* a week from the wages of the boys employed in the works for the support of this school. Before we found a difficulty in getting the parents to send their children, but since we have done this the numbers have been greatly increased. We also have an evening school for adults.

232. *Thomas Willey*, firer to mill furnaceman.—I am going 11. I have worked here six months. I get 1*s.* a day. I was two years at school before I came. I can't read very well.

In the Foundry.

233. *John Mauglan*, core maker.—I am going 12. I shall be 12 next September. I have worked here eleven months. I began at the weighing machine. I now make cores for the casters. I can read and write. I go to night school nearly every night. I come at 6 in the morning and leave at 6 in the evening. I never stopped after 6. I always go home to dinner and breakfast. I get 5*s.* a week. I was 3½ years at school before I came.

[I examined 14 boys and found that 6 boys could read and 8 could not.]

Derwent and Consett, Iron Co., Limited, Consett Iron Workers, Durham.

234. *Joseph Parry*, (at the rolls).—I am 10 years old next October. I have worked here three weeks. I push the iron to the rolls. I begin at 6 in the morning and work to 6 at night when I am on the day shift, and I begin at 6 at night when I am on the night shift. I get my dinner at about 12 o'clock. I get it when the iron is not ready. I always have to stop working while the iron is getting ready. I was 5 years at school. I have no little books at home. I can read a bit. I get 1*s.* 6*d.* a day. I work five nights in the week when I am on the night shift, and six days when I am on the day shift.

235. *James Carr.*—I am 14. I have worked here two years. I work at the squeezer. I get 1*s.* a turn. I have been two years at school. I went to the Tin-mill school. I read Testament when I left school. That is three years ago. I have never read anything since I left. I give my money to my mother. Father is a under-hand puddler. I have two sisters and two brothers. One of my sisters is at a place.

236. *Richard Grant.*—I am going 15. I have worked here 1½ year. I hook up. Father works on these works. I was seven years at school altogether. I have been at a great many schools. I was at school first in Scotland. I can read and write too. I have read English History. I never read it now. I read newspapers. I often read the *Consett Journal* and other papers. I have two sisters and three brothers. Two brothers go to school. I get 1*s.* 6*d.* a day.

237. *Henry Greeves*, firer at mill furnace.—I am going 11. I fire one furnace. I get 1*s.* 2*d.* a turn. I never went to school. I can't read. I have one brother. He is going 13. He can't read either. My father is dead. He has been dead 12 months. Mother goes out washing.

238. *Thomas Holland.*—I am going 11. I have worked here three years very nigh. I fired when I first came. I can't read. I have been to school. Father lights lamps. I have three sisters and two brothers. I get 1*s.* 2*d.* a day. I got the same when I first came.

239. *Desmond Waites.*—I am 14 next month. I have worked three years. I was five years at school. I can read. (Can read well.) Father is a foreman. I don't read much now. I am apprenticed to a bricklayer, who works in these works.

Shotley Bridge Iron Co., Durham, near Cousett.

240. *Peter Plummer*, staff carrier.—I am gone 10. I worked here seven months. I carry staffs. I get 1*s.* a day. I have been to school. (Can read.) I never read any books besides school books. Father is a puddler. I have seven brothers. I am the eldest child.

Mr. Edward Hall, Chain Maker, Blaydon, near Newcastle-on-Tyne.

241. We make No. 10 wire chain. We employ no children to blow. Each man blows his own bellows. We have no blast engine. There are several other small chain shops like ours in Winlayton. No children are employed to blow in any of these shops. They have no blast engine. Children are not really wanted. I don't know why they are not used. It would be keeping them from school and doing them no good. The Staffordshire men sell their chains cheaper. The men's wages are not so good as they are here. We get a better price for our chain than they do.

Tyne Iron Works, Blaydon.

242. *Jeremiah Sharp*, scrap picker.—I am past 12. I have worked here about four months. I never worked before. I used to go to school. I was there about two years. (Can read.) I come at 6 in the morning, I go away sometimes at 4 or 5; generally at 6 o'clock. I always go home to dinner. I stay about one hour. The bell rings at 12 o'clock, I always leave directly.

Metal Trades in the Northern Districts.

Mr. F. D. Longe.

a.

Messrs. Rigby and Beardmore, Parkgate Forge, Glasgow.

243. *Mr. Beardmore.*—We employ between 800 and 900 hands. About 20 of these are boys.

244. *David Brash*, scrap piler.—I pile scrap iron. I am 14 years old. I have worked here about 9 months. I don't know any younger boy than me in these works. I don't pile scrap at night. Before I came here I worked at the chemical works. I was two years there. Before that I worked in the stone quarries. I was six months there. I used to carry the picks to be sharpened. I worked at Tennant's brewery before that. I carried staves for the coopers. I was nine months there. I was two years at school before I went to work. I could read a little before I left school. I can't read well now. I went to a night school last winter. I was only there for two weeks. I could not go more, because I could not get away from work. I generally got away about 8 o'clock, when I work on the day shift. I was very seldom later than that. I work only to 2 o'clock on Saturdays. I always begin at 6 o'clock in the morning. I get 6*s.* a week. I go home for breakfast, dinner, and tea. I have an hour for breakfast, an hour for dinner, and half an hour for tea. I dine between 2 and 3 o'clock.

245. *William Dury*, manager of the mill.—We have a boy to every two furnaces, one each shift. Each boy fires and pulls up the doors of two furnaces.

246. *Dennis Flannigan.*—I am past 14. I have worked here about two years. I work at the scrap furnace. I only have one furnace to fire. There are two men besides me. I get 1*s.* a shift. I get the same for night and day work. My work begins on Monday night, when I am on the night shift. I don't work on Saturday night. Before I came here I worked in some dye works. I was there five months. I never went to school. I can't read. I might go to night school.

247 *Patrick McDonald.*—I am going 13. I have worked here two years. I clean the hammer. I get 7*s.* a week. I wrought in a brickyard before I came here. I was there about one year. Before that I worked in Thomson's pottery. I turned jigger. I was there six months. I went to school half a year. I can't read.

Messrs. D. J. Stewart & Co., Patent Cast Iron Pipe Manufacturers, Canal Street, Glasgow.

248. *James Young*, foreman of casting shop.—We generally have a few boys of 12 or 13 years of age working in the casting shops. We never employ younger boys. The boys are generally employed at attending the machines, cranes, &c., or in making cores. We begin at 6 in the morning. We have no regular time for giving over. We work to 8 or 9 o'clock. Most of the boys leave at 6, but it is quite chance whether they go then or work later. We very seldom work after 9 o'clock. On Saturdays we only work to 2 or 3 o'clock. We never work by shifts. The boys have an hour for breakfast at 9, and an hour at 2 for dinner. There are about 260 hands altogether employed at the works, and of these about 20 are under 18.

Govan Ironworks, Glasgow.

249. *Mr. William Rowett*, under manager of the works.—There are about 500 hands employed in the forge and mills. In the small mills there are several boys at work. There would be about six boys about 10 years old employed in each shift, and six more between 11 and 14. There are also young boys employed by the mill furnacemen, and about twelve boys of 10 or 11 years of age are employed as staff carriers to the forge.

250. *Kesiah Harris* (employed at the small mill).—I was 10 years old on the 4th of last February. I straighten bars. I have worked one month here. I get 2*s.* and 3*s.* a week. I used to work with my father before I began at the rolls, but not regularly. Father is English. He works at a refining furnace. I have been to school. I could read the tenpenny books. I was 2 years at school. I was a year and a half at the fireworks school. It belongs to these works. I have three brothers and two sisters. None of them work.

251. *Milly Cavell.*—I am past 13. I have worked here about eight months. I work at a mill furnace. I pull up and fire. I get 1*s.* 1*d.* a shift. I never went to school. I can't read. My father is a Highlander. I have one brother and three sisters. Father is a labourer. He works here.

252. *Robert Garleson.*—I am past 13. I have worked here between two and three years. I run down with the iron from the roll. It is small bar iron. I have never been burnt very sore. I was burnt, but not much. I have seen a boy badly burnt. I have only seen one boy badly burnt here. I get 1*s.* 1*d.* a turn. I never went to school. My father has been dead a year.

253. *Andrew Evans.*—I am past 11. I have worked here two years and a half. When I first came I worked in the small mill. I straightened iron. I now work at the big mill. I run down with the iron. I was burnt once. It is all right now. I was burnt when I was at the little mill. I never went to school for long. I can read some, but not much. I can read the Bible. I can't spell. I get 1*s.* a turn.

254. *Samuel Dalkin.*—I am going 10. I have worked six months. I draw the door of a mill furnace. I get 9*d.* a turn. I have been to school (can read.) Father is a puddler. I have one brother and two sisters. They are all at home. They go to school.

Messrs. Colville and Grey, Clifton Iron Works, Coatbridge, Lanarkshire.

255. *Mr. Archibald M'Clellan*, cashier.—We make a good deal of small bar and hoop iron. We have only one small guide mill. There are five boys employed at this mill. We only work it during the day. Some of these boys are as young as 9. There are six more boys employed in scrap picking and piling. They are older. They are about 12 or 14 years old. At the big mill, where we make angle iron, there are twelve boys employed on each shift. These boys are all above 14 years old. We have no boys under 17 employed as under hand puddler. The under hands are generally men. We have two mill furnaces. There are three men employed at these furnaces. The furnaceman employs a bogie man to run the iron and do the work which used to be done by boys. We have about 35 boys altogether under 18 or 19. The boys sometimes get burnt at the small mill. I do not think that we have had more than one bad case during the last year. One boy was laid up for a fortnight by a burn, but he is all right now.

[I questioned nine boys, and found only two who could read].

Messrs. Andrew and James Stewart, Tube Makers, Coatbridge.

256. *Mr. Hislop*, manager.—We manufacture boiler tubes from malleable iron. We employ 60 men and 16 boys. The youngest boys are 14 and 15 years old. Their work is to carry the tubes and oil them when finished. Our hours are from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., with one and a half hours for meals. Sometimes we work overtime to 9 o'clock. The boys work as well as the men when we work over. We have only been at work for six months. We have on the average worked four nights a week to 9 o'clock. We have been thinking of giving up overtime altogether, and limiting our working hours to between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. We have found that the men, particularly in the summer time, are unable to work the long days regularly. They work through the whole time, but do not do so much work. They are all paid by the day.

Dundivan Ironwokrs, Coatbridge.

257. *Mr. John Thomas*, manager of the mills.—We have 14 mill furnaces, in which the iron is heated for the plate and bar mills. There are only three or four furnaces at which boys are employed to pull up the doors. The furnaces are at the large bar mills. The doors of all the other furnaces are pulled up by the men themselves. The handle which lifts the door is brought forward in front of the furnace instead of being at the side. There are no more men employed at the plate furnaces than there are in other works. There are three furnaces for each plate mill. One furnaceman works them with the assistance of as many men as he likes to employ. He generally has three men.

Dundivan Works School, Coatbridge.

258. *Mr. Robert Blacklock*, master.—This school was built by the Dundivan Company. Its object was the education of the children of the workmen employed in those works, and also the younger boys employed. For these boys there is an evening class for six months in the year from October to April. In that class there are as many as 80 boys, who work in the daytime in iron works, chiefly from the Dundivan works. Some are as young as 9. They are all between 9 and 16 years of age. Nearly 40 are between 9 and 13. Many of these boys were at this school as day scholars, and then left when they got work, and now come as evening scholars. I consider the night school as a failure so far as regards children who have had no previous education. We have other day scholars besides the children of the workpeople. The boys, children of working parents, do not, generally speaking, remain above 11 years of age. The girls do not stop after they are 12 years of age. There is no work for girls here except at their own homes. In our day school we have about 160 children between 5 and 9 years of age, and 260 between 9 and 17 years of age. This last number includes the two first classes in which there are no workmen's children. There are 29 in the first class, and 33 in the second. Very few working men's boys remain after 12. A few of the better class of workmen keep their children at school till they are 14 or 15. The boys who are kept beyond 12 are generally intended for warehouse or clerks' places. They begin as time-keepers at works and so get into the office. The Dundivan Company pay for all the children of their men who are under 13 years of age. They charge their workmen 4*d.* a month singie men, and 9*d.* a month married men.

Glasgow Iron Company, Glasgow Iron Works, Glasgow.

259. *Mr. Paris*, manager of the works.—At the small rolls there are four boys employed on each shift; they are between 12 and 14 years old. We have had no serious burn for the last 11 years.

260. *James Bissuld*, roller.—We work from 6 to 6. We are making $\frac{3}{8}$ths iron bar. We have 14 or 15 heats in the day. Each heat takes three-quarters of an hour. There are 40 or 50 bars rolled out of each heat. In the small mill the hands stop regularly for meals. There have not been any serious burns at this mill.

New British Iron Co., Ruabon Ironworks, Denbighshire.

261. *Robert Hughes*, under hand puddler. I am about 18. I have worked three or four years as an under hand. Before that I worked at the rolls. Before that I worked at the shares.

262. *John Thomas*, puddler.—My under hand is 16 years of age, he has worked for me six or seven months. We bring out five or six heats in the day. The iron is more difficult to manage, but it does not require such hard work. We do not want such strong under hands as in other districts, but the puddler must be a skilful man. We find a difficulty in getting under hands. We pay 1*s.* 10*d.* to 2*s.* 4*d.* or 2*s.* 6*d.* a day. No men are employed as under hands. All are under 21 years of age.

263. *Edward Jones*, under hand puddler.—I am 15 years old. I have worked four years in these works. I have worked two years as under hand puddler. I have to work the heat up. I work the iron about quarter of an hour each heat. We turn out five or six heats in the turn. I get 1*s.* 8*d.* a turn. I work one week in the day, and the next week during the night. Before I puddled I heaved over at the rolls. I was 11 years old when I began to work. Father is dead. He died nine months ago. He was a stonemason. I have three brothers and three sisters.

264. *Thomas Griffiths.*—I am an under hand puddler. I have just turned 21. There are a many boys worked too young here at puddling. They are too young to be of much use. The fore hands have to work the harder.

265. *David Griffith.*—I am an under hand puddler. I am going 13. I have worked one month. I used to work at the rolls. I work the iron. I keep at a quarter of an hour at a turn. It is middling hard work. I get 1*s.* 4*d.* a day. I was at school for half a year before I came to work. I can read the next book to the Testament.

266. *Godfrey Edwards*, under hand puddler.—I don't know how old I am. I am 12 or 13. I have worked a year and a half. I never went to school. I can't read. Father is a labourer in the forge. I I have two brothers and one sister.

267. *John Whitly*, foreman of the labourers.—I was a puddler. There are 24 puddling furnaces, which are each worked by one man and a boy during each turn. A puddler makes about 35*s.* a week when working full time. Out of that he has to pay his under hand. There is a great difficulty in getting men to do the labourer's work. A labourer gets 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* a day.

Dowlais Ironworks, Merthyr Tydvil, Glamorganshire.

Metal Trades in South Wales.

Mr. F. D. Longe.

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268. *Mr. Matthew Hurst*, Master of the Dowlais Schools.—There are about 1,800 children altogether attending these schools. In the boys' school there are 420 boys now on the books, and 340 in regular attendance. These children are all the children of men employed in the Dowlais works, with the exception of about 20 or 30, sons of small tradesmen in the place. There is no other school in Dowlais. In the head class there are about 55 boys at the present time; out of these 50 are workmen's sons. The majority of these boys are between 10 and 12. There are several boys of 12 years of age, and a few of 14 in the school. Those who stay above 12 are the children of the better class of workmen, who are intended for places in the office. Not 10 per cent. of the whole school ever reach the first class. There are boys working in the mills of 8 years old; the majority go in at 9 or 10 years of age. Many go in from the infant school before they come into the day school at all. There is no restriction whatever imposed on the men with regard to the age of the boys they employ. I never heard of any boys coming back to school from the works because they were too young. The boys who go to work at 9 or 10 years of age can generally read fairly before they go, and write a little; they would also be able to do the simple rules of arithmetic. This would be the state of education of the good boys. Of course many would not have learnt as much as this. Generally speaking the boys have been in the infant school before they come to me. We have a night school in the six winter months. My average number of boys was 114. The girls made up the number to 200. The boys were between 12 and 20 years of age. The younger boys generally come to night school, when they leave the day school to go to work. They come pretty regularly during the weeks in which they work on the day turn. We used to have a morning school at 9½ to 11 for boys who had been working in the night. We had to give that class up, because it interfered with the day school. The boys were able to learn, and liked the school. I find that the boys in the night school are very attentive and studious. Our general object was to enable the boys to keep up what they had learnt, but we found that many boys improved themselves considerably. Girls do not go into the ironworks to work before they are 16. There are many very respectable girls who come to our evening schools and the sewing school from the works.

Blast Furnaces.

269. *William Hoffer*, filler.—We have nine men, a girl, and generally a boy, working at the top of the furnace. The boy breaks mine. He would generally be between 12 and 15 years of age. He only works in the day. The others work night and day during alternate weeks. This boy is paid by the master. He gets about 5*s.* a week. The girl helps me to fill the barrows. No girl under 17 would be employed at the work. They get 1*s.* 1*d.* a turn, and work seven turns one week, and eight turns the next week. When they work eight turns, they work from Sunday morning at 9 o'clock to 6 o'clock on Monday morning. We are obliged to work like this on Sunday to enable the hands to change from the day to the night turn. All the furnaces are worked on Sunday. There are 11 furnaces working here, and two girls and one boy to each furnace. There is no other work about the furnaces in which girls are employed.

Forges.

270. *John Richards*, foreman of puddlers.—We have only two boys under 16 working as underhand puddlers. They generally begin at 15 or 16 years of age. I have never found that the iron is worse puddled by the men who employ boys as underhands. Many puddlers employ boys because they can get them cheaper than men. They would have to give 3*s.* 6*d.* a day to a man working as underhand. The puddlers can make 7*s.* a day, if they do a full day's work. They generally lose two or three heats in the day during the hot weather. There has been two rises of 10 per cent. in the puddler's wages during the last year. There has been no difference in the class of underhands employed since the rise in wages.

271. *David Jones*, underhand puddler.—I have worked 5 months as an underhand puddler. I am 15 years and 7 months old. I get 2*s.* a day. Before I went to the furnace I dragged puddled bar from the rolls. I got 7*s.* 6*d.* and 8*s.* 6*d.* a week there. Puddling is harder work than dragging iron. My father is a labourer. I have three sisters and three brothers. Two of my brothers work. Father gets 14*s.* a week. The work is not too hard for me. I can't read. I go to the Wesleyan school on Sunday.

272. *Samuel Vincent.* I am going 13. I have worked here 1½ years. I break mine at the furnace. I get 5*s.* a week. I come at 6; I go away at 3 o'clock; sometimes at 4. I never stop after half-past 4. I can't read. I never went to school. Father is in the casting house. I have only one brother, and no sisters.

273. *William Thomas.*—I am 14 next Christmas. I have worked 2½ years. I coach iron to the squeezer. I get 10*s.* 6*d.* one week, and 9*s.* 6*d.* another week. I can read. I went to Dowlais school for 1½ years. I was in another school before I came here. Father works on the farm. The Company pays me. I sometimes work for only two furnaces, and sometimes for four. I always have some work to do, and always get the same wages.

274. *David Thomas.*—I am 13. I have worked here 3 months. I work at the rolls. I have worked 3 years altogether. I was at Dowlais school 2 years. I can't read much. I was in the infant school. I used to read little books at school. I went to night school last winter. I went regularly. I get 10*s.* a week. I drag out bars.

275. *Edward Jones.*—I am over 12. I have been 4 years at work. I carried tongs to the blacksmith when I first came. I used to get 1*s.* 6*d.* then. I get 8*s.* and 12*s.* now. I carried tongs three years ago. I have never been to school.

276. *David Williams*, foreman at puddled bar rolls.—There are five boys employed at the shears on each turn. The three bigger boys work all the time. The two younger ones take it by turns, working two hours at a time, and resting two hours. Their work is to fill the barrow with the iron after it has been sheared by the bigger boys. It would be too hard work for the little boys to work six hours at a time. They get about 6*s.* a week each.

277. *John Williams.*—I fill. I don't know how old I am. Mother says I am 10. I get 4*d.* a day. I have worked four or five months. (The boy looked about 8 years old.)

278. *David Thomas.*—I am going 13. I have worked here about 3 years. I carried tongs when I first came. I got 2*s.* then. I now work at the shears. I have done this for 2 years. I get 13*s.* 6*d.* a week. Mother takes my wages. Father is a puddler. I can't read. I never went to school.

[There were seven boys employed at the shears, about 12 to 14 years of age. Five of them got 12*s.* 6*d.* a week; only one could read. Of six boys employed at this puddled bar roll only two could read.]

279. *John Herbert.*—I am going 16. My birthday is in next November. I have worked ever since I was 10. When I first began I worked up at the rolls. I got 4*s.* then. I now straighten bars. I get 14*s.* a week. I can read and write. Six times eight are 48. There are 100*s.* in five pounds. I was 6 years at school. I was in the head class at Dowlais school when I left. The work at the shears is very hot and hard work. I never worked at the shears.

[Of nine boys employed at a small bar roll four could read.]

Plymouth Ironworks, Merthyr Tydvil.

280. *Mr. William Powell*, manager of the Plymouth schools.—We have about 84 boys on the books. In the first class we have 26 boys. These would be between 11 and 15 years of age. There are as many as 10 boys over 12 years of age. They are children of the workmen in the Plymouth works. There is no charge made upon the workmen (*the school is not supported by the works*). The parents pay 4*d.* a month. The boys generally leave school for the works at 10 or 11 years of age. Some go as early as 7 or 8 years of age. We have an infant school. Boys who have been at the infant school can read a little, and write on slates when they are 10 or 11 years old. We have a night-school throughout the year. We have as many as 50 or 60 boys attending it. Most of them are boys under 12 years of age, who work in the pits as door boys. These boys come at 6 and stay till 9. They study well, particularly those who have been to school before. The girls who leave our school very often go into the works as pilers or sweepers.

281. *Mr. Roberts*, manager of the Plymouth furnaces.—Girls are employed at the tops of the furnaces, in unloading coal from the barrows, making coke heaps, breaking limestone, filling barrows with the different materials for the furnaces. They all work under the Company, except in some cases where a man takes the limestone breaking by the ton, and then he employs girls to help him. Most of these girls only work in the daytime. There are 28 girls employed at the coke heaps. They only work by day. There are several girls also employed only during the day, at the kilns. There are three girls employed during the night in filling barrows with coal for the furnace, and a little girl or boy, who helps the filler. These are all the girls employed about the five furnaces here. There are 10 boys employed as hauliers about the furnaces, who work in the day, and five only who work at night. The youngest boys employed about the works are generally the children of the men with whom they work. Their parents don't want their wages, so much as the parents of boys who are not working.

282. *Mr. William Jones*, manager of the mills.—We have about 22 girls employed during each turn filing iron for the ball furnaces. These girls are 15 years old and upwards. We never allow young married women to work at piling. No men or boys are regularly employed at piling. The men help the girls when the work is very heavy. Besides the pilers we have five girls employed during each turn sweeping in the mills. They are between 12 and 14 years of age. Besides them there are 10 girls during each turn filling barrows with puddled bars. They are 15 years old and upwards. The boys at the small rolls begin at 13. We don't want boys under 13 at this work. The youngest boys are the door-drawers. There are about nine on each turn. They get about 7*d.* a turn. They don't fire the furnaces. If there was a law that boys under 13 should only work six hours at a time, we should not employ any boys under that age. The hauliers generally are about 13 when they begin. As it is, I always try to prevent boys under 13 years old being employed. The parents always try to get them to work. The colliers get their children down the pits and the iron-men get theirs into the works as soon as they can. The underhand puddlers begin as young as 15 years old, but generally with their fathers. When boys get to 19 or 20 they begin to take a furnace between them (two to a furnace), and divide their earnings. As they get older they work singly with an underhand.

283. *David Williams.*—I am going 12. I have worked three years. I get 6*s.* a week. I can't read. I never went to school. Father is a puddler. I have three brothers and one sister.

284. *David Lewis.*—I am 16. I work at the rolls. I have worked four years. Before I worked I went to school. I was nine years at school. I can read. Father is a puddler. I get 8*s.* a week.

285. *Sarah Jones.*—I am 14. I have worked two years. I pile iron. I work at night as well as at day. It is hard work. I have three sisters and one brother. One sister works here. The others are little. I get 6*s.* a week.

286. *Aaron Howells.*—I am going 17. I work at the shears. I get about 8*s.* a week. I work by the ton. I have worked here seven years. I was at school till I came. I was in the third class when I left school. I could read Testament then.

287. *Richard Evans*, foreman of puddlers.—I have a daughter piling in this mill. She is going 18. I have 11 children. I don't think the piling is bad employment for girls. Some girls are hurt in their characters by it, but not by any means all of them.

288. *William Lewis.*—I am going eight. I have worked one month. I never went to school. I heave up at the roll. I get 5*s.* a week. Father is a puddler. He lives at Newbridge. I have five brothers and three sisters. I am the only one who works. My sisters are older than me; my brothers are younger.

289. *Thomas Maclellan.*—I'm past my 10th. I have worked just a year. I drag out bars. I never was burnt. I have only been two weeks at this work. I used to work down a pit, opening doors. I can't read. It is not very hard work I do. I have five brothers; all my brothers work. Three of them are underground. I used to get 4*s.* for opening doors.

290. *David Davis.*—I am 12. I have worked one year. I put coals in the furnace. I can read and write a bit. There are two shillings and sixpence in half-a-crown. I don't know how many shillings there are in five pounds. I get 3*s.* a week. I was three years at school. I have one sister. Father works underground at the furnaces.

291. *Timothy Jones.*—I am going 14. I drive cinders. I have worked six years. I am a haulier. I can't read. I go to school on Sundays sometimes. I works on Sundays sometimes. I get 8*s.* 6*d.* a week.

292. *James Price.*—I am going on my 13th. I used to work in the fireworks (the forge). I raised the door of a puddling furnace. I began three years ago. I can't read A B C. I have been to school, sometimes. Father drives. There are eight of us altogether; 10 with father and mother. I have two sisters who don't work.

293. *Richard Evan John.*—Haulier at the kilns. I employ four boys, ten girls, and two men. The girls fill the trucks. The men and the boys drive. The men always do the more difficult work where care is required. The men get 1*l.* a week; the girls get 7*s.* and 8*s.*; the boys from 12*s.* or 13*s.* to 16*s.* The youngest get 5*s.* a week, and the older ones 10*s.* These hands are only employed in the day time.

Cyfarthfa Ironworks, Cyfarthfa, Merthyr Tydvil.

294. *Mr. William Jones*, cashier.—We have 11 blast furnaces here, and 70 to 80 puddling furnaces. We find a great difficulty in getting underhand puddlers. The underhands begin at 15 or 16 years of age. We never allow our men to employ boys under that age. Sometimes fathers try to get their sons as underhands when they are much younger; but it is impossible for men to puddle their iron well with such young boys. Emigration has taken away many men from our neighbourhood. Wages have twice been raised 15 per cent. since last October. Since we have done this the tendency to emigrate has subsided. If there were plenty of men there would not be any boys employed. The firm pays the puddlers a certain rate in consideration of his paying his underhand a certain proportion, so long as he has an efficient underhand; and if an efficient underhand is to be got, we insist upon the puddler employing him. The men often try to do their work with too small a boy as helper, in order to make more money.

Metal Trades in South Wales.

Mr. F. D. Longe.

They ought to pay about 16*s.* or 17*s.* a week, but they try to get boys at 12*s.*

In the Mills.

295. *Mr. Tracy Rees*, manager of the mills.—The girls employed in these works are engaged in piling, sweeping, and in unloading coal in the coke yard. A few women are employed under the furnace man at the refining furnaces; they help him in putting coals on some of the furnaces. There are girls employed at the furnace top in breaking limestone.

296. *Jane Richards.*—I am 14. I pile iron. I have worked four years. I piled iron when I first began, I was 10 years old then. I get 3*s.* 6*d.* a week. I work on the night turn as well as by day. I like working by day best. I went to school before I came to work. I can't read. I never learnt to sew. I can't mend my own clothes. I don't know how to do it. I should like to be able to sew. There is a sewing school, but I have not time to go to it. I have two brothers and two sisters, one brother and one sister work here. Father is a miner. Father gets about 15*s.* a week. We have meat for dinner very often. I never work after 6 when I work in the day.

297. *Mary Donovan.*—I am 14. I pile. I have worked two years. I get 3*s.* 6*d.* a week. I never went to school. I never sewed anything. A dressmaker makes my things. I can mend my own clothes. Mother can sew. She makes some things. The dressmaker has 10*d.* for making up a dress for me. Mother buys the stuff. I can't read. I have two brothers and one sister. Father is a labourer. When I work at night I go to bed about 8½ in the morning. I get breakfast before I go to bed. I get up at 5½. I get my tea and come to work. I generally have a spell of half an hour when I get my supper.

298. *James Power.*—I am going 12. I have worked three years very nigh. I fill from the shears. I get 6*s.* 10*d.* a week. I went to school once. I was one month in one school, and three months in another. I can't read. I have been at work here only a fortnight. Father is a haulier (getting 25*s.* a week). I have two sisters and one brother. They don't work.

299. *Margaret Howells.*—I am 13. I have never been to school. I can sew. I mend my own clothes. I can make my own things. I get 3*s.* a week. I pile. I have only one sister and a little brother at home. Sister goes to school; she is six years old. Father works in a mine. I have only worked three weeks. I kept at home before I come.

300. *Mary Silverner.*—I am going 13. I have been to school. I can read a little. I can sew. I can't make my own things. I live at my grandmother's. My father and mother are both dead. I have two sisters; they both go to school. Grandmother has 2*s.* 6*d.* a week from the parish for herself, and 3*s.* 6*d.* for my two sisters. One is six and the other five years old. Grandmother does not pay anything for their schooling.

[I questioned 20 boys chiefly employed at the small rolls, of about 10 to 14 years old; 6 of them said that they could read; the others said they could not read.]

Ebbw Vale Ironworks, Monmouthshire.

301. *Mr. Adams*, manager.—We have no girls employed at the furnaces during the night. The only females working during the night are the pilers and sweepers in the forges. We have girls employed in unloading coal at the furnaces, and in the brick-making, during the day only. We have no girls employed in filling barrows with puddled iron. There are other girls employed in breaking limestone. We make all our coke in ovens, and no girls are employed about them. The work on which the girls are employed is very healthy. It is in the open air, except the brickwork.

Brick-making Shop.

302. *Catharine Kenvin.*—I am 12 years old. I have worked two years in the brickhouse. I carry bricks to the kiln and from the kiln. I go to school on Sundays; I go at 2 and stop to 4 o'clock. I read then; I am learning to read. I get 3*s.* 6*d.* per week. I have three brothers and three sisters; four of us work. Father is a founder at the blast furnaces. I can read. Mother makes my clothes.

303. *Lydia Brookman.*—I don't know how old I am. (Said to be about 10 years old.) I have worked about a year. I carry bricks. I carry four, and sometimes six at a time. I go home to dinner and breakfast. I have one hour for dinner, and half an hour for breakfast. I work to 6, and sometimes we work to 8, and later than that.

At the Furnace Top.

304. *Ann Williams.*—I am 20. I unload coal. I was 12 when I began. I used to work in a mine (open). I wheeled mine. I got 5*s.* a week then. I never went to school. Mother was a widow when I went to work. I have been three years here altogether. Some girls begin to work at 10 years of age. I generally begin to work about 7 in the morning. We come here at 6, and wait for the trucks. I give up at 6 at night, We sometimes begin at 4 o'clock. When we begin at 4, we give up at 4 in the afternoon. We all go home to dinner. We get our breakfast before we come. Some girls don't go home to dinner when they live a way off. None of the working girls can make their own dresses. We can mend them ourselves. The dressmaker comes to the house to make our things. It costs more than 2*s.* 6*d.* to make a dress. The dressmakers seem to make a good trade. I find I am more healthy when I am working out than when I am in the house.

In the Forge.

305. *John Hurris.*—I am 11 years old. I have not worked a year. I puddle for Tom Burley. I have only puddled a week. I used to work for Father. I went to school before that. I can't read. I have one brother and two sisters. None of them work. Father is a puddler. When I worked with him, he turned out six heats, and sometimes seven heats in the day.

306. *Evan Redman.*—I am going on my 10th. I work for father. He is a puddler. I only puddle for about 10 minutes in a heat. I went to school for seven years. I can't read. I was writing copies when I came out.

In the Mill.

307. *Mary Browne.*—I am 17 next February. I have worked two years. I went to school before that. I was seven or eight years at school. (Can read well.) Father is an overlooker. I pick slack. I get about 7*s.* a week. I have three brothers and two sisters, all at school, and one little brother at home. I don't work at night.

308. *Ann Adams.*—I was 14 last April. I sweep in the mill. I work at night as well as at day. I don't care which turn I am on. I have been two years at work. I was at school about one year. (Can read well.) I learnt to read in the time I was at school.

309. *John Edwards.*—I am going 11. I work at the roll. I never went to school. I can't read. I get 5*s.* 6*d.* a week.

310. *Alfred Allen.*—I am going 11. I can't read. I have been three years at school. I have only been two months at work. I get 5*s.* a week.

311. *John Dosent.*—I am going 13. I have worked since I was 7. I pulled up doors when I began. I can't read.

[I questioned 10 children, and found that two only (girls) said they could read.]

Rhymney Ironworks, Monmouthshire.

312. *Mr Johnson*, managing partner.—We stopped our blast furnaces on Sundays for a short time in 1830. When we did so we took the opportunity of doing the necessary repairs to the engine, and other parts of the work during the Sunday, which are always done on the Saturday, accordingly we found that as many hands were employed on the Sunday as before, though not the same hands, and so we gave it up. We also found it difficult to get the men to come to work at the right time on Sunday evening. We stopped from 6 o'clock Sunday morning to 6 o'clock at night.

At the Forge.

313. *Margaret Daniel.*—I am 17 years old. I unload coal. I don't work at night. I have worked at night. I worked for three months during the night as well as the day time. I don't like working at night. I get 6*s.* a week. I have been to school. I can't make my own things. I can sew some. I can knit a little. I can't read. My sister works with me. She is going 14. She has worked two years. She throws coal the same as I do. I have four sisters and three brothers. Father works.

314. *David Prosser.*—I am going 14. I don't know when my birthday is. I have puddled four months. I get 9*s.* 6*d* a week. It is hard work. We always do five heats and sometimes seven heats in the turn.

315. *Jeremiah Davis.*—I am 14. I have worked three or four years. I puddle at the furnace. I get 10*s.* a week. I have puddled two years. I throw fire on and get clay ready. I work the iron too. It is not very hard work. I have been to school after my work is over. I learnt to read. I can't read now. I don't sleep so well in the day as at night. I play about in the morning before I go to bed. I might go to bed earlier if I liked. I generally go about 9 o'clock. I get up at 4½ or 5. I am not prevented by noise from sleeping in the day. I never puddle for more than 10 minutes each heat. Puddling is hard work.

316. *Charles Williams.*—I am 14. I have worked two years at a puddling furnace. I get 10*s.* a week. We generally get out eight heats in the day. Sometimes only seven. I puddle for 10 minutes or a quarter of an hour each heat. Before I puddled I coached. I got 4*s.* then. I coached two years. Before that I pulled up at a puddling furnace. I got 2*s.* 6*d.* then. I was half a year at school. I can read a little bit. I can read Testament. I have got two sisters and one brother. All are younger than me. Father was dead before I went to work.

317. *William Davis.*—I am 16. I have worked seven years. I puddle now. I get 1*s.* 7*d.* a ton. I generally make about 14*s.* a week. I only puddle for a quarter of an hour for each heat. I was never at a day school. I can't read. I pulled up doors at first. Father has had 17 children, nine are alive now. Five of us are at home. The others are married. Father is a founder at a blast furnace.

[I questioned 12 boys; eight said they could not read.]

Ystal-y-fera Tin Plate Works, Glamorganshire.

318. *Mr. John Newton*, manager of the works.—These works consist of blast furnaces, a forge and mill, and tin-plate works. There are seven blast furnaces, but no boys under 14 are employed about them. There are six hauliers employed in carrying material to and fro, but they are all men or big lads. The limestone breaker employs two girls. We have no coke heaps, about four men and two boys are employed at the coke ovens. They only work during the day. Boys are employed at the cold rolling mill. There are 10 pairs of rolls, and three boys work each pair. The eldest boy is the roller, the next the tender, and the youngest the greaser. No boys are employed to pull up the doors of either the mill furnaces or the puddling furnaces. There are two men at each puddling furnace. The underhand has one-third of the puddler's earnings. Girls are employed at filing; about four girls on each turn.

319. *Lewis Griffith*, greaser at cold roll.—I am 10 years old. I have not quite worked a month. I come at 6 and go away at 6. I have been to school a little bit. I can't read.

Tinning Shop.

320. *Thomas Davis*, tin sorter.—To each stack there is a tinner, four boys, and three girls. The tinman and the boys tin the plates, and the girls clean them in bran and carry them away to the sorting room. The hands in the tin shop only work during the day.

321. *Elizabeth Williams.*—I am going 14. I have worked a year all but a month. I come between 6 and 7. I go away about 6. I have stopped to 7. I never stopped much after 7. I never stopped to 8. I have worked through the night. I once worked through Friday and Friday night, only once. I get my dinner about 1 o'clock. I have half an hour. I get my dinner here. All the girls get their dinners in this shop. I don't know of any girls who go home to dinner. A bell rings at 1 o'clock, and it rings again at 2 o'clock. That is for the men. I go to work again at ½ past 1. All the girls generally begin working at ½ past 1. I get 6*s.* 6*d.* a week. I get my breakfast at 8½. I stop to 9. The bell rings at 8½ and again at 9. The bell does not ring at tea time. We sometimes get our tea here. We have no regular time for tea. I have no sisters at work. I live with my aunt. I have been 9 years at school. I can read and write and sew. I have no time to make my own things.

322. *Charles Stephens.*—I am 14. My brother who works with me is 10. He has worked 1 year. He lists. He gets 8*d.* for a dozen boxes. We generally do 22 boxes in a day. He comes about 6. I come about 5. We go away about 7 or 7½, sometimes earlier. We get our breakfast at 8½, and dinner at 1. I stop half an hour for dinner; sometines I stop three quarters of an hour. I generally stop 10 minutes or a quarter of an hour for tea. I went to day school for 5 years. I can read English. I can't read Welsh. No boys learn to read Welsh. (Can read).

323. *Morgan Jones.*—I am going 16. (Can read.) I began to work when I was 10. I come at 5½. I go away at 7 at night. I never stop after 7. I have half an hour for dinner. I get about 8*s.* a week.

324. *William Davis.*—I am going 18. I was 14 when I began. I was at school till then. I come at 5½ and leave off at 7. I never worked to 8. I have worked through the night; but only once or twice.

325. *William Jones.*—I am going 12. I have worked 3 years. I was a week at one school and 6 months at another school before I came to work. I come at about 5 or 5½. I go away at 7. I get 5*s.* or 6*s.* a week. I have three sisters and one brother. Two of my sisters work here. I can't read.

326. *Robert Williams.*—I am going on my 16th. I was going on my 11th when I began to work. I was 5 years at school before I came to work. I go to night school now at 7. I stop to 9. I go nearly every night in the week. There are not more than 5 or 6 boys out of this shop who go to night school. I am learning arithmetic. I can write and read.

327. *Mary Ann Phillips.*—I am going on my 11th. I have worked 2 months. I come about 6. I go away about 6. I stop an hour for dinner, not always. I have one brother and four sisters younger than me. Father is a tinman. Mother doesn't work. I have been 7 years at school. (Can read.) I learnt to sew at school.

328. *Ann Morgan.*—I am going on my 11th. I have worked 2 months. I come at 6. I go away at 6. I stop an hour at dinner time, not always. I never stopped more than an hour. I often go out of the shop during the day. I have to carry the tin out.

Metal Trades in South Wales.

Mr. F. D. Longe.

s.

329. *Ann Francis.*—I am 12. I have worked just 2 years. I come at about 6. I get my breakfast at 8. I sometimes get breakfast before I begin to work. I dust and carry away the plates. I get my dinner about half-past 12. I sit on the table when I get my dinner. We don't all get our dinners at the same time. I can read a little bit. I was a year at school. I have two little sisters. They don't work.

Swansea Iron and Tin Plate Works, Swansea.

Plate Mill (Cold Roll.)

330. *John Lewis.*—I am 12. I have worked six months here. I worked for two moths in a coal pit. I run drams. I was about one year at school. I can't read. Father works the engine. I come at 6. I go away at 8. I never work after 8. I leave off at 6 sometimes. I get my breakfast at 8½. The roll stops at 8½ to 9. The roll stops at 1 o'clock for dinner. It goes on at 2. I get my dinner here. All the boys dine in the shop. We don't stop for tea.

331. *William Davis.*—I am going on my 12th. I came a fortnight before Christmas. I have worked here seven weeks next Tuesday. I grease the roll. I come at 6. I go away at 6. I sometimes stop to 8. I stopped to 8 yesterday. Last week I stopped to 8 on Monday and Wednesday. We work late when the roll goes on. On Saturday we give over at 4 o'clock. I get my dinner at 1 o'clock. The roll stops till 2. I get my dinner here. I get 4*s.* a week. I was at school about one year. I can read the Bible, and the 3rd lesson book. (Spells Bible, horse, cabbage): 6 times 8 are 48. I have no father nor brothers or sisters. I live alone with mother.

332. *Alfred Roberts.*—I am going on my 9th. I have been five weeks at work. I grease the roll. I get 4s. a week. I have been one year at school. I can read the spelling book. I go to Sunday school now. I have three sisters and two brothers. Two sisters work here at branning.

Tinning Shop.

333. *Elizabeth Thomas.*—I am going 15. I have worked 15 months here. I come at 6. I go away at 6. I have stopped to 7. When we work late we work to 8 o'clock. I have worked two days running to 8. I get my breakfast at 8½ or 9. I stop about half an hour for breakfast. I get my dinner at 12½. I stop half an hour for dinner. We don't get our dinners at the same time. I don't know any girls who go away for dinner. I used to go out nursing before I came here. I never went to school. I have no father. I have two sisters and one brother. I can't read. I can sew a bit.

Landor Tin Plate Works, Swansea.

Tinning Shop.

334. *Mary Bowles.*—I am past 13. I have worked two years. I come at 7. I go away about 6. Sometimes I go about 5. I have worked to 7. I never worked after a quarter past 7. I get my dinner at 12½. I generally stop a quarter of an hour for dinner. I get my dinner here. I stop half an hour for breakfast. I have been to school. I go on Sundays now. I went to day school a few months before I came to work. (Can read). I dust plates.

335. *Daniel Lewis.*—I am 14. I have worked three years. I list. I come at 6. I generally go away about 6. I don't work after 6. I branned before I came here. I was two years at school. I can read a little. I can read Testament. I can read Welsh a little. I go to Sunday school now.

336. *James Rees.*—I am going on my 11th. I have worked one year. I was four years at school. I can read middling. I come between 5 and 6. I generally go away between 1 and 2. I get 6*s.* a week. My father is dead.

337. *Eliza Treherne.*—I am going 16. I have worked one year. I was in the house helping mother before that. I come at 7. I go away at about 6 or 6½. I can't read.

Messrs. J. J. Cordes & Co., Dos Works, Newport, Monmouthshire.

338. *Mr. Thomas Cordes.*—Our works consist of a rolling and slitting mill, and a patent process for the manufacture of nails. The latter part of the works and the process is peculiar to ourselves in this country. Several boys are employed in this work. There are about 350 boys employed altogether in the works. No girls are employed in any part. The boys begin at 10 or 11 years of age. Comparatively few would be under 11 years. All the boys who work in the nail manufacture are required to attend school two hours on four days in each week. These hours are either from 4 to 6 or from 6 to 8. All the boys work by day and night shifts. The day shift go to school from 6 to 8, and the night shift from 4 to 6. The boys on the night turn get six days' wages, but they only work five nights. We allow our schoolmaster to take private day scholars before 4 o'clock. We have examinations of the working boys, and prizes are given. In the nail department the boys have regular meal times; for breakfast, half an hour at 8½; for dinner, one hour at 1 o'clock. The boys in the mills get their meals during the heats. In all parts of the work there is generally from one to two hours stopping work while the machinery is being adjusted. We do not impose any qualification on the boys we employ, as to reading or other education, but we always give a preference to the boys who have been in our master's day school. The boys generally leave our nail works at about 16 years of age. They ought to attend school up to the time they leave this work. The boys are all paid by the firm, on the piecework system.

REPORT upon the METAL MANUFACTURES of the BIRMINGHAM District, by Mr. J. E. WHITE.

To Her Majesty's Commissioners.

Gentlemen,

Birmingham District. Metal Manufactures. Mr. J. E. White. B.

1. The evidence which I have the honour to lay before you relates to the principal manufactures carried on in the district assigned to me, viz., Birmingham and its neighbourhood on the west bounded by Dudley and Stourbridge, comprising a narrow but densely populated manufacturing and mining district of about 14 miles in length, and also on its southern side a scattered village population, still, however, largely engaged in like pursuits, though much of their manufacture is of a domestic kind. I have, however, almost entirely excepted the ironworks, of which there are many in the western part of this district, the ironwork district having been assigned as a separate subject to another of the Assistant Commissioners. Another portion also of the population, viz., that employed in coal or iron mines, of course did not come under my notice. The entire population of the district is probably about 500,000.

Extent of district and subjects.

2. The manufactures treated of are so various, and yet, with few exceptions, so intermingled, that it is difficult to classify them fairly by distinction either of processes used, or of articles produced, or of the importance of the manufactures themselves. They are, however, generally spoken of as included under the head of "Hardware," and are most, though not all of them, concerned with the production of metallic or earthen wares.

Great variety of trades.

3. As long ago as the year 1841 it was ascertained, on an inquiry made for an official purpose, that there were at that date in Birmingham 97 trades not common to all large towns, and 2,100 firms in those trades. Since that time many new trades, some of great importance, employing a large number of persons, have been established in the town, and the population of the town had increased in the succeeding 20 years from 183,000 to 296,000, or, with the suburbs, 310,000; and there has in all probability been a proportionate increase in the last two years. Though the number and size of large factories has grown, it is probable that the number of employers of all kinds, small as well as large, has grown also. In one trade alone, which has received its chief development within the last 15 years, viz., jewellery, the number of masters, employing on the average from 3 to 50 persons, was in 1862 upwards of 250. Some idea of the variety of occupations, and the number of employers in all of them, whether peculiar to the town or not, existing at the present time may thus be formed, and the impossibility shown of giving even a rough estimate as to the numbers of children and young persons employed in the several trades, or more than a mere specimen of some of the occupations which seem more peculiarly deserving of notice, and which were selected with the view of giving a fair representation of all the employments.

Principal trades.

4. Some of the more important manufactures of the town and district are,—glass; brass and other metal foundry; guns, military and sporting; jewellery; electro-plate; metallic bedsteads; buttons and kindred articles, as hooks-and-eyes, pins, eyelets, &c.; steel pens; tools; cut and wrought nails; screws; and, principally in the Stourbridge neighbourhood, bricks, both of the common kind and also, in particular, fire-bricks. Of these the most important in reference to the numbers of the young employed in them—at least in large bodies together—are probably brass foundry for boys, and buttons, &c., for girls. Large numbers are also employed together in some portions of other trades, but the mass are scattered in small numbers in different parts of the same or on different premises in the trades named, and in others which it would serve no useful purpose to refer to further here. Further details, with statistics and general remarks, will be gathered from the evidence generally, especially b. 753–757.

Arrangement of subjects.

5. As it would be tedious and tend rather to confusion than clearness to apply the several heads, on which inquiry is specially directed, to the manufactures or groups of them separately, putting aside the difficulty of even dividing them into such groups, arranged according either to classes of processes or importance of trades, or any one principle, I have endeavoured, as the simplest and best way of giving a fair view of the whole, to treat of all as far as possible together, as general manufactures, where they have points in common, noticing under each head, where necessary, any points of variation, giving further details in the accounts of particular work-places, and usually of the first described in any given class. As far as a classification can be made, generally speaking the heavier metal manufactures are treated of first; afterwards lighter and miscellaneous trades.

6. As a means of bringing together more varied information, and as giving a more true picture of the actual lives of actual workers than could otherwise be done, I have given in the statements of several witnesses the accounts of their previous as well as their present employments and work places, intermingled together as I obtained them, separating them only in the few cases in which this seemed possible. It is hoped that the necessary want of classification to which this gives rise will be found to be overbalanced by the additional facts which it seemed the only means of bringing forward. The frequent shifting from one kind of work to another seems to show that, in a great many employments at least, in the event of any restriction on children's labour, there is not likely to be much difficulty in obtaining extra hands when needed by the unusual activity of any special trade. The great resemblance of many of the processes of work in different trades, or the small amount of skill and training required, or both these causes, seem to tend to this result: *e.g.*, when the gun trade—which probably varies most—is busy, hands are plentifully drawn to it from other employments.

7. One manufacture, however, in which, in one branch particularly, the employment is entirely distinct in its system and nature from nearly all the others, and as to which also the inquiry has been extended by means of circulars, written inquiries, &c., to some other parts of the kingdom, viz., glass, will be treated separately in a distinct report. The evidence relating to bricks and to one or two other subjects, being very brief, is retained, and noticed in this report.

I.—Age at which Children and Young Persons are Employed.

Age.

8. One or two speak of having begun work as young as 5, and several at 6, at which age I have found a very few in regular factories. Several employments are entered at 7, from which age upwards work gradually increases, according to the kind of employment, becoming pretty general by 9 or 10.

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B.

A more detailed account of the ages at which children enter employments of some kind, and the various nature of the employments, will be found in tables, papers, &c. in the evidence (b. 753–759.) A gentleman by whom some of these papers are furnished (758, 759), states elsewhere that "in Birmingham, as "nearly as can be ascertained, we have at work perhaps 2,000 children under 10 years of age, seven or "eight hundred of which are under 8 years." I have not been able personally to form any definite estimate as to the numbers of children employed at any given age, but my impression would be that the actual number under 8 probably falls far short of this estimate.

II.—Sex: Number of Girls and Women; and III.—Number of Children and Young Persons employed.

Difficulty of estimating numbers.

9. On these points it appears impossible to arrive at any even approximate result in a direct way. The number of factories employing large numbers is undoubtedly increasing with the improvements of machinery and increase of capital, and the forest of tall chimneys which meets the eye in every direction in Birmingham, and the large new works in all parts of the town, especially towards the outside, where space is more easily obtainable, or even entirely removed from the town, with the actual returns obtained from many of these factories, which are probably fair specimens of the mass, show that the numbers, of the children, young persons, and women employed in large works alone must be very considerable. It has, however, been already remarked that Birmingham is probably unequalled in its number of smaller masters, employing numbers of all amounts, ranging from one upwards, and I have personally visited many such places, including some not mentioned in the evidence. But the number of these employers and the average numbers employed by each being thus quite indefinite, and only to be ascertained by a too long and wasteful personal inquiry, it would probably be only fallacious to attempt to estimate the aggregate number employed further than can be done in the roughest way by the help of the population returns, and taking such additional guides, as are furnished by the specimens derived from the sources already mentioned, or present themselves in the evidence. The population of Birmingham may be taken in round numbers as about 300,000. Referring to the tables of the occupations of the people in Birmingham in the census returns for 1861, and therein only to the orders and sub-orders VII. 5, 6, X. 9, 10, 15, XI. 5, XIV. 1, and XV. 8–18, and omitting from these some numbers which do not fall under headings of the same kind as those to which the evidence relates, there were in 1861 engaged chiefly in the staple manufactures and occupations of the place (glass excepted) under the age of 20 years, in round numbers, about 13,000 males and 6,500 females, making together, with items omitted, probably at least 20,000. The females upwards of 20 years engaged in like pursuits with those referred to as engaging females under 20 were at least 13,000, but a full third of this number consisted of milliners, dressmakers, seamstresses, and shirt and stay makers. Out of the 20,000 of both sexes under 20 years, supposing there to be few under 8 and comparatively few under 9 or 10, and deducting for the two years from 18 to 20 a fifth or even as much as a fourth of the entire number, this would give 16,000 or 15,000 children and young persons so employed in Birmingham alone.

Probable number in Birmingham.

10. The results of my own inquiries agree with the census tables in pointing out a few principal trades as those in which the greater part of the young are engaged. The following list is taken from those tables, but in round and approximate numbers only:—

	Males under 20 Years.		Females under 20 Years.
Brass foundry	2,380	Buttons	1,300
Others (including wire, gas fitting, &c.)	1,650	Millinery, dressmaking, seamstress, and stays	1,090
Jewellery	1,530	Brass, lacquering, and pins	980
Plate and others	510	Jewellers and others	800
Guns	1,750	Iron, screws, and others	680
Iron	1,650	Steel pens	530
Machines and tools	1,050	Warehouse	740
Buttons	550		
Tin	220		
Errands	1,080		

Probable number out of Birmingham.

11. In addition to this number there are the numbers employed in ironworks and factories of various kinds which continue in an almost unbroken line from Birmingham to Dudley, and thence to Stourbridge, including Soho, Smethwick, West Bromwich, Spon Lane, Oldbury, Dudley, Netherton, Round Oak, Brierly Hill, and Brettel Lane,—in which district, however, are a large number of iron and coal mines,—and the scattered village population in the direction of Hales Owen engaged largely, indeed in some cases whole families, in most of the others all but men and boys of fit age and strength to leave for mines and ironworks, in the domestic manufacture of nails, &c., as well as those employed in the numerous fire-clay and brick works, of which I have been unable to obtain any approximate account, and of which there are some near Birmingham, but the great seat of which is the neighbourhood of Stourbridge. It may be said roughly that the greater part of the entire population of the district referred to, amounting, as would appear from the census of 1861, to about 200,000 more, is manufacturing or mining. I have no means of calculating how far the manufacturing proportion of children and young persons out of this 200,000, after deducting those engaged in mining and agriculture, would fall short of the probable proportion in Birmingham, but it seems improbable that the number can be less than what, if added to the numbers in Birmingham, would make from 20,000 to 25,000 children and young persons engaged in the manufactures of the whole district assigned to my inquiry.

12. Comparatively few children, however, are engaged, except in glass-houses, foundries, and the manufacture of the smaller articles, as buttons of many kinds, hooks and eyes, jewellery, and in stamp and press shops, and a large number in mere waiting on men, especially gunmakers, for errands, &c.

IV.—Hiring of Children and Young Persons.

Hiring by workers.

13. A very large number, indeed, as appears, the greater number, of the children, and many of the young persons, are hired not by the principals, but by the adult piece-workers under whom they work. This is especially the case with the button children, the foundry boys, and the boys who

"cob" or arrange the work for stampers. I have been told by some employers that they "have "no underletting; it is bad," as it is to the prejudice of the young, and diminishes the control of the principal. It is said also to tend to depress wages generally; the piece-workers, as well as the smaller employers, to make their own profit without exceeding the market price of production, employing younger and cheaper labour than the principals or larger employers would do, the personal interest and closer presence of the pieceworker enabling him to enforce an attention to work which the principals or larger employers could not secure. The practice is probably very convenient, but, speaking from my own observation, I have no doubt whatever that it is very much to the prejudice of the children and young persons employed here, chiefly by its removing the direct responsibility from principals to others who realise it less.

Nailers.

14. Nailers, *i.e.*, the domestic, are not hired, but make their profit by working on their parents' or their own account. They take out, or rather buy, iron from the warehouses of the nail-masters, as the stockingers take out their materials from hosiery warehouses, to be returned in a given weight of nails on stated days, called "weighing" days, usually Saturday, or Wednesday and Saturday, when the price charged for the iron is deducted from that paid for the nails, an allowance being made for a certain amount of waste. Iron may be bought elsewhere, but masters are said to prefer and insist on selling their own. Truck or "tommy" and beershop payment is practised largely, as in the pillow-lace manufacture, but not by the higher class of masters. A magistrate (b. 674) complains of the inefficiency of the existing law on this point, and offers a suggestion to remedy it. Sometimes a boy or girl, not one of the family, rents a standing in a nailer's forge, and works independently, but on the same system.

Trucking.

Usual hiring

Overtime money.

Work without pay.

15. In other manufactures the young usually work for wages received by themselves and paid over to their parents, who allow or put by for them sometimes nothing, sometimes a penny or more, as it happens, and usually their overtime money, which acts as a great inducement to the young to work overtime, as their only means of getting the enjoyment of any money for their own benefit. Elder boys and girls often allow their parents a fixed portion of their wages for board, and keep the surplus. Some, however, especially the youngest, work in factories and workshops for parents or relations, who thus save their wages, but make no actual payment. Regular agreements do not appear to be made further than thus: a child is sent or brought by its parents to apply for work, and if wanted is told that the wages are so-and-so, and thereupon enters the employment. Nailers, as already shown, do not work for wages, though each member of a family may be expected to contribute weekly a given share of work worth a certain value. I have found no cases of contracts of other kinds manifestly injurious to the young, except a past case of a woman taking boys from a workhouse and letting "anyone have them out for "half a crown a week. They were the biggest set of reprobates anywhere."

V.—State of Place of Work.

Old factories cramped, &c.

16. This is very various. Many work-places, including some of the establishments of the highest standing in Birmingham, are in one or more parts very deficient in space, ventilation, light, and, perhaps in consequence of this, in cleanliness. The passages are sometimes almost entirely dark, and the ladder steps, by which the shops are reached, often steep and dangerous. This arises, no doubt, chiefly from factories having grown from small beginnings in crowded places, where adequate extension on the spot is impossible or difficult, and removal may, for several reasons, be inconvenient. Many seem merely adaptations of common street houses. Shortness of tenure or restrictions in leases have been mentioned to me as opposing obstacles to outlay or improvement, though otherwise desired by the employer. Many, however, not so fettered, and with the means at their command, and convinced of the importance to the employed as well as to their own interest, have built or procured places which are everything that could be desired for the health and comfort of their workpeople. In some cases cheapness of space, and comparative lowness of rates, &c. seem of late to have outweighed the increased difficulty of obtaining labour in inducing a choice of less crowded and populous neighbourhoods.

Obstacles to improvement.

Extreme crowding.

17. Some of the new places, those of jewellers especially, have been described to me as objectionably small in proportion to the numbers employed in them, though I have not seen any such specially so. But in some of the larger old work-places, as some kinds of button manufactories, the rooms are low and ill arranged, and the crowding is extreme, being reduced almost to the minimum of possible sitting space, the work not requiring more than hand motion, with narrow passages between for reaching the seats. But even such spaces for passage are not always found, the girls creeping in under the women's legs and the benches. I have found rows of little girls sitting back to back on common benches so close that their backs actually touch, with rows of women, sitting as close as they can be packed, fronting them across work-benches only 18 inches wide. In these and like places fresh air can be admitted through the windows, in default of other sufficient means, only at the expense of the youngest girls, who often sit in rows along the sides of the room with their backs into the windows.

Want of air, and draughts. Minimum of cubic space.

18. The actual measurements of many crowded workshops in Birmingham being given in the Fourth Report of the Medical Officer of Privy Council, I have not thought it desirable to repeat information on this point. With reference, however, to the measurements there given, it will perhaps be useful to remark that Dr. Lankester, the Medical Officer of Health for the Parish of St. James', Westminster, writing, with reference to his report to the parish vestry of June 25, 1863, states that, "In "this parish I have held that the minimum each adult should have in a sleeping room is 300 cubic feet, "and in a lodging or sitting room, 500 cubic feet of air. Of course the advantages of even this space "may be lost by want of ventilation, and a smaller space with good ventilation may be free from "immediate bad effects." Referring to the smaller space in churches, &c. occupied but for a short time, he adds "It is to the fact of the long and often excessive hours of work (*i.e.*, while 'breathing "'the same air') to which I would attribute the principal evil effects of the atmosphere they "(workpeople) are in." In his report he states that each gas-burner, such as found in dressmakers', &c. workrooms "destroys as much air as five persons," and suggests to the Legislature "some "systematic inspection under educated officers of all establishments where large numbers of persons "are domiciled, as in schools, shops, workshops, and workrooms."

Noxious works in bad work-places.

19. In some employments, which from their peculiar nature are in themselves noxious, or at least not healthy, such as brass casting, lacquering, tinning, water-gilding, and dusty works, and in which therefore, space, ventilation, and sanitary precautions are especially necessary, they are with some exceptions

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Want of light, &c.

scarcely at all or very imperfectly provided for, even in the larger and best conducted establishments Space is valuable, and other shops sometimes placed over what should be of one story only.

20. The gloominess of many of the work-places is extreme. In some, as casting and many stamping shops, good light is not essential to the work. Where it is essential it is generally got by working close in front of the windows. Some of the stamping shops, placed on the ground floor on account probably of the shocks of the stamps, are half cellars, and most are extremely dark and untidy, and seem likely to be damp in winter, at least in the pits which are often sunk for the workers to stand in, as a means of gaining height for the fall of the stamp; the soil, however, of Birmingham is dry, and in a great measure drains itself. Some places depend for much of their light upon the furnaces, and after dark the nailers, according to b. 671, have no light but that of their forge and the hot iron.

Neglect by workpeople.

21. In some cases arrangements made for the well-being of the workpeople by the provision of proper closets, &c., and so as to secure decency and separation of the sexes, are discouraged or broken in upon by their thoughtlessness and want of cleanly habits.

Closeness of jewelleryshops.

22. A full account of the jewellers' factories, usually spoken of as the closest work-places in Birmingham, with details as to cubic space, is given in the Privy Council Report, which speaks of some of them as "amongst the very worst" arranged factories in Birmingham, and of several of the shops in the best as "close and very hot when visited early in the forenoon," "every aperture for the "admission or exit of air," though plentifully provided "being carefully closed," and "nearly all the "operatives burning gas for the blowpipe;" though the most crowded of these (best) shops, containing from 150 to 170 persons, chiefly women and girls, "gave on the average upwards of 300 cubical feet "of space per head." In another of like kind, and nearly as large, the atmosphere is described as "oppressive and stifling" and the operatives of "pallid unhealthy aspect" and the "ample means of "ventilation practically useless, being all closed." Indeed in most of the jewellers' factories inspected the means of ventilation that existed are described as "for the most part closed up to prevent "draughts," and "as a rule all insufficiently ventilated, an evil greatly aggravated by the constant "consumption of gas." No account is given of the temperature, but in the Coventry watchmakers' shops, in which "gas is largely consumed after dusk, as each operative requires a separate light," and "though it is usual to extinguish the fire in the stove as soon as the gas is lit," "the temperature "of some is said to be as high as 80° on a winter's evening after the gas has been lit for several hours." Jewellery workers require not only strong light but jets of gas for the blowpipe in addition, and are therefore exposed to a probably still higher temperature.

Small workshops in yards, &c.

23. But in addition to the larger distinct work-places which may be more properly called "factories," and many of which are named "——Works," there are in the yards in which Birmingham abounds,—and of which as much as 27 years ago there were in the parish of Birmingham alone—independently of "the numerous courts which exist in that populous portion of the parish of Aston which "forms part of the borough"—2,030, with an average of six houses each,—a vast number of small workshops, forming either separate floors or parts of floors in the same block of buildings, and in some of these cases renting the steam power needed for the work, as gun or plate polishing, &c., or standing alone or attached to houses. In some of these men alone work, in others women, girls, and boys also. I have visited many of these shops, but have found the space in nearly all cases sufficient for the small numbers employed. The yards, however, in which they stand are often offensive to the eye or nose, and probably injurious to health, from their neglected condition. There are commonly surface drains running or stagnant with dirty water, and often heaps of refuse or decaying matter, loaded ashpits, or privies objectionably close to or under parts of the shops, and the cleanliness of the inside of the shops corresponds to that of the approach.

Offensive state of yards.

Loaded atmosphere.

24. It may not be immaterial to refer to the general state of the atmosphere, which is full of smoke and dust from the number of factories and shops, and which it seems probable is affected in other less apparent ways by the amount of metallic fumes. At the late meeting of the British Association at Newcastle, after the delivery of a paper in the Section D. (Physiology) upon the "prevention of "epidemic diseases;" it was stated that some of the medical men in Birmingham "attributed the "remarkable freedom of that town from cholera to the minute presence of arsenious acid in the atmo-"sphere of that district derived from the metal works."

Natural healthiness of town.

25. Birmingham is said to be a very healthy town, and one covering a very large amount of space in proportion to its population, allowing each inhabitant nearly double the space which is permitted to the population of Manchester, with broad streets, and scarcely any cellars, and 5 persons to each house against 5½ at Manchester and 7 in Liverpool, a considerable number of the houses being the property of the occupiers, and also with great natural advantages from the nature and general slope of the soil. These advantages may probably counteract some of the natural effects of the state of the yards, and of other causes just referred to. Bowel complaints, however, were stated at the General Hospital, at the time of my inquiry there, to be extremely prevalent. The rate of infant mortality, which had attracted the attention of the Medical Officer of the Privy Council, is referred by him mainly to the employment of married women in factories leading to neglect of their infants.

No medical officer of health in Birmingham, or Dudley.

26. Birmingham, however, notwithstanding its great size, importance, and general activity, is without a Medical Officer of Health. Were an efficient person appointed to discharge these duties the greater part of the present objections to the yard workshops would probably in a short time be removed.

27. In Dudley, a town with a population of about 45,000 persons, there was a Medical Officer of Health, but is not now; not, however, because such an officer is no longer needed, to judge at least from the state of places which I saw; and I was informed by a medical man well acquainted with the facts that a part of the town in which many of the poorest nailers work is especially subject to fever.

Nailers' forges.

28. The nailers' forges remain as they are described to have been in neighbouring districts 20 years ago, small gloomy hovels adjoining the cottages, with barely room for the two to half a dozen workers, their fire, and anvils, unfloored, and often slightly below the level of the ground outside, and so in wet soils liable to be unhealthy from damp. To guard against this a wooden block is let into the ground for the worker to stand on, or if he or she is an infant a raised stand is put to enable them to reach their work. One of these places, in which a strong man caught a consumption of which he died, is spoken of as having been so wet that the water stood on the ground and escaped by the doorsill, and as having had 26 buckets full of water taken one morning from a hole dug in the floor to collect the

Damp.

moisture (b. 669). In summer the heat from the forge fire, or perhaps two, is great, but the amount of air for breathing admitted through the doorway and openings in the walls seems sufficient. Birmingham District.

VI.—Nature of Employment.

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29. This is very varied, and yet is often alike in many manufactures otherwise distinct. A general idea may be best given by stating some of the mechanical appliances most in use. Processes very varied.

30. Steam power is used in one or more parts of a large number of occupations, and in the smallest separate shop, where it can be rented, as well as in the largest factory; and in some work-places it is applied to purposes for which at present only the hand or foot is in use in others. In some, however, in which the youngest of both sexes are engaged, or in the parts in which they are engaged, it is not used at all. Some of the purposes to which it is applied are—driving air into furnaces to feed and increase the heat, and bringing the rough metal into the form of sheets, bars, rods, strips, wire, &c., of the shapes and sizes suited for general use, by forging, rolling, cutting, &c.; also further shaping materials, formed in this way or by casting, to suit the purposes of the particular manufacture, by like and other processes, as punching, drawing, winding, turning, boring, drilling, hammering, &c.; and finishing, glazing, and polishing the articles so made. Some of the above processes, with sawing, are performed by it also on other materials, as wood, bone, ivory, pearl shell &c., for handles, buttons, ornaments, &c. In some cases, as in those of pins, hooks and eyes, eyelets, cut and patent nails, screws, small rivets, a kind of chain, coin, wood, bone, and ivory buttons, &c., the articles are turned out by steam machinery complete, with little, or in some cases scarcely any previous or present manual assistance. Thus in pin-making, where the best machinery is used, a coil of wire is placed on a drum at the top of a machine, and, with no further manual aid than is necessary for mere correction of irregularities, passes through the machine, and falls out in a continuous stream of completely formed pins. Steam power general. Its uses.

31. Many of the machines in which the various kinds of articles just referred to are made, are fed, attended, and cleaned by boys, girls, and women, one person sometimes attending a considerable number; and in processes involving cutting and hammering cause an intolerable noise, often so loud as to drown the loudest voice. The noisiest employment of all is perhaps the nail-cutting, owing to the number of machines used together, the nature of the work and material, and the rapidity of the strokes, which requires equal manual quickness in the feeders. While I was in one of the nail-cutting factories the pace of the machinery from some cause or other was increased to such a degree as to become positively painful, and to cause the workpeople to stop their work till it moderated. The floors and benches also sometimes vibrate from the force and pace of the machinery,—in one case indeed, not of a metal, but of a skin and parchment factory, the floor shook so violently that I found it as difficult to write as in a carriage in a jolting train. Machines minded by children, &c. Great noise. Vibration.

32. Some of these employments require a fixed standing or sitting posture, others involve bodily motion with muscular exertion, others merely motion, as where several machines are minded, a point which depends more upon the kind of machinery employed than the nature of the article manufactured. Most require close attention and, as appears almost inevitable, considerable strain on the nerves, though it is difficult to trace this to results. Attention needed.

33. After steam machinery, the chief mechanical appliances of Birmingham, by which a very large amount of work is done, and at which probably the greatest number of persons are employed, are the stamp, the press, and the file, and in a less degree the foot-lathe, the hammer, and some other miscellaneous tools, including the blowpipe, burnishing tools, pliers, &c. Other appliances.

34. Stamps are weights raised by pulleys by the hand and foot and then let fall, used where strong impact is needed, *e.g.*, to impress a shape or pattern on flat pieces of metal, and generally worked by men, but sometimes, where lighter, by boys and females; and very young boys usually help the men by arranging the pieces of metal for them. Some are 60 lbs. or 80 lbs. or so, some lighter, some even 200 lbs. The application, however, of steam power to a pulley will enable a child to raise a heavy stamp, as I have seen done. The stamping is sometimes very rapid, indeed so rapid in stamping steel pens as to make it almost impossible to see the piece of metal, when stamped, replaced by the succeeding piece, and with perhaps not more than a dozen stamps, as to sound like a constant running fire of musketry. Stamping.

35. The presses are usually worked by fly-handles, sometimes by treadle or other means turning a screw so as to apply a more gradual force, and are used for cutting out, shaping, or fitting together thin metal, woven substances, paper, in fact materials of almost any kind, for buttons, pens, jewellery and other ornaments, boxes, toys, umbrella furniture, clasps, fastenings, &c., in fact an endless variety of miscellaneous useful or ornamental productions. It is in working or helping at these that the greater number of women and girls in Birmingham are employed. This work also is often very rapid. In one of the processes of steel-pen making done by females, a quick worker will, as I was informed at one factory, cut out in one day, *i. e.*, 10 hours, 250 gross or 36,000 pens, which involves 72,000 distinct motions of the arm, or two motions in each second; an average worker would do a fifth less. When it is considered that this is only one of many processes, and that at one manufactory alone at Birmingham 120,000,000 pens, as it is stated, are made in a year, some idea can be formed of the great number of distinct manual operations required by the whole steel-pen trade. Press work. Very rapid.

36. The press work is sedentary, and requires constant watching to avoid spoiling the work or injuring the fingers,—which is noticed under the head of accidents as of very common occurrence. Needs care.

37. There is little to notice as to the use of the file, in which a great number of boys are engaged in "dressing" or smoothing brass-foundry work, gun fittings, and small metal articles. Wherever there is lead in the metal, as in the case of common taps, the "dressing" becomes at once a noxious employment, requiring great attention to cleanliness and proper precautions. Filing. Filing lead, &c.

38. Some boys are employed as "strikers" with hammers in smiths' shops, &c., a work affording healthy muscular exertion with intervals of rest, but the hammers appear in some cases to be too heavy for their strength. Boys are sometimes exposed to constant heat in blowing bellows at forge fires in different manufactures. A few grind on large stones, a work of some risk in regard both to accidents and health. Striking. Blowing.

39. The work of the nailers, who also make chains, rivets, &c., the elder making the heavier, the younger the lighter articles, consists in hammering and cutting on anvils the rods of iron heated in the fire. Nailing.

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Gun work.

40. Gun-making includes a great number of processes, carried on in a greater or less number of totally distinct places; and affording more or less different kinds of employment. A form for the calculation of cost of a rifle, given to me at one factory as a specimen, enumerates under the head of "materials" 14 distinct parts, as stock, barrel, lock, sight, bands, rammer, &c. This is exclusive of bayonet and scabbard. Under the head of "setting up," *i. e.*, making, it gives 18 operations, *e.g.*, stocking, screwing, boring, rifling, smoothing, finishing, polishing, browning, exclusive of some now little in use. The labour and time consumed in passing the guns or parts of them between the places where different operations are performed are, it is plain, very considerable; and it is on this labour that a large number of boys are employed in the gun trade, though not on this labour alone.

Brass foundry.

41. One of the most important manufactures of Birmingham, at any rate as regards the number and condition of the young, especially boys, engaged in its many branches and processes from the casting to the finishing, is brass foundry. Though the number of boys engaged in casting shops themselves is not large, there being only one or two in a shop, of which, however, the large factories have several, and in some cases no boys being employed in a shop at all, still the employment of these boys is of a kind which makes their case deserving of serious attention. Their work is chiefly preparing moulds and cores, pounding, shaking on, and blowing off charcoal and other dust, and otherwise helping the men, *e. g.*, in stirring the metal in the furnace or skimming the pot before it is poured. Thus they not only inhale a large amount of dust, but are exposed to the noxious fumes of the molten metal. In iron foundries their employment is of the same kind, but they are not exposed to the noxious zinc fume as in brass foundry. When the brass is poured from the pots, the tops of which are covered with dazzling white flame and vapour, into ingots or moulds, the whole shop is often suddenly filled with stifling fumes which obscure the sight and pass off in a cloud of white flakes to the roof, where they form a thick fungus-like deposit. The amount of fume varies, probably from more or less zinc being used.

Casting shops work.

Fumes and dust.

Lacquering. Stove work.

42. Females, some girls, are almost exclusively employed in lacquering the metal, *i.e.*, laying on varnish to preserve the colour, for which purpose they work sitting over stoves in hot rooms.

Stove rooms for painting, japanning, &c.

43. In some other employments in which the workers are principally females, as painting bedsteads, japanning, and varnishing, the work-places are hot from the nearness of the drying stoves, and the smell is strong. The heat and vapour at the entrance of the stoves, when opened to put the things in, are great. The painters, who however are in most cases adults, spend some time in the stoves while placing and bringing out their work. These stoves, which from the evaporation of the paint at a high temperature are probably the most injurious, are sometimes too hot even to be entered, and when cooler cause perspiration even without exertion, and a considerable amount, as stated, with it. I have been cautioned not to enter one, as it would "nip" my eyes. Another, which was "only middling hot," was 120° by my thermometer.

Dipping in acids, grease, &c.

44. "Acky" or "phizz," *i.e.*, *aqua fortis* or nitric acid, is much used for dipping brass, and "pickle" or vitriol, *i.e.*, sulphuric acid, for cleaning strips of steel for pens and crinoline. Grease and oil are also much used in metal work.

Electro-plating and water-gilding.

45. The old and notoriously noxious process of plating by means of mercury driven off by heat, though said still to be carried on more largely in London, is almost but not entirely superseded here by the process of electro-plating, in which a solution of cyanide of potassium is used, giving off fumes of prussic acid. I have found cases of boys engaged in the places in which both of these processes are conducted, but they appear to be exceptional, and the boys' presence in no way essential, the plating and gilding processes themselves being usually performed by adults.

Glass-paper dust.

46. A very limited, but at the same time in its apparent bearings on the health of the employed a very important manufacture, is that of emery, and sand, or more properly, glass paper. In this young females are engaged in sifting and laying on paper or cloth finely powdered emery and glass, which fly off in clouds, the particles being very light, and of course extremely sharp. One witness (b. 613) speaks of "the glass which we consume, for it is consuming it. When I was a boy, to speak the truth, "I must have swallowed pounds."

Warehouse work.

47. In addition to those who are engaged in what is strictly manufacturing labour, there are in most of the factories of any size, including glass-works, a greater or less number of persons, generally women or girls, but sometimes also men and boys, engaged in sorting, weighing, wrapping up, packing, and other employments carried on chiefly in a part of the factory called the warehouse, and boys and girls are also employed for errands, especially boys, in gun work. In warehouse hands intelligence and trustworthiness are often more important, and the persons engaged of a neater and higher class, but there is little or no distinction as to hours, meals, &c., and the warehouse is usually to all practical intents and purposes a part of the factory. One warehouse furnishes proof of work throughout whole nights by boys working also in the days.

Brickyard work.

Laborious.

48. The brickyard employment of the young, who are principally girls, though extremely dirty, involves much bodily and in many cases open-air exercise, consisting chiefly of carrying wet clay or dry bricks. It seems, therefore, when the strength is not overtasked, a healthy employment. The hours however are unusually long in summer, and the weights carried on the head and in the arms are very considerable. The day's work, in which I found a girl of just 12 engaged, involved the catching and throwing on by above 14 lbs. at a time a weight of more than 36 tons, for which purpose she had, while standing raised on a narrow sloping plank, to make 11,333 complete half turns of her body to catch and throw on the bricks along the line of girls and women. It is not strange that when called down to me she was panting.

Dirty works, &c.

Destroy clothes.

Moral effects.

49. Though many of the employments are very dirty, dusty, or greasy, and some noxious, the means of cleanliness are very scantily, if at all, provided in such places, and where water may be had it often is not used. Boys may be seen at work, or in the streets plainly coming from work, who, from their grimed faces and general appearance, might not unnaturally be mistaken for sweeps, as was indeed the case with a boy taken to a hospital here. He was however only one of the "cobbers," amongst whom dirtiness is not necessarily caused by the work, though it prevails largely from neglect and probably also indirectly from the gloom of the stamping shops. The faces of foundry boys are grimed with the dust caused by their work. These causes, with burns from molten or flying metal and powerful acids, which are common, act in some cases as obstacles to attendance at schools or places of religious worship;

and in extreme cases produce destruction of clothing, too apt to end in an entire discontinuance of such attendance, and so probably to work serious moral injury, in addition to the loss of the self-respect of which personal cleanliness seems a natural condition. Birmingham District. Metal Manufactures.

VII. Hours of Work.

50. In Birmingham the stated hours of work in the majority of trades are short, viz., from 8 till 7. In certain trades, especially the heavier, in which men and boys alone are engaged, *e.g.*, engineering work, railway carriage making, and in some cases in general trades, they are longer, but in very few cases exceeding 12 hours, and usually beginning an hour or two earlier. Some of the employers say that they would prefer the earlier hours, but could not get the people to come, at any rate while other works began late. In many cases the time given up on Saturday afternoon to allow of leaving work early has been added to the other evenings, lengthening some of these by an hour or a half. Mr. J. E. White. B. Stated hours in Birmingham.

51. Out of the town the difficulty of beginning early appears not to be felt, and the day of 12 hours from 6 to 6 is the rule, except that in most of the "red" brick works, *i.e.*, not fire-clay works, in the Stourbridge district, the regular day in summer is stated to be in fact from 6 A.M. till dark, *i.e.*, 8 or 9 P.M., and often it begins an hour or more earlier. Elsewhere.

52. The above are the understood hours where hired labour is employed, but in the domestic nail manufacture, where the head of the family is the only master, as in the case of the domestic hosiery manufacture, there is little guide but the inclination or wants of the workers, and consequently many of them work "all hours," *i.e.*, idling part of the time and slaving the rest, to be ready for weighing day or to procure the immediate necessities of life; their labour under these circumstances being often bounded only by the limits of physical endurance, *e.g.*, when a man "can hardly reach up to the door "or put one leg before the other" (b. 671). Nailers' hours irregular and late.

53. In Birmingham, however, and more or less throughout the district, an enormous amount of time is lost, not only by want of punctuality in coming to work in the morning and beginning again after meals, but still more by the general observance of "Saint Monday," which is shown in the late attendance or entire absence of large numbers on that day. One employer has on Monday only about 40 or 50 out of 300 or 400, and the day is recognized by many masters as an hour shorter than others at each end. On Mondays I found few works fully and some but very partially employed; and in a large well-conducted foundry the casters were getting to work for the first time in the week towards midday on Tuesday. Masters complain much of this, but say that it cannot be helped. Experience, however, shows that firmness on the part of the employer, and dependence on steam power, which would otherwise be wasted, have, in some cases, done much to overcome the difficulty. One employer told me that he had just locked out for the day 200 of his hands who had stayed away the day before on the occasion of a local *fête* without leave, though he always gladly gave leave when it was asked, and that he had no doubt that by such means he should secure greater regularity for the future. Waste of time. "St. Monday." How checked.

VIII. Night Work.

54. In some cases the above stated hours of work are scarcely ever exceeded; in others not to any great extent, *i.e.*, to beyond 8 or 9 P.M. But an excess to this extent is by no means uncommon for the young of both sexes. Cases, however, of far longer hours, not isolated or accidental, but systematic and long continued, are shown to exist, amounting, in an extreme instance, to work by two boys regularly for six days and three nights weekly for six months, with no stoppage for sleep except what could be got in meal-times. Other instances of systematic night in addition to the ordinary amount of day work are given. The trade in which there is said to be the greatest fluctuation of demand is naturally gun and sword work; the latter, however, forming now but a small trade in Birmingham. Some of the instances of longest night-work of boys or girls were found in gun and sword making, metal rolling, edge tool making, iron works, tin-plate working, brass foundry, painting, and screw making. Night-work. All night. In what trades

55. In ironworks night-work by means of relays is the established system, each person working during the days one week, and during the nights the next. Regular night-work by relays has been adopted to a small extent in other cases, as screw and paper making. Ironworks.

56. In domestic nail making night-work occurs to whatever extent the needs of the workers or their previous irregularity compel it, not often beyond an hour or so in the morning, and 11 or 12 at night, though mere children do not appear usually to work on so late. But see b. 671, 669, 713, 701. Nailers.

IX. Meal Times.

57. When work begins as late as 8, breakfast is taken first; in most other cases half an hour is allowed. In nearly all cases an hour is allowed for dinner, but it is sometimes used for work, and in most a half or quarter of an hour is allowed and taken for tea, except in cases in which work is left by 6. In many cases meals are taken in the work-places, even in those which are habitually overcrowded, dirty, or noxious. The nailers take their own meal-times, and usually a liberal allowance, viz., a couple of hours or so for breakfast, dinner, and tea. Meals.

X. Holidays.

58. In Birmingham the actual holidays, whether allowed or not, are ample. In addition to the extensive appropriation of Monday to this purpose aleady referred to, and to certain seasons, there are many other occasions, as those of local *fetes*, on which holidays are given or taken; and many employers give their workpeople an annual trip to Malvern or elsewhere, which seems to be beneficial in more ways than the most obvious. It is, at least, highly enjoyed and gratefully remembered. One or two fix the date of their coming to work from a "gipsy party" a year or two back. The practice of a half day on Saturday prevails in many factories, though, as mentioned, in several it is made good by extra work during the earlier part of the week. Sometimes, it seems, no holiday is recognized. Holidays allowed or taken.

XI. Treatment.

59. Though I made but few inquiries on the point, having till a late period hoped that they were unnecessary, I believe that, as a rule, there is no reason to doubt that the treatment of the young is good. In answer to a question at the Birmingham Police Office whether ill-treatment prevailed in any of the work-places, I was answered that it had not been heard of, and that probably the "shop "would not stand it." This struck a Birmingham physician, much interested in the artisan class, as Treatment good in general. Exceptions, where.

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an "excellent answer," and he had no doubt that it embodied their general feeling. There is no doubt, however, from the evidence, that there are unhappy exceptions, but these point chiefly to cases where the men are more likely to have been brought up in employments in which the system of work, as will be shown hereafter in the case of the glass makers, cuts them off to a greater or less extent from the opportunities of education and association with other classes enjoyed by other persons, or where a single boy works under a man alone without the restraint of any fellow-workers (b. 208, 730, 112).

XII. Accidents.

Serious accidents to children rare.

60. Considering the amount of machinery used in Birmingham, accidents resulting in loss of life or limb by the young are rare, but not to such a degree as to show that there is no danger to them. Children are brought but little in contact with the more dangerous parts, but young persons are often engaged in the same way as adults; and it is a mere chance when accidents have happened to females over 18 that they did not happen to girls working at machinery of precisely the same kind beside them, the risk from dress being the same, and from thoughtlessness probably greater. The principal sources of serious danger are shafts and bands used for turning lathes and wheels, especially in screw factories, in which by far the greater proportion employed are females. A woman lately killed in a screw factory from being entangled in the shaft had been caught in the same way at least four times, and in another factory of the same kind three females were thus entangled in one day. The same sources of danger exist in button and other factories in which lathes, wheels, drills, &c. are used for turning, grinding, boring, and polishing materials of various kinds. Even where no harm is done, the skirts are often torn off (b. 469, 476, 479), and even a boy was stripped to the skin all but his boots and stockings (b. 201).

Risk to young persons.

From what machinery.

Slight accidents to children very frequent.

61. Accidents, however, of a slighter kind, chiefly from stamps and presses, causing mutilation or injury of the thumbs and fingers, are extremely common, as appears not only from the experience of hospitals and medical men, from whom I have not taken written statements, but also from a personal observation of the hands of girls at work, of whom a great number indeed bear marks of injuries which, though in numerous cases not of sufficient importance to send them to the hospital, must have been extremely painful, and interfere more or less with the free and dexterous use of their fingers for general purposes, though not actually incapacitating them from labour. Sometimes, however, the injury to hands is more serious. A mere thumb "pinch" has kept a little girl at home 3 months (b. 314, 65, &c.)

Partial prevention possible.

62. A table in the evidence of more than 1,000 out-patient or slighter surgical cases of all kinds, and to persons of all ages, at the Birmingham General Hospital, shows that out of the cases of injury to children or young persons which could be traced to some manufacturing employment, more than 43 per cent. were from stamps and presses (b. 740). The house-surgeon of the Queen's Hospital states that more than half of all the accidents of all kinds of children of the working class are of the same kind.

63. To some extent, as I have observed and been informed, this can be prevented by the use of guards and other appliances; and though it is said, as appears very probable, that this could not be done in all cases, still it is probable that attention to the point by competent persons, and ingenuity, might do considerably more. I am informed of one large factory in which the loss of mere fingers, &c., at last became so serious as to lead to arrangements of stamps, &c., which have greatly diminished it. I have seen a stamper who had lost all the fingers of his right hand and the two first of his left, still however able to do some work. It is stated to be a common saying, that a person cannot be a good stamper till he has lost two or three fingers. It seems improbable, however, that as a rule much will ever be done to find means of preventing or diminishing these small accidents. A large proportion probably never come to the knowledge of the larger employers at all; and where any do, the mutilation being at most slight, and the suffering passing, they are not likely to attract sufficient thought to lead to a search for possible unknown improvements, especially as the accident is always attributed to "mere carelessness," and therefore not thought to require the precautions which more serious accidents, though equally attributed to mere carelessness, will in many cases enforce. At any rate, there remain, and probably will remain, a number of cases in which the best safeguard will be in persons not being engaged in the dangerous parts of the work at all until they have age and experience to command sufficient care and attention, or for a longer time than they can effectually keep up that attention.

Do not attract notice.

Best safeguard.

Burns, &c. from metal;

64. Accidents, sometimes serious and generally painful, from burns from the flying, falling, or awkward handling of molten or hot metal, occur not only in large works, forges, and casting shops, but also in the home nail forges. These, however, seem avoidable only by the care and intelligence of the workers, though aprons or leggings, such as are worn by some who are much exposed to hot metal, might probably in many cases be used with advantage, and would at least protect the clothes. Cuts from handling sharp-edged metal might be guarded against, as they often but by no means always are, by something to protect the hand. Cuts also occur from treading or falling on metal needlessly left lying about. A cut in the foot from a piece of scrap metal left in this way lately kept a boy three weeks in the hospital as in-patient. Boys seldom work on the "putting in" side of rollers, where there is risk of being drawn in and crushed, but a slip while "taking out" hot metal is sometimes serious. Sleepiness from overwork increases the liability to accidents (b. 209).

from acids.

65. The burning acids used for dipping and cleaning metals, and also for polishing pearl buttons, cause fresh sores or inflame and fester accidental cuts, &c. in boys' hands, sometimes eating small holes, and sometimes fly into the eyes. The same remark applies here as to aprons. Green baize is worn by some.

Stove explosions and grindstones flying.

66. To judge from the account of a late serious accident from the explosion of a steam lacquering stove, by which two females were severely scalded and bruised, and a third slightly injured, it seems that careful attention to the state of these stoves is necessary for the safety of the females, in many cases young, who work at them. Grindstones are liable to fly, especially if in a defective state, but few boys are employed at them.

XIII.—Wages.

Wages.

67. These vary much, owing to the variety of work; but it may be said roughly that children's wages range from 1*s.* and 1*s.* 2*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* amongst the youngest employed, boys as well as girls, *e.g.*, in button and jewellery factories; though I have been informed of wages in other work as low as 9*d.* Elder children of from 10 or 11 to 13 get, if girls, from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* 6*d.*, and if boys about 1*s.* more. From about that age to 18, girls from 4*s.* to 5*s.* to about 7*s.* or 8*s.*; and boys from 5*s.* to 8*s.* or 9*s.* There are of course cases of superior employments, or exceptional cases, in which the rates are much higher.

XIV.—Influence of Employment upon Physical Condition.

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68. The Fourth Report of the Medical Officer of the Privy Council, presented last year (1862), describes many of the occupations and habits of the working classes, not only of Birmingham but also of the Wolverhampton district, in which several of the employments are of the same or a like kind, these being two of several English districts showing an excessive mortality from lung diseases, and therefore selected for examination with a view of ascertaining the circumstances under which that mortality existed. The circumstances to which the results are specially attributed are the exposure to inhalation of an "atmosphere loaded with dust or vitiated by the products of combustion and respiration," in places in most of which, not "being under Government inspection, young children of both sexes are employed "at an earlier age, or for longer hours, than is permissible in factories worked under the restrictions of "the Factory Acts." Some of the occupations noted as specially injurious are grinding, button making, brass foundry, pin making; "buffing," polishing, and glazing of electro-plated and other goods; jewellery, involving the use of much gas and the blowpipe; and other occupations often conducted in "ill-ventilated "and overcrowded workrooms," of which several detailed measurements and descriptions are given, and involving "exposure to the cold external air after working in over-heated shops, and to working in "a stooping or otherwise constrained posture." The Report on Birmingham concludes with the following remarks, viz., that "the inquiry has sufficiently demonstrated the existence of several conditions "hurtful to health in the staple manufactures of the town, and likewise that some of these directly "induce irritative disease of the lungs, while others in all probability indirectly produce pulmonary "disease, or at least favour its development. It is satisfactory also to observe that some at least of "these evils are remediable. Probably most of them might be in a great measure removed if the atten- "tion of skilled persons were directed to contriving improved methods of manufacture with especial "reference to the health of the operatives." At one large factory respirators are supplied to those who turn metal at steam lathes, but are said not to be much used (b. 716). Boys who blow forge bellows are sometimes much affected by the heat (b. 84, 121, &c.) Grinding affects the lungs and requires precautions (b. 123). In one shop, in which cases of consumption formerly occurred amongst females engaged in a dusty process in steel pen making, they have entirely ceased since the introduction of some ventilation shafts. I am told that such shafts sometimes contain a deposit almost like soot.

Lung disease prevalent.

Attributed to dust and bad air.

Trades in which most prevalent.

Causes removeable, how.

69. As the account given in the report quoted is fully borne out by all that my own inquiries have enabled me observe or gather from others, I have considered it needless in most cases to do more than to point out the particular cases in which, and the extent to which, the young are exposed to the influences concluded in that report to be injurious, exhausting as they do most of the causes prevalent in the manufactures of the district which appear likely to induce general disease as well as the special class then under investigation, without seeking for further direct evidence of their injurious effects, especially as the effects of the causes referred to are of a kind which do not usually develope themselves to a marked degree at the ages to which the present inquiry is specially directed, and are difficult to trace, owing to the constant change of employment which takes place when the variety of occupations is so great, at least before the worker is of an age to settle down more definitely to a particular kind of employment.

Other effects on health.

70. In some cases, however, in which the effect seems very striking and unmistakeable as well as serious, as in the case of brass casting, or which are not specially referred to in that report, I have thought it well to give further details, which seem to leave no room for question as to the fact of serious injury.

71. A notice of the effects of sand-paper making, which attracted my attention in a late publication by a London physician, led to my obtaining from him a remarkable statement of the fatal effects of this employment on children (b. 751). In one case chest disease appeared to have commenced from the very day on which a boy first began the work, and ended within a month in death. Suffering and death of the same kind are stated to be common with children so employed. Happily the manufacture in this kingdom seems but very limited.

Glass paper.

72. As to the bad effects of brass casting employers and workpeople are alike unanimous, and my own observation of the immediate and unpleasant action in some cases of the fumes of the molten metal upon the throat of myself and others, if present during the pouring process, inducing a very unpleasant dryness and woolliness or tickling and actual cough, points to the same result. The limit of age to which brass casters as a class continue to work is put at the highest at 50, and by some as low as 40. The unhealthiness of their appearance is general and unmistakeable. Though the caster when pouring usually ties a handkerchief over his mouth and nose, boys do not, though they sometimes help him pour, and whether they do or not, are greatly if not equally exposed to the fumes. The difference, however, of feel, and in the time in which the white vapour clears from the shop, according to the amount of space and ventilation provided, is striking. In close shops the vapour is visible for some minutes, in others which are lofty and have proper openings it passes off at once. At one large brass foundry the employers state that their men can work six full days in their good new casting shops, whereas in their old they reckoned four days a week as much as they could stand (b. 48).

Brass-casting fumes.

Ventilation important.

73. The difference of heat and oppressiveness in lacquering rooms according to the amount of space and ventilation is also very noticeable.

Ventilation in lacquering rooms.

74. The fumes of the acid solutions largely used for dipping or cleaning metals are stated by medical men to be very injurious; and I have noticed that in going over works care has frequently been taken to tell me that only men are engaged in these processes. I have, however, noted several instances in which boys are more or less exposed to the influence of the causes in question, possibly, however, not always as part of their proper work.

Fumes of acids.

75. I did not find traces, by inquiry either on the spot or from medical men, of any serious injury having arisen from the fumes of the cyanide of potassium used in the process of electro-plating, though slight bad effects are attributed to it. The only places in which I found any young working in the room in which the process was carried on were large and airy, one remarkably so; yet even here the manager told me that he could not enter the room without a feeling of discomfort, though I did not feel any myself, and the hours of work were very short, on account chiefly of the supposed unhealthy nature of the work,

Electro-plating.

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Long hours in noxious works.

76. It will be observed that one or two of the most plainly injurious occupations are those in which the young are liable to be employed for the longest hours, *e.g.*, a boy of 8 has worked in a brass casting shop "till 10 and 10¼ at night a good many times," having done so three times a week, two mornings from 6, the third from 7, and sometimes not getting home, which is a quarter of an hour off, till 11 p.m.: having also his meals in the shop without washing, short at best, and often shortened to half. He adds, "Mondays you don't work" (b. 20, cf. also b. 116). The mere depression of mind and body such as that resulting, in females, amongst other causes, from "excessive weariness from overwork in a feeble "state of health," is stated by a physician to be unfavourable to morality (b. 752).

77. Neither did I find reason to believe, either from my own observation or from medical inquiry, that bodily distortion arises from any of the employments of the district, though a sprain of abdominal muscle, and contraction of the hand, are mentioned in the table (b. 740), as injuries caused by work, the former by filing, the latter by press work.

Effects on nerves, &c

78. Many employments, however, *e.g.*, those in which a deafening noise or sensible vibration is constant, or in which sudden noises and shocks are frequent, and those requiring extraordinary and unintermittent quickness of manipulation seem calculated to act injuriously, as in the opinion of some medical and other competent persons they do, on the nerves, hearing, or health, at least of children and persons of delicate health or nerves, especially if the freshness of their strength and powers of endurance be lessened by want of sufficient food or too long continued labour. It was remarked to me in a steel-pen factory by a clerk formerly engaged in printing, that his own nerves and health had suffered very much from the great quickness with which he tried to pick up the type, &c., and that he was convinced that some of the females at presses, &c. suffered in the same way from trying to work too quickly, and that a learner set to work beside an experienced or quick worker was specially liable to this.

Effects of gloomy work-places.

79. The gloominess of many of the work-places cannot but have a depressing effect upon the health and spirits, though its results are not of course directly traceable. Apart from the direct effect upon the spirits, of which no one can be insensible, the human organization, like that of vegetables, wants light as well, if not as imperatively, as it wants air. I am informed by medical men that they consider an ample supply of natural light essential to health. A medical statement on the point was hoped for but has not been yet received.

Unhealthy appearance.

80. The appearance of many of the boys in all parts, and of the girls in the Stourbridge brickyards generally, is decidedly healthy, showing round merry faces and, at least when not nearly concealed by dirt and grime, a good colour. A large proportion, however, especially of the town population, both of young and adults, are either stunted in growth or pale and sickly looking, attributable, however, probably fully as much, if not more, to defective care and nutriment at home, especially while they were children, and to their unhealthy habits of life at a later age, as to their employment. My general impression is that the appearance of females, engaged for the most part in sedentary employment, is below that of males, with exceptions in special employments and cases. The most delicate and forlorn looking are to be found amongst the little button girls, and chiefly in large factories, and generally speaking the most neglected, whether boys or girls, are found amongst those employed, not by principals, but by some of their workpeople.

Little button girls, &c.

XV.—Moral Condition.

Education.

81. In making the remarks which follow I wish to guard against being thought to imply that I have any reason to believe the mental condition of the young engaged in the manufactures of this district to be lower than that of corresponding classes in London and other large towns in which I have made any inquiries. On the contrary, owing to the ample educational means which are provided, and other circumstances of the place and the nature of employments, the condition of those engaged in some of the upper branches is probably at least equal to that of any other working classes in the country. But as I have been here concerned chiefly with those employments in which the youngest are engaged, as well as with larger numbers and for a longer time than in other places, the condition of these classes has been more strongly impressed upon me, and I feel bound to draw attention to it.

82. Considering then the plentiful means of secular and religious instruction provided in Birmingham where most were examined, including Sunday, day, and evening schools, libraries, &c., and the encouragement afforded by the institution of a Prize Scheme now showing very valuable results within the sphere in which it operates, and considering the educational activity and interest shown not only by the influential persons who have taken the lead in providing these means, but by the zeal with which large numbers avail themselves of them, including a large proportion of adults, some of them even in a comfortable position as small employers, who might be thought little likely to adopt such means unless the desire for mental improvement were very strong and widely spread,—it is at first sight not a little remarkable that the evidence should disclose such a low state of education or rather practical absence of it, as it does amongst very large numbers of those with whom I was immediately concerned.*

Strange ignorance.

83. As many as 32 persons, averaging over 12 years each, and including a young man of 20 and three girls or young women, one of 18 and two of 17, could not tell the Queen's name. Q. "Is it Victoria?" A. "Oh no, I don't know it when I hears it so." "Can't understand them things" (b. 604). Some did not know of her existence; others showed a dark and lately got glimmering by such answers as that she "is the Prince Alexandra," "is the Prince of Wales," "him and her got married" (b. 31, 4, 499), "she belongs to all the world" (b. 375), and so on. Indeed, a question about her when put was scarcely ever answered. These 32 persons were in a variety of work places and occupations; 28 of them in Birmingham, one at West Bromwich, and three girls, the eldest of them 16, near Stourbridge; very few indeed of them were under 11.

84. This, however, is merely part of a wider general ignorance shown by very large numbers. Of the commonest and simplest objects of nature, flowers, birds, fishes, rivers, mountains, sea, or of places such as London, &c., in England, or other countries out of it, or how to get there, many knew little or nothing. London, however, "is a county" (b. 192), but also "is in the Exhibition." Ireland "is a "little town." A violet "is a pretty bird" (b. 699); lilac "is a bird" (b. 464); "believe I would "know a primrose, it's a red rose like" (b. 604); "don't know if a robin redbreast is a bird, or if it flies

* Some of the instances are taken from the evidence on the glass manufacture, which is now reserved for a separate report. Vide B. 7.—J.E.W.

"or sings" (b. 193), or "if an eagle is a bird" (b. 432); "don't know what a river is, or where the fishes "are" (b. 320, 439); "a mountain would be on the water, I should think; don't know where the snow "falls from, or whether it comes from the clouds, or sky, or where" (b. 409); "the sea is made of land, "not of water" (b. 699). People then may well "go in a train to America, all the way" (b. 320). Even the eye is inaccurate from want of training. A picture of a cow being milked is shown; "he's a "lion" (b. 582). A map is incomprehensible to a young man of 20, who thinks that the sun "is in the "north in the middle of the day; no, it sets in the north" (b. 599). Even women sometimes are unable to tell the clock.

85. But of very many indeed the state of mind as regards the simplest facts of religion is dark almost beyond belief. It is not too much to say that to many God, the Bible, the Saviour, a Christian, even a future state, are ideas entirely or all but unknown. God is "a good man," or "the man in heaven;" "I've heerd that (Christ), but don't know *what it* is." Nor do others know "where God lives," or "about "the world being made," or "who made it," or of the Bible, "it is not a book." "Have not heard of "Christ; I had never done my work till so late;" "have heard about Jesus Christ, but it's so long since "that I've forgot;" "don't know if I'm a Christian," or "what it is," or "means," but all people are so. Heaven was heard of only "when father died long ago, mother said that he was going there." Some think that bad and good go there alike, or on the other hand, that "them as is wicked shall be worshipped, "that means shall all go to hell;" or again, that when people die "they be buried, bain't they—their "souls as well as their bodies." "All go in the pithole where them be buried; they never get out or "live again; they have not a soul; I have not one. The soul does not live afterwards; its quite an "end of people when they die." "The devil is a good person; I don't know where he lives." "Christ "was a wicked man" (b. 302, 531, 707, 320, 395, 652, 379, 270, 376, 504, 36, 500, 109, 673, 274, 416, 310, 639, 415, 438, 273).

86. It is obvious in what a large number of cases it was useless to ask any advanced questions, such as whether he or she could write or sum, and it is impossible to give any definite idea as to the proportion that could or could not read, spell, or tell the letters, or had or had not any appreciation of figures and counting. An analysis of 80 girls of from 7 to 16 at one large factory may give some idea (b. 299). Of these 72·5 per cent. admitted that they could not read, 13·75 practically could not, 12·5 could read a little, and the remaining 1·25, *i.e.* one girl, could read effectually. At the same place an analysis of 13 boys was made (b. 270), all lamentably ignorant, but probably they are not a fair specimen. Scattered through the evidence will be found numbers who did not know the letters, though in capitals, some not even great A, or could not read single figures or do the simplest counting, *e.g.* "twice 11;" "7 times 7;" "9 and 17;" "17 from 30." (The latter was asked of a young man of 20, of course less concisely.) A boy of 11 could not tell how many pennies there were in a shilling, or, till after much explanation, how many in sixpence: I counted 80 before a girl of 14 could tell what 3 and 2 made.

87. I may here remark that the amount of ignorance in portions of the manufacturing classes disclosed in your First Report, which appeared during the period of my stay in Birmingham, caused general astonishment, and formed the subject of public comment. It was indeed thought here almost incredible, so much so that opinions have been intimated to me that the fault must have been more in the modes used for testing it than in the persons assumed to show it. This gives me occasion to explain as regards the evidence following, what in any case it would perhaps be desirable to do, that where ignorance of very simple facts has been professed, I have never assumed it till a repetition of the question in various words and shapes, and leading to or almost suggesting the answer, failed to show any further acquaintance with the matter, or reasonable hopes of drawing it out. In such cases the fact may of course still have remained in the mind of the person questioned, though the method failed to bring it out. But as there is a limit to the time which the necessity for passing to other inquiries allows to be spent on individual instances, and as the want of power to take in the meaning of simple words and questions, or to supply the answer if known, is in itself one of the strongest marks of the want of any training of the mind, at least of such a kind as to be of any real use in the common affairs of life, I have thought it better in such cases, at the risk of a possible injustice to the individual, to assume the apparent ignorance to be real. Again, in several cases where a knowledge of the fact asked is shown in the answers, it had been at first denied, and only drawn out in the manner referred to. These will probably balance some cases in which I obtained satisfactory answers to general questions, such as "Can you read?" in passing without staying to record the names and answers. As those whose answers are given in detail were taken in most cases without any selection from appearance, &c., and as a rule are given equally whether they showed knowledge or ignorance, it may be assumed that the answers fairly represent the general mental condition of the mass, excluding, as already remarked, those in some superior branches of employment. The book used for testing the power of reading, &c., was a child's book pictured, with clearly printed hymns and songs consisting of simple words chiefly of one syllable. In this many, who at first said that they could read, quite broke down, some knowing little more than the letters.

Quære. Ignorance fairly tested?

88. It is hoped that such a condition of mind on matters, whether trivial or of the utmost importance alike, as is disclosed, is a sufficient reason for repeating thus a short summary of facts which might fail to draw adequate attention from being scattered over and as it were buried in such a wide mass of evidence. Singly they might be thought exceptional, or not so remarkable, but their importance lies in their number. There may or may not be worse cases, but at any rate an indefinite number of the same kind might be added. A few references are given merely with a view of affording an opportunity of comparing some cases with the context, age, &c., but by no means as an exhaustive list, even as to the kind of answers referred to, which would require too great as well as a useless expenditure of labour and space. Some answers, however, on the above points are, it will be observed, taken from the same persons. The instances are taken hastily, as they happen to come to hand.

89. This unhappy condition of so many seems traceable to a number of causes. Some have never been at any school, or not since infancy, or very irregularly, or only on Sundays, or have given up evening or Sunday schools owing to late work or want of clothes. Some, however, profess to have been at schools, probably very irregularly, for long periods, one or two as much as six or seven years, and to have learned nothing. Or there may have been defective teachers. "It's only a lad of about 14 that "teaches; he used to hit us, and——" &c. (b. 182). Or they are ashamed of being put in a low class because unable to read, and so stay away (b. 411, 514, 95). Some have never been in a place of worship,

How accounted for.

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or had any religious teaching, or only now and then, or when at Sunday schools, and then in places where they could hear nothing. Some have been greatly neglected, both in body and mind, by thoughtless or worthless parents, or have suffered from other unfavourable influences at home. With regard to the ignorance of the common objects of nature or things or places a little removed from their own narrow limit found in many, it is true that their hard working life has given them but little chance of enjoying or seeing such objects and places themselves; but that will, perhaps, be thought the more reason why they should be taught something about them.

The mass of factory workers not reached by present means of education;

90. A further consideration of the evidence shows that, valuable as are the means of education here provided to those whom they do reach, they do not in fact have, and under existing circumstances do not seem likely to have, any reasonable chance of reaching a large mass of the working young to such an extent as to produce any appreciable result. As regards night-schools, only a slight and occasional amount of overtime in the evening, the usual hour of leaving work being 7 or 7½, or in some cases 8, is sufficient to discourage and in some cases to lead to a discontinuance of attendance. In Birmingham several attempts have been made by employers to provide instruction for their own workpeople, but from difficulties of various kinds, especially those of securing competent teachers and keeping up the attendance of scholars, they have, with two or three exceptions, been but very partially successful or entirely fallen through. In one case, however, where a regular schoolmaster is engaged and attendance is enforced, the success is great.

or likely to be.

91. As, however, the establishments employing a sufficient number of young to allow of maintaining for them alone a competent teacher, whom experience seems to show to be essential, are very few,—as anything like compulsion by an employer is found very difficult even on his own premises, and out of the question off them,—as it appears that the influence of parents and teachers, where it is exerted, is insufficient to overcome the natural reluctance of the young after a full day's labour to sacrifice their only time of recreation for a benefit of which they have never been taught the value, and without which many of their parents are able to earn a comfortable competence,—as the temptation to profit by the earnings of children to their prejudice appears as effectual in Birmingham, where, as a rule, they might to a great extent be dispensed with, as in places where they are more essential to the support of a family,—as competition renders it yearly more unlikely that even employers who personally object to the employment of young children will be able to incur the sacrifice of giving up a cheap labour employed by others,—and as in some cases, amongst the domestic nailers especially, the parents themselves are the employers,—it appears on the whole unlikely that any considerable part of the manufacturing young in this district will ever, under existing arrangements, be brought practically within the reach of the means of education, which lie at their doors, by the voluntary efforts of employers, teachers, or parents, however much convinced of its importance or desirous of it.

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Social effects of the employments.

92. Some of the bad social effects attributed more or less directly to the system of employment in this district seem chargeable on it only in common with all employments in which females and children are largely engaged; such as, *e.g.*, the ignorance in females of necessary household duties, and disinclination and want of time for attending to them, resulting from early and constant employment, and said to lead indirectly to a loosening of family ties; the early independence of children from parental control; and the encouragement to idleness or mere self indulgence, such as drinking, afforded to parents by their children's earnings. The want of regularity in coming to work, encouraged by the possibility and practice of making up for this by working longer hours, is less unavoidable.

Mixture of ages and sexes in workshops, and want of control.

93. Another objection, which forcibly strikes the eye in Birmingham workshops of some kinds, seems more peculiar to the place, as well as in many cases easily remediable by arrangement, and indeed is fully realized and guarded against by many employers. This is the miscellaneous way in which all ages and both sexes are often thrown together, and, as far as appears, often without the intervention of an authorized person specially responsible to the principal for propriety of behaviour and language. There are indeed, generally, persons who exercise a certain control over a larger or smaller number whom they employ themselves, or to whom they stand in a superior position in some other way; but of these there may be several in the same shop, and much of their control relates to the execution of the work. The character of the education of the workshop, often said to be as important as that of the school, must depend greatly on the degree in which this point is attended to, and the moral results of want of attention to it are, as I am informed, decidedly bad.

XVI.—General Remarks.

Legislative interference,

distasteful to to employers; but free from special obstacles.

94. With regard to the question of any legislative interference with the labour of the young, though some employers feel no objection or think that it would be beneficial, I gather the general feeling of leading employers to be that, though possibly justified or desirable in some other manufactures, it is uncalled for and would be distasteful in the "hardware" districts. The general nature, however, of the manufactures, and their comparatively little dependence upon season or fashion, or other disturbing causes, and the possibility of working to stock, without serious risk,—coupled with the facts that the amount of time left available for labour by any legislation which did not exceed the restrictions of the Factory Acts, would give a margin over the amount on the average actually employed here, and that there is no suggestion or ground for fear, in Birmingham at least, of any difficulty in obtaining any increased number of children that might be required,—leave but little room for new or special arguments arising out of a supposed effect on the interest of the employers, not common to them with other employers whose case has been brought forward and considered on other occasions. I have, therefore, devoted my attention chiefly to ascertaining the facts of the different employments, without taking particular statements of those views which, as far as gathered in conversations, seemed likely to present no new feature.

95. But, as a striking exception to these remarks, it is right to draw particular attention to the strongly expressed opinions of a gentleman (b. 339) largely engaged in a manufacture, viz., that of buttons, which employs the largest proportion of young girls and many boys, and who is not only distinguished for the practical interest which he takes in the educational and general welfare of the working classes, but is probably as well acquainted with the general character of the manufactures of Birmingham as any member of that community. His conviction, however, that the application of any regula-

tions like those of the Factory Acts would result in an injurious exclusion of children from his own and the larger factories, or would be impracticable, is directly opposed to that of several others, including some of the principal employers in his trade or others of a like character (b. 272, 309, 319, 342, 349, 361, 426, 451, 411, 197). He does not, however, in the case of his own manufacture, show, nor, as far as I could learn or observe, in the case of others of the kinds referred to does there appear to be, anything in the details of the children's work which would cause difficulties of a special kind (Cf. b. 347).

96. It is also undoubted that in the military branch of the gun making trade the demand is of necessity extremely uncertain and variable, depending as it does on causes beyond the reach of foresight or management, viz., the occurrence of wars in different parts of the world. At such exceptional times, however, the prices which can be commanded are probably also exceptional, and at any rate are such as to enable this trade to draw largely upon other kinds of occupation for the additional labour needed, which the nature of much of the work easily admits of doing, at any rate so far as relates to the processes and purposes for which the greater number of boys are required (*e.g.*, b. 491; as to the rise of wages, b. 22, par. 4).

Two objections urged.

97. One objection to any legislation is very commonly made in Birmingham, in fact is the prominent one, and seems to be considered conclusive, viz., the impossibility of working any law of the factory kind, in consequence of the number of separate or detached shops in which work is done as well in large factories as in all parts of the town, and of the fact that in the larger so many persons are not in the direct employment of the principal, but engaged by and under the control of a subordinate,—arguments both dealt with in your First Report. Real "house" work seems small and growing less.

Difficulty of defining "factories."

98. It would be very difficult in Birmingham to draw a line anywhere distinguishing a "factory" from a "shop." With reference to the processes, it seems impossible. Few are carried on in large places which are not in smaller; and in one place hundreds work together without steam, in another one child or young person or two work with it. With reference to numbers employed it would, without some special provision to meet the case, be illusory, as there are so many places of a size so near any number whatever that could be fixed, that factories would slide into shops or shops into factories from day to day as trade varied, or it suited to avoid the control.

Night-work of the young, how far necessary.

99. It is plain that from these remarks as to the absence of any serious difficulty in applying any legislation which would prohibit night-work of the young, there must be excepted, besides the glass works as will be pointed out, ironworks, in which night-work is part of the established system of the trade. It may probably be assumed that where, notwithstanding certain obvious disadvantages, the system of night-work is all but universally adopted, it rests upon a substantial ground, especially as that ground appears pretty obvious to reason, and that anything which would seriously interfere with the system would cause serious inconvenience. It appears, however, that it would be possible to effect considerable modifications in regard to the age of the young liable to be so employed, without any inconvenience at all proportioned to the probable benefit to be obtained.

General comfort.

100. On the whole the condition of the working classes in this district, except in cases in which their own conduct is in fault, is one of considerable independence and comfort, more so probably, as generally represented, than in many other manufacturing districts; more so certainly than that of the persons engaged in the other occupations and districts with which I have become acquainted. The great demand, however, for children as workers seems in some cases rather to invert the natural order of labour as between them and their parents (b. 197). The remarks in the evidence as to the absence of any general distress falling on the whole Birmingham community or even a whole family at once are borne out by all that I have been able to gather from a variety of other sources.

Improvements needed. But in many cases improbable.

At the same time it is clear that the employments of the district present several conditions unfavourable to the bodies as well as to the minds of the young, yet most of them happily of a kind which might be removed or considerably modified without changes involving much difficulty or expense, or any serious interference with the welfare of the trades or the convenience and interests of the employers. But a large number of the employers are not in a position to carry out these improvements of themselves, or even fairly to realize their importance. Very many of them seem in entire ignorance of the methods for securing the benefits of education and other advantages combined with the regular prosecution of industrial employment adopted under the factory system, and some have expressed surprise and approval when those methods have been explained. The general opinion of most seems to be that it is to be regretted that children should be employed as they are, though as matters are it cannot be avoided. The only alternative which seems to occur to them is that of a total prohibition of children's labour up to a certain age, attended with the disadvantages of loss to the needy and the probability of the children passing the time so acquired in a less beneficial way.

Opposition, how far probable.

101. Seeing the small amount of substantial inconvenience which would probably be incurred here by any reasonable regulation of the labour of the young, should any be thought advisable, though opposition would in all probability be made, partly from supposed interest and partly, especially in the case of some of the leading employers, on principles of independence, there seems no reason to think but that it would be on the whole not unwillingly acquiesced in if fairly understood, and in time probably approved of, at least by the very large proportion who have a desire for the well-being of the young, evidently sincere, even where practically inoperative from want of attention to the point and the force of long established habits.

Conclusion.

102. I cannot, however, help observing in conclusion that I have found not only very defective workplaces, but in some cases severe overwork, in others very young children in a wretchedly squalid and forlorn condition in the factories of large employers of liberal minds and most kindly feelings, shown not only in their expression of their views, but in their kindness of manner and evident regret that the mental and bodily condition of many of the young, perhaps only indirectly, in their charge should be so far as it is from being cultivated, bright, and happy.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen,
Your most obedient Servant,

31st August 1863. J. EDWARD WHITE.

EVIDENCE collected by Mr. J. E. WHITE upon the METAL MANUFACTURES of the BIRMINGHAM District.

MESSRS. TIMOTHY SMITH AND SONS', BRASS FOUNDERS, LAMP AND GAS FITTING MANUFACTURERS, NEW BARTHOLOMEW STREET.

1. In these works, though as many as 100 children and young persons are employed, in addition to a far greater number of adults, they are scattered through a very large number of small shops. As is the case in brass foundries generally, the greater part of them are boys, who are employed as helpers by adults in filing, turning, and miscellaneous work, and over whom only a general control is reserved by the principals. Some of the workshops are open to the roof, and have ventilation; but others are low, and appear to have none beyond that of windows and doors. None, however, are crowded.

2. There are several brass-casting shops, most of them employing two, three, or four boys each. These are all open to the roof, but differ in the amount of ventilation. Some have several large traps in the roof, in addition to other openings in the walls. The beneficial effect of these is very apparent, the air remaining comparatively fresh even during the process of pouring. But even this does not remove the whole of the bad effects of the work, of which evidence of the usual kind was given.

3. I observed a boy dipping small articles in *aqua fortis*, that was very careful to hold the metal at a distance from him, so as to avoid the drops which fell from it as he took it out, and afterwards as he held it under a tap. Dipping, however, is supposed here, as elsewhere, to be confined to men, and rightly so. (B. 65, 74., b. 49, 207, &c.)

4. *Frederick Clarke*, age 11.—Am edging. Came here from some bronze works near. My regular work there was bronzing by putting on black lead; but when master wanted me I fetched what he wanted, and helped him dip chandeliers; he dipped them in "phizz," and afterwards run them through with "acky." (Explained to be solutions of *aqua fortis* with different degrees of strength—J. E. W.) Used to phizz a bit myself; put 'em (metals) in the phizz, and pulled the "jowl" (bowl) about, and let the phizz run over them, and then dipped them in acky. It wore all my clothes away, it did; made them all in holes; it was the acky and black bronze and phizz and pickle; my shirts and jackets were all in holes, and one pair of trowsers so bad that I had to get a new pair, and all these holes came all up them—look! by when I had had them a month and a fortnight. Mother would not let me go no more because of my clothes and the black. Could not get a bit of dirt off my hands; it came from the black lead, and my hair was as black as black lead itself. There was no washing place at the works. There was a tap, but we did not stop to wash ourselves because we should get locked in; and when I did wash me I could not get it off. You could get soft soap if you went up to the warehouse, and I got water at the tap, and rubbed my hands with sand-paper first, but could not get it off then. Used to wash me at home every Sunday morning for an hour or more, and it would not come off. Went to this place at 10 years old, and got 3*s.* a week; get 3*s.* 6*d.* here.

Till then was at school for 5 years. When at work at first used to go to school four nights a week, but left because I could not get on so well; that was because I could not get home from work, having to get it done before I came away from it, which was 7½ or 8, or sometimes 9 at night, and I could seldom get to school more than one night out of the four. Father paid 1*d.* a week for it. Can read (well), write on a slate, and do short division and multiplication. Have not heard of America or Scotland. The Queen is the Prince of Wales. (At first says that he should not know her name if it were told to him, but on its being given does know it—J. E. W.)

[A quiet, well mannered, and neat looking boy, and observant. On a question which had been put to him early being accidentally repeated, says, "You put it down, Sir."]

5. *Henry Peel*, brass-caster.—Have been at it 20 years, having come to work here under my father, when just over 7. My first work was making cores and boring cores out, which is what boys usually begin on.

The work gives you a cough of course when you get old, *i.e.*, about 40. There are very few at work at it in Birmingham over 50 years old, but I know two. There are some over 40. "Oh yes! I hope to live "over 40." They do not leave this employment and go into others. I reckon that when they leave this they're not fit for any other much. Would not work at it myself if I could do anything else. When we have been at play and return to work we are all of a tremble like you see me (*showing*). Am not affected so myself, unless at play for 4 or 5 days; not on Mondays. Have shook my bed with it. When I pour, put a handkerchief over my mouth, which is useful, but many do not. It is the sulphur and the dust that does the harm. Casters like a lofty shop like this. We walk out generally while the shop is clearing. Have two boys under me in this half of the shop, and there are two boys in the other half. There are eight casting shops, all for brass, and five of them double.

[A hardy looking man. The roof of this shop, though high, was covered with a fungus-like deposit. It was said that this quantity would accumulate in a fortnight.]

6. *William Sims*, brass-caster in a second shop.—Have two boys under me, one 13, the other 15. Have been at casting 36 years, and began at 9. Two others in these works have been at it as long as I have. In a general way, after 50 a caster is not good for much, *i.e.*, not for work. Their loss of health is generally from being dropsical and asthmatical. All that have died from these works have died of those diseases.

7. *Daniel Garvey*, brass-caster in a third shop.—In this shop there are no boys. That young man does the boys' work here, but there is not so much of it as in other shops, as this work does not want any cores making. Making cores would take men as long a time as lads.

Am in strong health. Never was bad more than 3 weeks since being a caster, which has been 9 years. The sulphur affects them in the stomach (bottom of chest), and also like having the ague. Of course from the dust getting into the stomach a man feels a bit short of breath in the morning. Do myself. Take pills. This shop is a "pretty good room for "smothering" (*i.e.* for letting off the vapour).

8. *Isaiah Hampson*, brass-caster in a fourth shop.—In my half of the shop I mix the metal for the others, and pour into the "sows" or ingot moulds. That youth, aged 19, has helped me 3 years, sweeping the furnace, and emptying the ingots when set, &c. The boys I had before came at 12 years old. Consider that I have very good health. Cannot eat well. Am very bad at that. The last illness that I had was inflammation of the lungs. The work takes more effect on us if we are out of the shop for a day or two, *i.e.*, on Monday sometimes. We are short of breath and shivering. It seems to be a sort of tightness and "staking up" of the chest. Doctor myself in the general way.

9. *George Rose*, aged 14.—In a casting shop

3½ years. "Pun" (pound) about 20 times a day, five minutes or so each, get the moulds down, &c. Am now poking the metal in the (sunk) furnace to cool it. Have a sore throat now, and a cough "when it comes;" not often.

Left day-school at 10 years old; go on Sunday, and two nights a week. Can read (unevenly), and write copies, but have done no sums lately.

10. *William Brooks*, age 14.—Make cores, and get the moulds down. Am now blowing the scum, &c., from the top of the casting pot, to clear the metal. There are two other boys in this shop. Have been in it myself 6 years, and get 8*s.* 6*d.* a week. Went to a spoon factory at 7 years old, and used to lay the spoons under the stamp.

11. *Joseph Bowell*, age 12.—"Pun" dust and sand; pick out sand from pieces of metal; take moulds down, &c. The dust does not get in my face when I pun. My face is so black from the dust made when the men shake the dust out over the moulds. Sometimes I blow it off. The one other boy does the same work as myself in this shop. There is no place where I could wash here. Do not wash before dinner though at home. Breakfast sometimes before I come, sometimes in this shop; but dinner at home, except on Saturday, when I have it brought to me. We leave at 6 on Saturday. Some of the boys stay to their dinner on other days. Am well.

Was at day-school for 6 years, till I went to work at a brick kiln, from which I came here 1½ years ago. Go on Sunday, but never went to a night-school. Can read (slowly); cannot write very well; did some sums, but forget them.

12. *A. B.*, age 17.—Turn brass at a lathe, and file. The dust flies into my face. Have a cough at night. Have been only nine months at this work. Have been at many kinds of work before. When I was a little one, about 8 years old, mother died, and I did not go to school any more then. Father was alive, but he aint very well looked after. He is so drunk; (corrects himself)—drinks. After being in the streets about six weeks I went to a large tinwork factory, where I got 3*s.* 6*d.* a week, but never had none of it; father had it. Have been at brass-casting also, and at a gun place, where I got 7*s.* a week at smoothing bands. Here work under a man who gives me 5*s.* a week. But father always spent the money, and did not buy me any clothes; so now I do not live with father any more, but give it to a woman in a part of the same house, who finds me in living. Eat and drink in the house just the same, but my father don't get the money. Used to have food pretty well before; meat about once a week.

Go to Sunday school, and have begun 3 months to go to an evening school 3 nights a week. It is free: King Edward's School. (Answer to "Are you a "good scholar?") "I know all my letters." (Spells "o-n-e," and sounds it as "own;" "c-o-a-t," as "cat,"—"rat.")

[This youth, whose name is purposely omitted, spoke of most of his employments as lasting for a few months only, and seemed quite unable to see that they did not fill up the number of years spoken of.]

13. *Edward Merritt*, age 10.—File and edge. My hours here are from 8 till 7. Till here, 8 months ago, was at school every day for 6 years, and go to Sunday and a night school now. Can read a bit. (Cannot spell short words, *e. g.*, "have.")

14. *Charles Greatorex*, age 13.—File; also I wire rings to be dipped and cleaned in "acky." Take them down and dip them in the "phiz," and then wash them in water at a tap. Do not burn my clothes at it. Have taken a piece off my finger (which is wrapped in rag) by taking up melted lead out of the die: thought it was cold.

15. *Samuel Jones.*—Work in the stamping shop. We generally have a boy to help, but have none now. A boy of 10 does as well as one of 12., as he merely cobs up light work for us and puts it when stamped in trays for annealing. The boy does not stay after 7 once in a year, as the men are tired themselves by then. A heavier stamp, with the lead, weighs 200 lbs. and takes two men to lift it, the lightest 60 lbs.

16. *Robert Philips*, aged 15.—File. Went to work at 10 years old; was at school before. Can read or write anything, and do rule-of-three and all up to it. Never at a night-school; have left off going on Sunday. (*A rule-of-three sum is shown*). Do not know it with the dots between the figures so. Forget it, but could soon pick it up again. Did geography and a little grammar at my day-school. Paid 3*d.* a week. Have no father or mother alive, but was brought up by a brother and aunt.

[Very intelligent. Two boys of 9 spelled monosyllables, but pronounced them wrongly. One of 17 could read but not sum, and hardly write at all.]

17. *Betsey Eastwood*, age 16.—Lacquer, and have done so for four years. Have good health, but sometimes have headaches, but am seldom away from work for them. Was at school before here, go on Sunday now and two nights a week. At the day-school did geography.

[Very pale.]

18. *Maria Ludley*, age 18.—Have lacquered for 5 years. This shop (well ventilated) suits me better than the shop I was in before.

MR. J. COPE'S, BRASS-CASTER, WATER STREET.

19. This place consists of two small casting shops. One, about 20 by 7½ feet, though open to the tiles, and though no pouring was going on, smelled strongly and was very hot, apparently from the heat of the sand lately emptied from the moulds and reeking in a bin on one side, at which a boy of 8 was engaged. The roof, thickly crusted with the sediment of the fumes, had not been scaled or cleaned for at least the 12 years for which alone the son of the owner could speak. The other has a flat ceiling, with a hole at the end opposite to the end at which the metal is poured. Towards this hole, however, though not in other parts, the ceiling was crusted in like manner, the fumes being drawn thither by the draught. "This," said the son, "is much more airy than a many. It's quite time that some should "be put away with. Both these shops are healthy."

20. *Daniel Thompson*, age 8.—Have been three months in this, the smaller, shop, and at another place before. Get sand and empty moulds. Have no regular times of work. Came this morning at 6; don't know when I shall go to-night; it will be when father goes. (*After questions on other points, says,*) Have got to stay till 10 to-night. Have stayed till 10 and to a quarter after a good many times when coming at 8. Have fallen asleep, and sometimes it has been 11 before we have got home; live not a quarter of an hour off. Was tired and sleepy last week, when I stayed till 10 three nights, coming one of the mornings at 7, the other two at 6. Don't work on Monday, nor does father, at least it's a long time ago since. But Mondays you don't work. Have a quarter of an hour for breakfast; that's the longest; sometimes 10 minutes. An hour for dinner; sometimes half an hour. Have them in the shop here. Don't wash me at dinner time, but do before I come and when I get home. Father reckons to give me 2*s.* a week, and I give mother 1*s.* or 6*d.* to put in the club. Feel badly sometimes. The metal catched me in the chest, and I have been away a day. When I first came I felt short of breath, and it hurt me in my chest (*points*) and made me sick—awful. Was sick last a fortnight ago. Have headache sometimes. Don't feel

Birmingham District.

Brass foundry, &c.

Mr. J.E.White.

b.

strong. Coughed last night awful, and often cough here. When they'm a pouring there comes a good lot of smoke out. Father has got bad sometimes, too, at the other place, but I did not; it was a bigger shop. Wear the leathern apron because if the metal was to come out of the moulds it would burn you.

Was at a day-school 12 months. Know the names of some of the letters; "G" is "E"

[The father says that his boy is not always at work.]

21. *Edward Cope*, son of Mr. J. Cope.—There are four boys of between about 14 and 18. Two are away poorly; one with something in his throat, diphtheria, or in his bowels; and the other I think more idling. Sometimes the men will stop away Monday. The boy (Thompson's) father will very often play a day or two. Am not very healthy myself. Am generally touched with this spitting of phlegm and nasty hacking and oppression, but only on the stomach. The trade does cause a little of that.

MR. WATSON'S, BRASS FOUNDER, EDMUND STREET.

22. *Mr. Watson.*—I employ 10 men and 2 youths of about 16 or 17. Their hours are from 8 till 7, but sometimes the hands may come at 7 a.m. and stay till 9 p.m.

Tap-making, which is carried on here, is apt to be a very unhealthy employment, especially in commoner kinds, where much lead is used with the copper to make the metal soft and sharp. People who are not careful lose the use of their hands from the lead.

Casting is very unhealthy. The fumes reach beyond the shop itself. I have several times had the ague from their coming through the floor of my room, a small part of which is over the casting shop, and I was obliged to have the casting shop counterceiled to keep the fumes out. Casting shops should be, if possible, in detached buildings, and high, with a good draught, with a roof something like that of a malt-house, so as to open a couple of feet all along the top. More alteration is wanted in the casting shops in Birmingham than in anything.

I am acquainted with the Factory Acts, and have seen their working in a factory district. It is impossible to bring the Acts to Birmingham, because there are so many trades here; but it would be a good thing if they could be applied here so far as to keep children out of factories. They are so penned up in factories during the day that they do not care to go to evening schools, but go into streets. When I was a lad I worked here from 4 in the morning till 9 or 10 at night, not for weeks only, but for years. Many persons here raise children merely for the sake of sending them to work. It is particularly desirable that females should be kept out of factories, up to a certain age at any rate. The destitute state of children here can nearly always be traced to the fact of females being so much employed. Nine girls out of ten prefer working in factories to service, because they get more money for dress, and are more independent; but they will not help their parents in home work, or only here and there one. The consequence is that they are undomesticated, and when they grow up they would sooner pay a woman nearly all their wages—sometimes they pay even more than they get—to mind their children for them; and as for washing, they cannot do it. This evil is becoming still worse. The women, too, being away at work, the men have no homes to go to, and go to the public-house. The wife often goes to her husband there. One workman here makes 2*l.* a week, and his wife 12*s.*, and yet he is always 10*l.* or 15*l.* behind; another makes only 1*l.* a week, and his wife nothing, yet he is always 1*l.* in pocket. The former goes to a beer-house, and his wife goes and takes her pint with him; the wife of the latter does not go out to work, but rears her family at home. Cases like this are very common. Some men, when guns were busy lately, got as much even as 6*l.* a week, and yet are none beforehand now. Even juveniles of 15 and 16 club together to drink at public-houses, and if a house does not allow of this, as not being respectable, they get a jug and take out their drink.

In Birmingham there is so much competition of masters one against another, that many are obliged to do things as employers that they would otherwise be ashamed of; and yet no more money is made, but only the public gets the benefit.

Labour is not properly arranged in Birmingham. A master places a shop of 20 or 30 workpeople under some workman or foreman who will undertake to supply a given amount of work for a certain sum, which will allow of his selling them at somewhat below the usual rate. For this purpose labour must be procured at somewhat below the usual price. The wages of day workers must sink to the same level with those of the piece workers, and thus the prices are constantly sinking. This system has been going on for 25 years, and is still growing.

For a manufacturing town, Birmingham is the idlest town in the country. As a rule, but little work is done on Monday. It is quite a Saint day. Many of those who do come to work on it do not come in the morning till 10, and leave by 5 in the afternoon. A great number used to work in garrets, but comparatively few do so now. Most who do are at gun work, but they must be men or women, or nearly so, on account of the strength required. Barrel smoothing is a slavish work, and done much by Irish women, some of them using a file 4lbs. or 5lbs. in weight. The most injurious part of the work is the polishing, which is done in mills, and which must affect the chest. There are also shops, large or small, in almost every yard, and work in many of them. The introduction of machinery into so many branches of labour will cause great changes, not only in the article, but in the mode of work. It will produce much better articles, and also do away with much of the need of female labour. In some kinds of work, when new, girls made as much as 1*l.* and 25*s.* a week; and I have known them go to 5*s.* balls in silk; but they make less now.

Though it would be so difficult, owing to the variety of trades, to apply anything like a Factory Act here, if it were applied things would find their level in eight or 10 years. I believe that if an Act could be got making education compulsory up to a certain age, it would be approved of by the majority of the working classes.

23. *Cornelius Jeffrey*, brass-caster.—Have been at casting 20 years, *i.e.*, since 12 years old and have not suffered much from it. You need not suffer much if you take care, *i.e.*, if you do not get drunk much; that is the chief thing. The cleaner also a person is the better, especially in washing before meals; but not one in a hundred does this, though I always do. Few men, however, work as casters over the age of 50. I know one of near 70, but that is very exceptional. Find the effects of the work most if I am away a bit. When I am bad it is with pleurisy and trembling, and feeling sore about the body. Was away six weeks lately for pleurisy, brought on by a cold, I think. At the end of the six weeks, when I came to spit and hawk up, it was as black as a coal. This shows how the smoke, &c. must lie on one's stomach. My hands have not been injured by the work here. The metal is good. The common tap metal, which has a deal of lead in it, is the worst, and the dressers, *i.e.*, those who file, are apt to suffer most.

24. *Frederick Reeves*, age 15.—File taps. Left day-school at 8 years old, and never had any teaching since, only my own reading along the streets, *i.e.*, of bills, notices, &c. On Sundays go to garden with father, to dig, &c.,—never to school. Give mother 6*s.* a week, and keep the rest of my wages.

25. *Jesse Chapman*, age 16.—Can read a little. (Can hardly read monosyllables). Never go to school at night or on Sunday, because I have no clothes. Get 6*s.* or 7*s.* or 8*s.* a week, and give mother 5*s.*

Birmingham District.

Brass foundry, &c.

Mr. J.E.White.

b.

MESSRS. T. PEMBERTON AND SONS', BRASS FOUNDERS, LIVERY STREET.

26. The requirement of part of the site of the old factory by the Great Western Railway, which here cuts through what was a poor and closely peopled part of the town, has given the opportunity of providing new and convenient buildings, with appliances for ventilation, and separate closets for men and boys, quite apart from the females. It is a very large factory, employing great numbers of boys.

27. *Mr. Pemberton.*—We have no direct control over the boys, as they are employed by men, two or three under each; but we do not let them be taken without characters; still I have no knowledge as to their education. I should approve strongly of requiring preliminary education as a condition of employment. We have found such inconvenience from men not being able to read, and being unfit for their places, that we have made it a rule not to take any men who cannot read. We also make it a rule with girls not to take them unless they can read and write; they are all intelligent and respectable. They are employed from 13 or 14 upwards in lacquering, and in wrapping up and warehouse work. Their hours in the lacquering room are from 9 till 7, with two hours for meals. They occasionally stay a little longer, but like to do so. The lacquering room has several stoves, but is high, and ventilated as far as possible; and I believe that none of them suffer, except in hot weather, or in case of delicacy of chest. Good ventilation is necessary in that department.

The manufactory was old and cramped, but was rebuilt when the railway came through part of it, and every attention has been paid to the comfort and decency of the workpeople of both sexes.

28. *Frederick Joseberry*, age 15.—In a casting shop. My regular time is from 7 in the morning till 8 at night, and on Saturday from 6 till 5. Dinner is from 1¼ to 2; go home to it; breakfast at 9. Work under father here.

Was never at the day-school. Don't go on Sunday. Have that day to rest myself.

29. *Robert Bracknell*, age 10.—At brass casting near here before. Worked from 7 till 7, and had the same meal-times as here, viz., 1 hour dinner and 20 minutes tea. Was poorly there three times with a diseased side. Ached many times when I got home. It was the dust on the stomach; know it was because I felt it; the doctor gave me medicine. Know the letters, not more; was never at the day-school.

[Pale.]

30. *Henry Froggatt*, age 11.—Left school, when going in 9, to go to watch-key and seal making, and afterwards to two jewellers, where there were only three or four boys. Cut points off, and cut with sand, water, and iron. Have got a pretty tidy voice, and am a singer at school.

Was at day-school a year and eight months, but forget all about it since I have been away; but can tell the letters and spell some little words. (Repeats a verse of a hymn.)

31. *William Homer*, age 12.—Can write a bit and read. (Reads "for" as "of.") Was at day-school from 4 years old till 9, when I came here. Have heard a preacher for six years; he told us about the gospel. The Queen is the Prince of Wales; is the Prince Alexandra.

[Looks quick.]

32. *Albert Washbourne*, age 14.—Can read. (Reads "trout," &c.) "Trout" means "walking. Isn't it?" Know that our Saviour was crucified.

33. *Henry Taylor*, age 15.—Went to buttons when 8. Was never at school. Dare say I could tell all my letters.

34. *George Wilkes*, age 12.—Work here from 8 till 7, sometimes till 8, never later. Was at lamps and chandeliers before: went at 7; left at all times, not later than 7. Can spell a bit (can).

35. *John Edwards*, age 12.—File. Can read the Bible and easy English books, write a bit, and do subtraction. Was at day-school from 6 years old till 9.

36. *Walter Jenkins*, age 13.—Don't know any letters; not B. Was never at day-school; go Sunday sometimes, and to chapel about once a fortnight. Hear them pray to you; not to me, but to somebody else; don't know who it is to; it's a man. Can't tell anything about Jesus Christ, or about the world being made: think God made it.

37. *Thomas Boyle*, age 9.—Never at day or Sunday school. Don't know "B." "A" is "W."

38. *Griffith Bennett Williams*, age 14.—File. At day-school 3 years. Don't know the letters.

[Two other boys of 11 could scarcely read; another of 11 could not spell; one of 9 had been at day-school only two months, and did not know the letters; one of 9 and one of 8 had never been at day-school, and did not know the letters.]

39. *Henry Day.*—A foreman of a dressing (filing) shop, in which there are about 18 men and 22 boys. The work is principally filing, and the boys come at about 12 years old, or a little younger. About seven of these men are employers, who engage to pay all the rest. This is the plan throughout the works. From 8 to 7 are the regular hours, with an hour or an hour and a quarter for dinner, and 20 minutes for tea. The full time is always taken, and the boys are obliged to go home for dinner. It is quite a favour to be allowed to stop. If they work longer it is overwork, and paid for accordingly. Make overtime twice a year for about two months, viz., a month or so before Christmas, and before Midsummer, though not regularly, coming earlier or staying later. Boys never stay till 9. If very busy, the men finish without the boys. The manufactory is generally closed by 8. The men may occasionally come a little earlier in the morning, but it is very rarely. It would astonish the hands if they had to come. The boys' wages average about 2*s.* 6*d.* or 2*s.* a week. They work better when they are coming regularly. Should say that they can most of them read. (But *vide* answers. J. E. W.)

MR. GEORGE WELLS', BRASS CANDLESTICK MANUFACTURER, LICHFIELD STREET.

40. Space is very confined, but the shops have height, and the casting shop has a large opening in the roof. A boy was taking some things out of "pickle" in the yard.

41. *Mr. George Wells.*—My work is casting and making brass candlesticks, snuffers, trays, &c. The girls are employed chiefly at presses, and the boys at filing and polishing. The children and young people are not in my employment, but are engaged by the men; but I see that they have a character, and enforce good order.

The factory is healthy. It has been built about 7 or 8 years, and I have taken every precaution as far as space will admit, having the rooms 9 or 10 feet high. In the old building they used to have to go down below the level at the stamps. The casting shop is kept cooler by only allowing one furnace to be heated and used at a time; casting is very unhealthy, and is the hardest and worst work here. All the shafting of the machinery is now covered. It was obliged to be done for safety. No females work at the lathes; but about 4 years ago a girl of 17 was reaching over for something, and was caught in the machinery. She was taken to the hospital, and kept from work three months. It was the fault of the men for not reaching over instead.

42. *Isaac Skivington*, brass caster.—Have worked at it since I was 13, and in several different places. Think I have better health in this shop than in the others. They were ventilated, but not so well;

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Brass foundry, &c.

Mr. J. E. White.

b.

in some the smoke would not clear off after pouring for five or 10 minutes. But even here if I am away a day or two I get a shivering, and am forced to go to bed. If you lie under a couple of beds even you are all of a shake. If it does catch you, you can hardly draw your breath. Milk is good for you; and I should think that if a man is a hard drinker it shortens his days. Know one caster who drank very hard and enjoyed very bad health, being generally away from work three or four months in the year. He left work when about 50. As a rule about 40 is the outside age a man works as a brass caster, though I do know one of 50; and if a man is steady it makes a difference, and he can stand it a little longer than another. Am 25 myself. Casting is the worst job in Birmingham.

43. *Richard March*, age 18.—Help the caster. Have been in this and another brass-casting place since 9 years old. Come between 6 and 7 in the morning, and leave between 7 and 8 at night. Have to come earlier to get the pots ready, &c. Dinner is according as the pot is for melting; sometimes stop an hour, sometimes half an hour. Live close by, and go home to dinner. The caster very seldom comes to work on Monday; not four times a year perhaps.

Don't often have that cough; have no pain any where; can eat well. When I have been away from work two or three days I generally have milk for breakfast; it keeps the sulphur off your stomach. Have heard the casters say so.

Can't write, and cannot read very well. (Spells words of two letters). Used to go to Sunday school. Couldn't get done work at night soon enough to go to school.

[Pale, coughs, and is hoarse.]

44. *John Handley*, age 13.—Polish brass at a lathe turned by steam. Have done it 2 years. Use a brush, and put on oil and lime. We wash us hands of a Saturday night. Get 3*s.* 6*d.* a week. Have been at nail-cutting, steel buttons, and gun finishing before.

We used to grind the steel buttons on a lap turned by steam, with emery and oil. It made our hands very greasy.

45. *John Merrin*, age 13.—Work for the men: file, and go errands. Went to work when going 8. Was at day-school till then, and have been at Sunday school five years. Can't write or read. Did go to night-school, but afterwards they had no money to send me: it was 2*d.* or 3*d.* a week.

46. *Elizabeth Perry*, age 16.—Pierce with a press. Was at service before. Don't know any letter but "O." "E" is "A."

MESSRS. R. HEATON & SONS, COINERS, TUBE DRAWERS, BRASS FOUNDERS, &c. THE MINT, ICKNIELD STREET.

47. This is a large manufactory, and having the advantage of being at the edge of the town and new, is light and airy. Increase of space and air in the casting shops has been found to give them a great advantage over those in the old works. Great quantities of copper coin of all kinds are made by powerful and very noisy machines worked by steam, and attended in some cases by young persons. The other work appears of the kind usual in brass-work factories already described.

48. *The Messrs. Heaton.*—We have two branches of manufacture, viz., copper coining and brass foundry. In the latter there is very little irregularity of labour, as we work to stock. In the former there are sometimes presses of business which require longer hours, and at times a double set of hands to work night and day. A few of these are young persons, girls as well as boys, but not children. We find that there is an unwillingness to work at night, and pay for a night as much as for a day and a quarter as an inducement. They seem not to work so fresh by night as by day. We do not find it pay to work persons more than their regular hours. If the over-work lasts only for a short time 20 per cent. increase of hours' labour gives about 10 per cent. increase of result in production. If over-work is continued for any length of time it gives no increase of result at all. We consider that 10 hours work in a day is enough for any people, adults as well as young, and if we are busy, find it answer better to put on more hands than to work longer hours. We are able to take on more hands, our works, which are lately built, being large and roomy. They are far less confined than our old works in the town, but we have not noticed any appreciable difference in the health of the work-people, or their freshness at work, except in the casting shops. Two of these are 18 feet and one 14 feet high to the spring of the roof and they have the space of the roof and ventilators in addition. In these the men can work their full six days, but in our old casting shops we reckoned four days in the week as much as the men could stand. On one occasion here when we were obliged to use a lower shop for casting we found that the men could not work so well.

We have had no serious accidents amongst children or young persons. Fingers have been lost at stamps &c., through carelessness, but by men only. (*But see next witness.* J. E. W.)

In all departments of the work the larger part of the young, viz., from two thirds to three fourths, are employed by adults who work under us.

49. *George Hardcastle*, age 15. (Now at Cornforth's, Electro-plater, Northampton Street.)—Went when 10, to chandelier work in the "Mint," and worked with the press, the file, and the stamp. The proper hours were from 8 till 7, but when we worked overtime it was usually from 6 a.m. till 9 p.m. Overtime was mostly in the winter, and might have been for about five months in a year. It may have been not more than three months in one of my two years there. Sometimes however we made only an hour or an hour and a half over. Have worked from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. for the first four nights of a week for a fortnight, then might perhaps miss a month, and then work over again in the same way. Always had an hour to dinner. Reckoned for the over-time at the same rate as for the day money. 3*s.* 6*d.* was my wages. A man paid about 18 or 20, and he again with others worked under the master. Some were about 9 years old, and they used to say there were about 400 altogether, mostly young women. The stamping machines used to work all night when busy; the youngest boys with them were about 17 years, I should think.

Used at one time to dip metal for about an hour or a half once a week. The steam of the phizz used to take my breath away and I used to spit a good deal of phlegm and that, but have not since I left off dipping. Am always well now at electro-plating, and can breathe well. The phizz used to burn my clothes, the trousers sooner than other parts, though I had green baize to keep it off. Did not burn my hands; I used to fetch it off them. But the "spottles" of it would get into my eyes and I squirted water into them from a small hole about as big as a little sized pea, put on purpose by the master.

A lad was putting lead on the fire, but the thing was damp and the lead fled all in his face, and he was in the hospital three weeks from it.

I worked a stamp, perhaps about 20lb. weight, with my foot and hand, and two more boys did the same. If you came to be a day at it, it used to tire you, chiefly about the leg. It was not such a littlish one. Once it slipped off, but I caught it. One of the other boys lost a joint so. Think he was looking about, and it dropped on his finger. They did not get hurt so at the presses: they were more careful at that job. If they were not, the fly would catch them a knock of the head. A girl of about 16 got knocked down on her stool by a big one. It made her look funny rather, and she holloed a bit and throwed about, but she got up again before long.

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[The boy's present master remarked that he must have hurt his hands with the acid.
" It is very destructive and causes festers.
" It must get into cuts, &c., it is impossible
" to help it."]

50. *Mary Ann Ravenscroft*, age 11.—Press girl. Have cut my thumb (tied up) with the metal. Left week-day school at 5 years old. Went out to nurse. Don't go to school on Sunday. Know some of the letters.

51. *William Bardswell*, age 13.—Work from 8 to 7. Was never at any school. Know my A B C. (Does.)

[Very ragged and little.]

52. *Eliza Decker*, age 17. Have lacquered for 6 months. Am as well at it as when at press-work. Stay here to dinner. Wash in here.

Left day school at 11 years old. Can scarcely read. "Foul" is "fill."

MESSRS. R. W. WINFIELD AND SON'S, METAL WORKS AND ROLLING MILLS, CAMBRIDGE STREET.

Metallic Bedsteads, &c.

53. The work at this manufactory, which is very large, the buildings covering two acres of ground, and being, most of them, several stories high, embraces five departments. No. 1. Metal rolling and tube making of all kinds. No. 2. Gas fitting, including chandeliers, lamps, chimney stands, &c. No. 3. Bedsteads, stationary and portable. No. 4., (with which No. 5 is now united). General brass foundry, including railings, cornices, cornice poles, curtain bands, &c. No. 6. Carpentry at the wharf for packing cases, &c. In these branches designers, modellers, chasers, ornamenters, &c. also are employed, and other persons, including girls, are employed in wrapping up, packing, &c. There are several iron and brass casting shops in which boys and youths are employed.

The noise of the powerful machinery in the rolling mill, a very large building, in which are a great number of men, women, boys, and girls, differently employed is, as usual in such places, constant and deafening, and makes it very difficult to hear the voice unless quite close, and is wearying to the head of one not used to it. There are also several large furnaces or "muffles" in which bars or tubes are heated for soldering or other purposes.

54. The manufactory, however, is of importance, not only from its size and the number of persons employed in it, but more particularly from its affording an instance of the establishment and effective working of a school within the works under the charge of a trained schoolmaster. In most other manufactories in the town the efforts to provide education, where made, have, for reasons detailed elsewhere, been but partially successful or entirely given up. The success of this school is mainly attributed by other persons to the fact that attendance is enforced.

55. *Mr. W. C. Aitkin.*—I am manager of a large department (No. 4.) of this business. There are comparatively few females in it, and only a few of these quite young. There are also very few boys under 13. The usual hours are from 8 a.m. till 7 p.m in winter, and from 7 a.m. till 7 p.m. in summer; with half an hour for breakfast and an hour for dinner. The men who work by the piece generally have a boy or two, or adults, or both, under them, whom they engage, pay, and discharge. A general control, however, is exercised over them by the firm, and they would be called to account for irregularity or improper treatment. It happens sometimes that a man requires his assistants to stay beyond the usual time to help. Other foremen are very particular, and always send their boys to school at the proper time.

The character of the school has very much improved since a regular trained schoolmaster has been engaged. I am convinced that teaching must be learned and pursued in a regular course as much as any other business, and that schools can do but little unless under a professional teacher. The influence of the school on the whole has been extremely good. Those who have not benefited by it are quite the exceptions. It may be taken that 75 per cent. of the whole is good. One boy under me, now 17, came here five years ago knowing scarcely anything, and he has had no teaching but what he has got here. He is not particularly quick, but his accuracy is remarkable. He now looks over thousands of invoices, and scarcely ever makes a mistake.

The greater part of the machinery in the works has been fenced for many years. The only two serious accidents which have happened during the 18 years which I have been here were from the persons injured getting where they had no business to be.

56. *Mr. Thomas Smith.*—I have been schoolmaster of the school in the works here for over seven years. Before that I was 10 years master of Christ Church day and evening schools in Birmingham, where the pupils were of the same class as those employed here, and was also engaged in the Sunday school of about 500 scholars. I had been previously trained at colleges in London and Birmingham.

There is no school in the works for girls, and but few females are employed; but all boys and youths employed here are obliged by the firm to attend the school up to the age of 18. The regular school hours for all are from 7½ till 9 on three alternate evenings in the week; but as many come from a distance, some as much as five or six miles, which would make them too late home at night if they came to the evening school, I have a class for these, about 50, in the middle of the day instead, from 1.30 till 2.10, which is taken out of the time allowed for their dinner. The numbers depend upon the numbers employed, which vary with the state of trade. In full work, including both the evening and mid-day classes, there are about 250, and of these the average attendance is about 220; now there are not more than 190. Usually about a fifth or sixth of the whole number attending are over the age under which attendance is compulsory, *i.e.*, are from 18 to 19 or 20. More of the elder would attend school, but there is no provision for adult classes in consequence of the want of a convenient place.

The instruction consists of reading, writing,—including letter writing,—and arithmetic, and also dictation, which is of great importance. The time is not sufficient for teaching the other simple elements, such as history, geography, a knowledge of composition, &c. directly, but these are worked in incidentally with the main subjects. In arithmetic some get as far as the end of the ordinary books.

The youngest come at about 11 years old, but there are very few of these, and the bulk come from that age up to 13 or 14. All these, however, are generally fresher from school and less ignorant than those who come older. Decidedly the majority of those who come at 16, 17, or 18, are not able to do more than tell their letters and put a few easy words together. Some of these who have not been at school at all cannot tell their letters.

The results of the teaching are satisfactory, which I attribute in a great measure to the strict discipline which is maintained. This is all-important; in fact the thing of chief importance. At Sunday schools the want of regular teachers able to enforce this much interferes with their success.

A quick spirited boy, now about 16, came here three years ago unable to tell his letters, and has had no teaching but what he has got here. He can now read, write, and sum, being about at long division. All boys do not advance as much, but there are many such cases. This boy, however, is fortunate in his master (*i.e.* workman), who makes all his boys come to school regularly, and regularity in attendance is of

great importance. Some masters always send the boys under them; some, if they are busy, keep them past the proper time.

In the proper course of things a boy leaves work at 7 p.m., and has half an hour to clean and wash himself, which he is expected to do before coming to school. Those who come in before school begins have books lent them to read. Many prefer their school books to others, probably because they understand them better; some bring books with them. If boys are kept late at work they can and do come in any time up to 9, and then sometimes save time by coming in without washing. Boys are kept thus most in those branches in which they depend on men who do piece work. There is no question that there is more regularity where the men work by the day, as in parts of the bedstead and brass foundry work. In one or two branches of late there has been a press of work, and the boys in these have been often late, some coming at 8 or 8½; in fact it has become almost a rule with them. But if boys are kept away only occasionally it breaks into their interest in their school work and discourages them. Generally speaking the attendance is more irregular on Friday nights, owing to work being later.

On the whole, however, both the disposition to attend and the behaviour when in school have very much improved since I have been here. Boys do not so often ask to go out and then stay away as they did. Some even come to the school, though their part of the work has not been going on during the day, as is sometimes the case. Of the whole number here only a very small proportion, say from 5 to 10 per cent., are of the decidedly rough and ignorant class.

I do not notice much difference in the attention of the mid-day and the evening classes. If anything, those boys who come in the evening seem rather fresher. Though this may be in part because in the middle of the day they come straight from dinner, I attribute it chiefly to the fact that boys always work better in large numbers. When a class is thin it is never so bright.

There was a weekly payment of 1*d.* required from each pupil, not with a view of supporting the school but because it was thought that they would value the instruction more if they paid for it. This, however, was given up to remove the possibility of its being thought that attendance was enforced from any interest of the firm.

There is a drawing class on a fourth evening in the week, and for several years till the present time an efficient master from the School of Design has conducted this; but, though he has been diligent in his instruction the benefit has not been found in proportion to the expense. Attendance at this class is voluntary, and the average numbers are about 20.

There was formerly a reading room on the premises, on which the firm spent about 50*l.* a year, but a few years ago, when the penny newspapers came in, the use of the reading room fell off, the men no doubt buying their own papers and periodicals at home, and the room was closed.

The boys who attended my Christ Church evening school were all of the working class. Out of the number on the books (50) the average attendance was considerably less. Though some were very regular others were very irregular. I always tried to ascertain the cause of their irregularity, and to induce them to come. I should say that in about half the cases the irregularity was the fault of the employers, in the other half of the boys themselves.

57. *Albert Price*, age 18.—Am now speltering in a brass foundry shop, and have done so for a year. Do it for a few minutes about five times a day, standing over the sunk furnace to mix in the spelter or zinc by stirring the metals in the pot. Get very hot at it, but do not put anything on afterwards, and do not often catch cold. Have not one now (coughs). It's the sulphur on my chest. Am well. If I find a cough coming on, soon take something to remove it, the same as father does. One thing is cayenne pepper. Feel heavy in my chest from the sulphur. Find it most when I am at play (not at work). Generally catch it in the morning. Am working under my father to learn the business. Also do ingot dressing, *i.e.* put on oil and charcoal, and blow the loose dirt away, and help pour, and do other things.

[Is small, and looks unhealthy.]

58. *John Price*, father of last witness.—Am head of this casting shop, which has six furnaces, though four is the general number in a shop. About four usually work in a shop. My son Albert is learning the business. Some do not learn it in 10 years. About 14 is the best age to begin. A boy can do some of the work, as ingot dressing, but not the "closing" with hammers, which wants strength and is the heaviest work. But speltering is the most fatiguing, because it is so hot. The casting work is very injurious. Unless care be taken it produces an asthma. Yesterday I went home and took something to throw it off. It comes on generally when we are at play for a day or two. The work produces a shivering, what they call the metal ague.

59. *Richard Fitzpatrick*, age 13.—Work in an iron casting shop (in the bedstead department, a different one from that last mentioned,) with five men, and have done so for three years. Fetch up coke, shake out the charcoal from a bag five or six times a day over the moulds, and afterwards blow it off. It takes me about 20 minutes each time. Also help pour the metal. Was at the same work at Walsall for two years before I was here. Always speak rough like that (is hoarse) since I have been at casting. Did not before I came to it. It makes me feel choked. When I shake the charcoal it makes me spit black, and it is just as much when I blow it away as when I shake. Have my dinner and tea in the shop here or in the yard. The foreman of the shop engages and pays me.

Do not go to Sunday school because I have such bad things (clothes). Get 6*s.* a week, but father is a labourer, and has poor wages. Always go to the evening school in the works here, and am never later than 8 p.m. Read (fairly), write on a slate, and do addition; 53 and 53 are 106; 9 times 9 is 81.

60. *William Bent*, age 12.—Work in a brass casting shop (in the bedstead department) with four men and another boy, and have done so for 3½ years. Get the sand ready and fetch coke. Can read, write, and do subtraction and addition.

[The other boy, aged 11, has been in this shop half a year, and can read, but write, by his own account, very little.]

61. *John Richards*, foreman of this shop.—Always send the two last named boys to school on the school evenings, letting them go from work at 7 p.m. or a little after. Can let them go even if I am busy, because I know how to do lad's work, and do it myself when they are away.

62. *Charles Pipps*, age 15.—Work in (another) casting shop in the bedstead department. Make angle irons, *i.e.* fit them together and close up the "stops" (*i.e.* nuts or fastenings which hold them) ready to receive the melted metal poured into the holes. Also tap the metal by piercing a hole into the furnace. Do not get burned except when I am tapping, and then have not been hurt. It only burned those spots in my trowsers (*showing*).

63. *Charles Furness*, foreman of the casting shop (just named).—Have four men and five boys under me. The boys begin generally at about 14. They do not get burned by the metal flying about, (as it does, in large drops, J. E. W.) or at any rate more than a shot.

64. *Thomas Falland*, age 13.—Work in a casting shop (in the gas-fitting department) with four men, and have done so for a year here, and for a year at another place. Make "cores," *i.e.*, form sand into hard shapes to be used for casting, by driving it into a mould with a hammer. Have my breakfast, dinner, and tea in the shop here, and keep them beside where I work (*shows them in a box covered only with a loose piece of paper*). Am not poorly, and

do not feel my chest bad. Hours of work are from 7 a.m. till 7 p.m., sometimes till 8. Am late about one night a week. Get 4*s.* 6*d.* a week.

Was a year at a day school before I was at work. Go on Sundays now; also to the school in the works here. Sometimes write, sometimes read. Do not know "B" or "A." "They tell me all the letters."

[The shop in which this boy works and has his meals was filled with dense vapour and very choking.]

65. *John Walrond*, age 14.—Stamp links at the stamp, and have done so for three years. Raise it by a pulley, putting my foot in a loop or stirrup at the bottom of the rope, and then let the weight fall on the link, which I place underneath with my hand. A year or two ago, while I was working at another stamp (the weight of which was stated by a man near to be from 80 to 60 lbs., J. E. W.), my foot slipped from the stirrup, and I smashed the ends of two fingers (1st and 2nd), and was at the hospital five weeks for it, but did not lose them. The other stamps are worked, one by a boy about my own age, and the heavier by men. Before I worked at a stamp I used to "cob up" the work ready for "nealing," (annealing ?).

66. *Hermann Woodgate*, age 15.—Work in this shop (in the gas-fitting department), turning brass glass-holder screws in a lathe, which is the first turning that lads begin at; afterwards shall do bigger work. My usual work is filing screws at a vice. Work under a man, who pays me 5*s.* 6*d.* a week. Have made a day and a half overtime in a week; some have made more. The usual day is from 8 a.m. till 7 p.m.

[The dust flies off plentifully as the brass is turned.]

67. *Samuel Harding*, age 12.—File in the same shop, as do many other boys, under men. Was at school till I came here eight or nine months ago. Am in the 1st class in the school here. Can read well, write off cards, and do reduction. Father is a warehouseman.

68. *Thomas Sermons*, age 13.—Work in the rolling mill, and have done so for two years. Pull out from between the rollers the sheets of metal put in on the other side by a man, and carry them round to him to be passed through again. The metal cuts my hands sometimes, but I have not got pinched in the rollers and do not know of other boys having got hurt so. The man under whom I work pays me 5*s.* a week. My hours are from 7 a.m. till 7 p.m. but sometimes I work overtime, from 6 a.m. till 8 p.m. Have breakfast at 9 and an hour for dinner at 1. Have both in the mill here.

Go to the school here in my dinner time, from 1½ till 2, because I live a long way off and cannot go in the evening.

[This boy receives the edge of the metal sheet, which is sharp and jagged, in his hands, which are covered with dirt from the work, and shows a long fresh cut across his palm.]

69. *William Henry Bickett*, age 15.—Roll wire. Cuts my hands with the wire, but have not got hurt by the machine. Work under a man who pays me 6*s.* a week.

Was two years at school once, but went out to work at rope-spinning at 7 years old, and cannot read.

70. *Mr. Grice*, foreman of the tube department.—All the hands in this, viz., 52, are paid by me. There are seven boys, three women, and five girls. Like girls to come at about 13. The females charge the tubes with solder (*as to effects of solder see b.* 737), which they apply to the edges of the metal, which is then put into a muffle to be annealed. The tubes are afterwards dipped in troughs of vitriol in another part of the shop by a man.

The proper hours in this department are from 7 a.m. till 7 p.m., but for the past fortnight (towards the end of April) they have worked overtime, viz., from 6 a.m. till 8 p.m., and will probably be working overtime for a couple of months. There was such a demand for tubing in consequence of the Prince of Wales's wedding that it has thrown the work behind.

71. *Mary Ann Thomas*, age 16.—Charge tubes. Work now from 6 a.m. till 8 p.m. Was at school only when about 3 or 4 years old, but go to Sunday school. Cannot read. Can spell "d-o-g."

72. *Harriet Barnett*, age 12.—"Pun" solder, *i.e.*, prepares it by pounding the materials and pass over the tubes from the chargers to the woman, who puts them into the muffle where she holds them close by. Same hours as last witness. Have breakfast and tea in the shop here. We keep these in cupboards or boxes under the work benches (*shows*). Go home to my dinner, but some have it in the shop. Was at school till I came here, two years ago.

73. *Thomas Badger*, age 10.—(Brings in a written order for goods, which he reads to me, J. E. W.)—Belong to the brass foundry department, where I charge, pull out wire, and blow bellows. Before that worked at modelling. Here two years. Hours are from 8 or 7 a.m. till 7 p.m. Am never later than 8 at the evening school; but the foreman does not send me there.

74. *Thomas Ballard.*—Dip the brass and have a youth to help me. Began under a dipper myself when 11. A boy does the wire work, *i.e.*, strings the small articles on brass ready to be dipped, and carries things in and out from the yard. There are three dipping shops here.

75. *Maria Ealing*, age 16.—Lacquer with four young women. Hours are 8 till 7. Here a year. Till then was at home, and went to a day school, and go on Sunday now and two nights a week. Am just going home to dinner, as the 1 o'clock bell has rung.

[The lacquerers appeared of a superior class.]

76. *Henry Gold*, age 17.—Have worked in this painting shop four years with one man, who pays me. Work from 7 till 7, but sometimes from 6 a.m. till 8 or 9 p.m. There are nine painting shops on the works and three or four off. There is usually a man and a boy in a shop. Mix the paints, paint, and carry work into the stove to dry and bring it out again. Am usually in and out of the stove for this about half an hour at a time three or four times a day. Sometimes for a longer time and more often, sometimes less. Do not get wet through with the heat. Am quite well. Never a job suited me better than this.

Go to the school at dinner time. Can read and write.

[The stove was at a temperature of 120° and smelled strongly of paint. But it was said by the man to be "only middling hot." He could have it up to the top of the thermometer in a minute at another time.]

77. *John Bull*, age 15.—Work in an ornamental bedstead painting room, and have done so for 3½ years. Hours are from 8 till 7, or, when busy, from 7 till 7, with an hour for dinner at 1. Grind colours, clean the "muller," or the stone on which they are ground, "pencil," *i. e.*, paint fine strokes as a pattern over the ground of plain paint, and can also "transfer" patterns from paper in such a way as to leave the pattern only fixed on the bedstead. Also put the things, when painted, into the stove to dry, sometimes a great many times in the day. It is very hot, but I could stay in it 5 minutes: a quarter of an hour would make me perspire. It does not make my eyes smart; only japanning stoves would do that. The colours get on my hands, but I can wash them.

Am always in bad health now. Have been under the dispensary for the last two weeks, being very sick after meals. For six or seven weeks before have had aching in my legs and pain in my left side. Was always well before I was here.

Go to the school here. Am in the 2d class. Can read well (reads poorly) and do reduction.

[The room, not the stove, is hot, and smells strongly.]

Birmingham District.

Metallic Bedsteads, &c.

Mr. J.E.White.

b.

MESSRS. PEYTON AND PEYTON'S, METALLIC BEDSTEAD MANUFACTURERS, BORDESLEY WORKS.

78. These also are very important works. The iron is brought in as "angle iron,"—*i.e.*, strips bent longitudinally along the middle so as to form an angle,—tubes, rods, &c., and some in pigs. These pieces are cut, pierced, bent, &c., by machinery till they attain the required forms, which are fitted and fastened together, in many cases by pouring metal into moulds placed round the joints. A large lofty smithy, in which a number of boys work under men as helpers, is said to be still very hot in summer from the number of furnaces, but to have been greatly improved by the ventilation which has been provided by gratings to the outer air and air shafts passing up through the floors above parts of the building. The bellows are blown by steam, which saves work in which boys elsewhere are often exposed to great heat. (Cf. b. 84, 121, 124–126, 249–51.)

79. It is said that serious accidents are very rare, only two having happened in the last nine years. Both were to boys, one of whom lost an arm, the other an eye. Accidents of the latter kind are said to arise, not from want of care, but to be incidental to part of the employment, viz., pouring molten metal into parts of the work. If the cold metal be damp, as in a morning, or after an interval of work, the hot metal may fly out, and boys are often within reach of this. After this boys were not allowed to be engaged in that part of the work, it being considered by the employers, though not really dangerous if care were used, to require more care than could always be counted on. In several cases I noticed the red-hot metal flying about in drops as big as peas, but it appears generally not to reach through the clothes or boots.

80. Boys are sometimes employed in grinding iron trestles, &c., on large broad grindstones, turned by steam, for which purpose they kneel over the metal to increase the pressure. It looks very heavy work, and a slip would be dangerous. Grinding of all kinds was said to be bad for the eyes, on account of the specks which fly out.

81. There are casting shops, shops for brightening the brass by dipping in *aqua fortis*, filing, polishing with brushes, lacquering, plain painting shops employing women only, and ornamental painting shops, employing only men with one youth. The stoves in which the metal when painted is set to dry were very hot, almost stifling, but said by one of the women to be at "a nice cool heat;" but she cautioned me against entering yet, as it would hurt my eyes. Two or three of the few women who had not just left for dinner looked very pale and ill. Young persons are often employed elsewhere in connexion with painting and stove work, which is complained of by some as very unhealthy. There is also a packing-case making department.

82. There is a large airy schoolroom, used three nights a week in the winter half year, but for the males only, the females employed being but few. The attendance, however, is voluntary, and soon falls off. Beneath the schoolroom are washing conduits, to be used before coming in. The regulations of the manufactory, the sick club, and the library of 700 or 800 miscellaneous volumes, with the catalogue, are printed in a small book. Baths and washhouses, not open now, in consequence of some alterations in the works, are stated to have been much used by the workpeople, especially in hot weather. Baths will be retained for the painting women, whose work is very dirty, and who do not like to be seen outside in their working dress; but for others arrangements are intended to be made which will admit of the workpeople using the public baths.

83. *Thomas Alford*, age 11.—Pierce metal, by putting it under a steam press, which punches holes. The hours are from 7 till 6 in summer, and from 8 till 7 in winter, but only till 1½ on Saturdays. In winter, breakfast before I come; in summer, have it in the shop from 9 till 9½. Go for an hour to dinner at 1, and in winter have half an hour for tea.

Left the National School at 8 years old. Could read and write then, but have got out of it very bad now. (Reads a stanza.) Could not write well enough for a letter. Did compound addition. On Sundays, school once and chapel twice a day. Went two nights a week to a night school, which only opened last winter, from a quarter to 8 to 9.20.

84. *William Reynolds*, age 15.—In filing, turning, &c. shop. Same hours. Two years ago I stayed late, grinding trestles for the soldiers, all night through once, and till 1, 2, or 3, other nights in the same week. Was working under a man who paid me; was the only boy who stayed at that work. In most years have been up occasionally as late as midnight. Am paid by the day; 6*s.* 6*d.* a week now.

Blew bellows at an umbrella maker's before I came here five years ago; blew all day from 8 till 7, except at meal times, and a quarter of an hour in every hour when I had to stop because it was so hot, and another boy took my place. Sweated all day. Left that place in six weeks because I did not like it on account of sweating so. Had the headache always almost, but did not have it before I went there, and do not have it so much now.

Was at school before he went to work. Can read (does).

[Looks unhealthy.]

85. *Charles Bing.*—Have three or four boys under me at rough filing. Have tried all I can to get the eldest, age 19, who has been under me two years, and is very ignorant indeed, to school, but cannot.

[The youth seems naturally rather deficient.]

86. *Alexander Shepheard*, age 13.—Grind large metal pieces on the stone. (*See above*, b. 80.) Have done so for a year and a quarter. It is heavy work, and tired me at first.

[A strong healthy-looking boy.]

87. *George Short*, age 13.—Striker in the smithy. There are four other boys strikers, all younger than myself. It is my only work all day. Father was a forger, and used to learn me at night at home for about a couple of hours from 8 or 8½, ever since I was 9 or 10 years old.

[The hammer head is said to be and feels about 7½ lbs.]

88. *William Buckley*, age 13.—Here four years, close on 12 months as a striker. Work under the man who takes the metal from the forge. Strike for the greater part of the day. Have good health. (The man with whom he works says that this is not true, and that he has known him be from work from bad health a fortnight lately, and once before. J. E. W.)

[Looks delicate. Hammer head, 8 lbs.]

89. *William Villiers*, age 12.—Striker. Began striking occasionally when a little over 11.

90. *Charles Arnold*, age 12.—At work five years. Help cast. Take off the "stops" after the metal has been poured in. Have got burns and also pinches, but never such as to make me leave work. Was at school; and learned to read and write. Can read (but has to spell "nails.")

91. *Charles Pickard*, age 15.—Duster in a casting shop, and get sand ready for the chap, and pound

the charcoal. Dust for about five minutes five times a day. The dust does not choke me. Can wash at the tap. Some have breakfast in this shop; go home myself.

[His face is covered with the black dust rising from his work.]

92. *George Bentley*, age 12.—File and wait on a man. Was at school three weeks once, and mother teached me at home as well. Had to stay and turn the mangle for her. Do not know all my letters. V is Y.

[His manner and quickness show him to be naturally clever.]

93. *Mary Ann Rice*, age 14.—Wait on and help the women in the lacquering room and sometimes lacquer. Three other girls about my age do the same. Same hours and meals as in the other parts of the works, but with half an hour for tea.

Can read (slowly) and write in a copybook, but do no sums. Have learned hymns.

94. *Emma Redman.*—Paint plain bedstead work. Take the work into stove and bring it out. At a tin place where I was they used to slide the things into the stoves on racks. Am generally in the stove about two hours in the day altogether, and sometimes on Monday nearly all day, and at times take out 10 or 12 bedsteads, all parts of them, heavy as well as light. Some are heavy to lift. It makes me wringing wet, and I catch cold from it, but I have not bad health except that and toothaches. Have scarcely eaten "anything" since I have been a painter, *i.e.*, nine years. Did not eat much before, but have been worse since. Others are affected very much; they have pain in the stomach and are very sick. Think it is the turpentine is so bad.

95. *Mr. Thomas Robert Harrison.*—I am in the counting-house, but also conduct the evening school in winter, and have the management of the library. The school is open for teaching reading, writing, and arithmetic, from about Michaelmas to Easter, three nights in the week from $7\frac{1}{2}$ to 9. At the beginning of the season most of the boys and youths and some adults come, but as their attendance is not enforced some fall off in a night or two, others as time goes on, so that at the end of the season not half remain.

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Metallic Bedsteads, &c.

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Some come as men unable to read or to make a stroke, and boys the same. In all cases those who have the greatest need for teaching, care the least for it, and besides, if older than their companions, have a sort of false shame, especially the men. There are generally not more than 12 men at any one time, though more start. Not much can be done with those who come knowing so little. I have known some come winter after winter, and make but very little progress. Of those, however, who know a little to begin with, the progress is very rapid. This is most noticeable in writing and arithmetic and the more mechanical parts, in which also comparison can be better made with previous years by looking back at old books, &c. In arithmetic not many even pass reduction of weights, &c., though some get to proportion and practice.

A library of about 350 volumes was given by the firm, but in the nine years that I have been here, it has more than doubled, as well as paid the current expenses of binding, &c. out of the subscription which is at the rate of a halfpenny a volume. The books are well selected. Those most read are, amongst juvenile books, "Peter Parley," travels, and fairy tales; in biography, the lives of Stephenson and Benjamin Franklin; in poetry, Shakespeare and Scott, principally by men. In fiction, Dickens', Marryatt's, and Scott's works, and Chambers' Miscellanies. Of the females the lacquerers and warehouse girls read more than the painters, who are not usually of so high a class. Natural History is little read by any.

The sick fund was in existence when I came here, and has always been found to work very well. Every year the surplus funds are distributed amongst the members, and there is always a dividend of 10*s.* 6*d.*, *i.e.*, more than half of what has been paid in. This is after a contingent fund has been provided out of it for special cases. Accidents are rare. There was not one last year.

CLIFFORD'S ROLLING MILLS, FAZELEY STREET.

Rolling Mills.

96. The buildings want light, but the nature of the work secures ample space. Blocks of metal are passed through rollers, men putting in and boys taking out. If the metal is hot the latter seize it with tongs and heave it back, over the top of the roller, to the man. The work requires strength and care, the weight being often 1 cwt., and the metal red hot. I was told that boys had nothing to do with "pickling," but sometimes at least they have, and a man pointed out how the trowsers were destroyed. On going up to a pickle vat I was cautioned by a boy, "Take care, don't go near it; it'll "burn all your clothes." The man who took me round the works was "very pleased that that good "man, one of the Lords, is about this work. It is very good. But the ladies, that are to be the mothers, "want looking to as much as the boys."

97. *Lewis Cole*, age 14.—Here 7 years. "Pound" *i.e.* weigh metal, and put it in different racks according to its weight by the scale,—help the man "heal" (anneal) by sitting on the end of a car, by which it is carried to the muffle, to balance it,—sweep up the mill,—and riddle dirt. When I first came I minded the cart when it was out that nobody took any metal, and if any one came, used to begin hooting. Also have taken out from the rollers for two years. The hours of work are from 6 a.m. till $5\frac{1}{2}$ p.m. Live close by and go home to my meals. Wash my hands in the mill. Sometimes work overtime. Till $7\frac{1}{2}$ p.m. counts a quarter of a day; till 9, half a day; till 11, three quarter of a day; till 1 a.m., a whole day; and till $5\frac{1}{2}$ a.m., a day and a quarter. Stay all night once every week with him with the billy-cock there, cleaning metal, *i.e.* pickling. When I stay all night I get three hours sleep, lying on the strips of metal on the rack there. The watchman wakes me when it is time. But I get on very middling with my work the next day after working at night.

Can tell a good many of my letters, and my two's or one's, or three's, or four's, but do not know what 7 and 17 make. Can't tell you, I'm sure. Go to school every Sunday, and to chapel about every other Sunday, but there ain't no orgin. Do not know the names of the books they read out of. Perhaps that chap there can tell you: he goes to the same school. I look at them but cannot hear what they say. It *is* the Bible and Testament. They read about the naughty men what tosses.

[Very shrewd and self-possessed, indeed a man in manner.]

98. *William Brown*, age 18.—Lewis Cole worked nights for me as much as two years ago at pickling copper sheets. 'Taint altogether pickling. His regular job now is at the fires annealing.

Can write better than I can read. Might read perhaps, but could not make it out.

99. *David Williams*, age 11.—Take out cold metal from the rollers and help at hot rolling. Have stopped till 9 every night for several weeks together,—work over almost every night. Have worked all night through, after working in the days too: did last Friday night. One or two boys stay nights besides me. Have stayed altogether about six nights through. The night men come on at $5\frac{1}{2}$. I never roll, *i.e.* put metal into the rollers, only take out. Get 4*s.* a week set wages, and am paid at the same rate for overtime. Have got 10*d.* for a night, as it counts a day and a quarter. Don't ask to stay. Him

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there with the shears tells me. Could go if I liked some nights, but he would have to get another lad instead. The smell (of the oil) does not hurt my appetite at all. Have my breakfast here, but go home to dinner. Wash at night. Have not got burned with the metal. Him there fell down against a strip and burned his arm.

Am thinking of going to a night school. Have not heard of Glasgow.

100. *George Bresmore*, age 16.—Take out hot metal, brass and copper, from the rollers. Was doing it by myself just now, but another about my size usually helps me. A piece weighs about 1 cwt. Work from 6 to $5\frac{1}{2}$; breakfast from 9 to $9\frac{1}{2}$; dinner from 1 to 2. The engine always stops the full times. Have not got burned with the hot metal. Been at it two months: was at guns before.

Never had any schooling,—only on a Sunday. Know the letters but cannot read words at all. Dare say I could spell some on 'em if they were short.

MR. S. WALKER'S, METAL ROLLER, FAZELEY STREET.

101. These works are of the same kind as the last, but newer looking, and lighter.

102. *Mr. Samuel Walker, jun.*—The work here is rolling brass and copper sheets, making brazed tubes, and drawing tubes and wire. No lads work in the wire mill, or at the hot rolling, as it is so hot and heavy, and would be too much for them. Even men, when they are fresh to it, can't stand it, and knock up. We are very free from accidents; I do not remember any from machinery for many years, except from carelessness in getting fingers into a roller, &c. One boy put his foot into some machinery. The hours are never exceeded. There would be no great difficulty in having two sets of boys. Stoppages in the machinery often happen. Many are very ignorant, and drink, and think no more of what is to come to them when they die than anything.

103. *Frederick Bennett*, age 11.—Hold tubes in a muffle to be soldered. It is very hot work. My shirt sticks to my back now. Have my meals in the shop here. Don't wash here ever, but do at home. Have done money sums, long division and multiplication.

104. *Thomas Glover*, age 10.—Same work. My arm is tied up, because I burned it by falling against the hot bars of the muffle. Am well.

[Is hoarse. His fall was occasioned by the awkwardness of his standing-place. Directions were given, while I was by, to have it altered.]

105. *Henry Aston*, age 11.—Think I am 11. Mind machinery pliers for drawing tubes. Work from 6 till $5\frac{1}{2}$. Breakfast here, dine at home. Work with uncle; he reckons for me; get 4*s.* a week, and sometimes 1*d.* or $1\frac{1}{2}$*d.* of it for myself.

Do not go to Sunday or night-school now; perhaps I shall. Father says he shall buy me some clothes, and I shall go to night-school and all.

106. *Frederick Sheen*, age 10.—Work in the coal yard. Have been at the day school, and can read, write, and do arithmetic and addition. Arithmetic is very much like addition, but all sums are not arithmetic.

107. *William Hately*, age 13.—Have been at work two or three years, but always gone to night-school four nights a week, paying 6*d.* Father is a caster. Can read and write. (Mr. Walker said "as well as any one.") Can sum. (Explains multiplication rightly.)

108. *Frederick Plumble*, age 14.—Don't know the letters. At Sunday school this year, not before. Was at the day school three years till I was 9 years old, but they did not learn me anything.

109. *Robert Edward Mottnam*, age 10.—Wipe strips of metal in sawdust. Was never at school, not on Sunday even. Don't know any of the letters. Could not tell it (A) if I were to see it. Was never inside a church or chapel. Never say or was taught any prayers. Grandmother says some. She told me about Jesus Christ, but I know nothing of Him. It is a good while since she told me. He *was* nailed on a cross for us.

MR. EDMUND PAGE'S, CROWN IRON WORKS, SMETHWICK.

Iron Works.

110. *Mr. Edmund Page.*—The position of iron works, in regard to any legislative regulation of the labour of the young employed in them, is very different from that of ordinary manufactures, and that of my own works is peculiarly so. Unless the work were carried on by night, the necessary amount of material could not be turned out except by doubling the size of the works, furnaces, &c., the cost of which would be so heavy as to render a profitable return impossible. But, supposing the size of the works to be equal to the production of the required amount of material by day labour, the cost of the fuel which must be expended, to keep up a certain amount of heat during the night, would alone be so great, as to prevent the possibility of profit.

It is true that some masters who make the best kind of iron, or that used for guns, do not carry on their work at night, because it requires care which can be secured only by their own or competent and constant supervision. They incur the loss from the waste of fuel, &c., during the night, but the great price at which the superior quality of their metal enables them to sell it, covers this loss of fuel, &c., though I do not know that, on the whole, the return which they receive for their capital is greater than that received by those who make common iron. Ordinary iron will not command more than a moderate price, so that a profit can be made only by turning out large quantities, and the gain by improving the quality of which there is no necessity, would not compensate for the loss by diminishing the quantity.

But, whenever the work goes on, there is a certain amount which can be, and therefore must be, done by boys for other reasons than that of cost. If their labour were diminished by prohibiting any under 18 from working at night, and any under 13 from working more than half-time, there is no source from which the deficiency could be supplied. Females, of course, cannot be employed in iron works, as they can in a considerable part of other manufactures, though in some cases they are employed in the yards of iron works in working at the coal, &c. The supply of male labour is already too small in this district. The great number of works, and the profitable employment to be obtained, have not attracted more than a proportionate labouring population, as might be supposed likely to be the case. The supply of hands is not actually insufficient to do the work which is needed, but there is no further available supply, and the men, knowing their value from their scarcity, are thus able to act very independently, and would refuse to work, if their master insisted on anything which they did not approve of. They often do refuse to work as it is; *e. g.*, if a boy is absent, his work would not be made up by the other workpeople, and the whole set, who are dependent on the absentee, stop work. The puddlers' strike has now lasted 20 weeks, and it has been found necessary to concede to their demand, which gives them considerably more than was ever paid, when iron was at its present price. I feel confident that the men would not put up with any interference with the established plan of boy's work, and we could not force them.

It is in this district (Smethwick), in which the scarcity of labour, of which I have spoken, chiefly prevails. In other districts the difficulty would be less. In this district the wages even of a common labourer were 2*s.* 9*d.*, and are now 3*s.*, while in that next adjoining they are only 2*s.* to 2*s.* 3*d.*; and the wages of an underworker in iron works are here 3*s.*, while there they are only 2*s.* 9*d.* My labourers have 2*s.* 10*d.* a day, but they will average 21*s.* a week by overtime.

It may be right for Government or Parliament to

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limit the amount of time for which the young may work, but they have no right to interfere so far with the management of any business (a matter which they cannot possibly understand so well as the masters), as to say in what part of the 24 hours that work shall be done. Besides, there can be no reasonable objection to night-work, which in iron works is at least as healthy as work by day, and in the greater part of the year the amount of time which is really dark is small.

Although, too, the boys are employed, say from 6 to 6, it is not a regular set work. They have intervals every hour or so, while the iron is in the furnace heating, during which time they are running about, playing matches at football, or something of this kind, for a change.

There is another fact, too, which it is important to bear in mind, viz., the loss of boys' earnings, &c., by families who need them.

When poor people come to the Board of Guardians for relief, and there are boys, say of 11 and upwards, in the family, the first question is, "What is so and so "doing, and what wages?" If a boy is not employed, the chairman and guardians, one and all (of which I am one), say, "Then he, or they, ought to "be at work." Poor people have said to me, that one cause of their distress is, "Why you see, Sir, "I have no children to get anything, and I had two "boys under 16 working for me, who supported well "their mother, and two or three children." These facts should not be lost sight of.

I should be glad however myself if it were not necessary to employ boys at all, as they are very unmanageable, and the chief source of trouble. Like the greater part of the hands they are not under my direct control, but employed by a few of the men who contract to supply me with given weights of finished material at a fixed rate.

As far as the carrying on the work itself is concerned it would, I think, be possible to do without boys under 13 or 14 at all, and without boys under 16 at night; but this could be done only by arranging for the elder boys, *i.e.*, those over 16, to work by night regularly instead of only in alternate weeks, as at present; and if night work is objectionable at all this would be still harder on them than the present system. I do not, however, think it likely that any such modifications of the boys' labour as I have referred to as not incompatible with carrying on the works would be accepted by employers generally; in fact I do not contemplate the possibility of any regulation of the boys' labour in iron works taking place at all.

111. *George Hughes*, age 17.—(Now in-patient at the Birmingham General Hospital.)—Worked at Page's Crown Iron Works, Smethwick, at straightening iron. Went to catch the iron out of the roller, the lad of about 18 who should have done it being away. I caught my foot against something and the roller kept pushing out the iron, which was hot, and 22 feet long, on me all the time; it ran into my thigh and cut and burned me dreadfully.

112. *William Bayley*, age 15.—Heave up bars at the back of the rollers with a lever, and pass them back over the roller to the men. Work from 6 to 6, days one week and nights the next. We get our meals how we can; sometimes have a quarter of an hour for breakfast and half an hour for dinner; sometimes no time at all. Get knocked about here sometimes. Was at the District Iron Works before, and pulled the doors from the furnace when the men took the metal out. It was hotter than my work here, but I stood on one side, and not just in front of the furnace. Had the same hours and meals as here.

[The bigger boys heave over about ten tons of larger bars in their 10 or 12 hours, the younger about five tons of smaller.]

MR. CHAS. REEVES', SWORD CUTLER AND GUN MAKER, CHARLOTTE STREET.

Guns, Swords, &c.

113. Only a small number of the boys were at work at the time of my visit, and I could form only an imperfect idea of their occupations when there. Three or four of about 12 or 13 were said to take out red hot blades from a furnace with tongs and hand them to the men at the tilt hammer. Two boys, one of them 12, glaze the blades on wheels with emery. The dust thrown off in this process lies thickly on a window sill a few feet behind one of them, and is spattered over the window; it must, therefore, be plentifully inhaled by them. The face of the bigger boy whom I found at work was covered with it. Hearing him cough in a way showing the presence of much phlegm, I asked a few minutes afterwards how long he had had his cough, but he seemed quite unconscious of it. He was, however, generally uncommunicative, and by his own account found no inconvenience beyond a headache one night from working chiefly in a standing position, at 14 years of age, through the whole 24 hours three days in the week, and full days only the remaining three, with no sleep or rest but at meal times, for about six months. Could it be *six?* It may be the period put by b. 623 at three months. The engine is the same.

114. Some bands connected with the grinding stones, partially but not effectually sunk in the floor at intervals, so that a person going through the shop has to step across several which cross in the middle passage and rise slightly towards the stones, struck me as dangerous, and I afterwards ascertained had been proved by accidents to be so. No boys work in this shop, but the glazer-boys work for men who do so, and have occasion to go there. One of the men had himself, as he told me, fallen into a channel in which the bands lie, and saved himself by catching hold of a large wooden "bosh" of water or he would have got drawn between them, and been "taken up one road or the other." He also stated that others had been caught too, but that there was no danger if they would only "lift their toes as "they'd ought."

115. It was stated here that the boys were all employed by the men and, it was feared, much put upon by them, as well as much corrupted by their language. I understood the employer to intimate that some means were desirable for the protection of boys in factories, and that he had often considered what means could be adopted, but he was too much engaged to allow of my taking any statement from him.

116. *John Graves*, age 15.—Glaze blades on a wheel. Have done so four years, and a boy of 12 does it beside me. The engine runs regularly from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays, from 7 till 7 on Tuesdays and Fridays, from 7 till 8 on Wednesdays, and from 7 till 9 on Thursdays, and till 2 p.m. on Saturdays. Some nights it runs much longer, *i.e.* till 10 p.m. or 6 a.m. I have worked from 6 o'clock in the morning on till 6 o'clock the next morning three days a week, and for full days the other days regularly for about six months, never stopping work except when the engine stopped for the meal times, viz., half an hour for breakfast, an hour for dinner, half an hour for tea, and an hour from 1 to 2 in the middle of the night, and I got some sleep in these times after I had done eating. Kept well all the time, and only had a head-ache one night, that was all. Generally work standing, but sometimes sit down. I work for one of the grinders and he pays me what I get. When I worked the nights for six months I was 14, and my usual wages 12*s.* a week, but I have got then as much as 1*l.* Another boy of 16 worked at glazing the same hours as I did. All on the works stayed in the same way, one a boy just younger than I. The wheel turns from me, but the dust flies on to me. It is that on my face now and on the window behind me, and

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sometimes a bit gets into my eyes and the master (man) gets it out with a knife, and my eye aches afterwards. Wash night and morning, but not before dinner.

When I go down to the grinding shop I step over the bands across the floor. The other boy goes down too. Once I got caught in one, but I held on to a wooden "bosh" (box of water) near, or I should have been drawn up, and then some one loosed the band.

Before I was here I did work of the same kind, viz., "lapping" fire-irons, for one year, and gun polishing for two years. Always enjoy very good health. (*Has a cough. See remarks above.*)

Cannot tell what 3 times 7 is. Can spell (hardly). (*Asked of* "India.") The Indies is what cuts the sugar. Have read of Moses in the Testament, but do not know where he brought the people of Israel from. Egypt is a city. Christ was born at Jerusalem. Don't know how He died or was killed, or what Jesus did. Think He *was* nailed to a cross.

117. *Henry Dodd*, age 20.—Have been a grinder two years and polished fire-irons, &c., for three or four years before; always been in a mill.

Can tell all my letters, but not spell any.

118. *James Corbett*, age 16.—Bore barrels. Work from 7 till 6½, sometimes till 9, but not later, as I live a long way off, at Smethwick. Some of the others stay till 1 a.m. sometimes. Have been here a year.

119. *Samuel Thompson*, age 16.—File and go errands.

Was at a glass-house before. Worked over very often there, sometimes three turns in a week. Catched a cold and was bad a week with it.

Never at a day school since I was 7. Don't know all the letters. Go to Sunday school; a lad asked me.

120. *Sarah Ann Steery*, age 13.—Work in the warehouse from 8 till 7.

Was at the day school for three years till I was 13, and go on Sunday. Can't tell all the letters, can some.

MESSRS. R. & W. ASTON'S, GUN AND GUN IMPLEMENT MAKERS, &c., EDMUND STREET.

121. These are said to be about the largest works for miscellaneous gun implements. One room, where two young boys worked, was so dark that there were gas-burners alight in a bright summer afternoon. Several young boys are engaged in dark sunk shops, in constantly blowing fires for men stamping, and for this purpose stand close by the fire, or, as I noticed one, close between two. This work was remarked on to me in the works as unfit for young boys, as indeed it appeared to be; and as "the most unhealthy job in the place."

122. Forming corks for muzzle stoppers is part of the work, and seems to be injurious to health from the dust.

123. *Mr. R. Aston.*—We make guns, not, however, the barrels, military and sporting, and gun furniture and implements of all kinds, swords, bayonets, lances, &c. The sword trade has become very limited in England. Solingen in Prussia is now one of its principal seats. In Germany there is so much water power, and labour is cheap. With the exception of the Government factories Birmingham is the only seat in the kingdom of the gun, sword, and military weapon manufacture. A large factory is being established here for making military guns by the same machinery as that used by Government at Enfield. If this succeeds it will probably bring all military gunmaking into a few large factories, but the facility with which the Government can now make for their own ordinary use will throw a difficulty in the way of maintaining such costly machinery elsewhere. There are but few gun barrel rolling factories in the town, perhaps about eight.

The number of large gun manufactories here of any kind is small, but some gun makers who do but little on their own premises have very large businesses from the amount of work which they have done out, as we do also, in shops where men work, either with a few men and boys or quite alone.

There are a great many distinct branches of the trade, *e.g.*, some persons confine themselves to making the nipple only. Gun-locks are made in Birmingham, but a great quantity of them are made in Darlaston and Wednesbury, and some in Wolverhampton by men working in their own shops, which they prefer. A factory which we built for lock-making in Darlaston is consequently not used by them.

We employ very few children, and scarcely any females. Most of the boys are paid by men for whom they work. They assist smiths, file, turn, and attend machines. The hours are from 7 to 7, with two hours for meals. Longer hours are needed sometimes, but chiefly by the men, though there may be parts of the work in which boys are wanted later also. A few hours extra will sometimes enable us to complete an order in time for a ship or some such purpose, but the occasions when this is necessary are exceptional. A limitation to a day of 12 hours only would not cause substantial inconvenience. I should prefer from 6 to 6 for the work itself, and it would leave the workpeople more time to themselves at the end of the day. Mechanics are generally better off when forced to be regular. In gun work they are very irregular, as they work so much for themselves at home, and even when they work in factories the men work chiefly by the piece, and come when they please. We have scarcely any control over them in this respect. It would be better for the mechanics if they were more under control as to hours.

There are occasional accidents from machinery, but not of importance. The only fatal accident that we ever had was in the grinding mill, from a stone flying and hitting a man who was walking across. A stone seldom flies, not one in three years on the average. We are very careful in having them examined when first put up, and never allow a man to go on working at one that is thought dangerous, even if he were inclined to do so himself. Grinding is men's work; a youth may get to it at 16, but generally rather later. It is not considered healthy work; but if they are steady and use precautions they may keep well enough. Levelling the stone is the worst part. Each levels his own stone, and on the average once a day for about 20 minutes, but this varies according to the kind of work and the quality of the stone. If the work is of a rough kind the condition of the stone is not so particular. The regular grinding is done wet, which keeps down the dust. Many use a wet sponge over their mouths, but often do not begin it till too late, *i.e.*, till their lungs have begun to fail.

I think that a good many can write, and all do some reading at odd times, which helps to keep them from mischief. The cheap newspapers have done a good deal to encourage reading.

124. *Harry Feeny*, age 13.—Blow bellows at a forge. Stop eight or nine times a day when the men do. It's very hot, but I don't sweat much; am "hoast" (hoarse), and have been for a week; am more so in winter. Can't speak with it at times. Wash every night at home; could at the tap here. Breakfast and tea here, dinner at home.

The iron when being struck flies and burns my clothes, arms, and face, but not to hurt. This finger was cut in striking, which I do sometimes.

Don't know "A." Was at day-school when little a long while ago, and go once on Sunday, and don't miss often; but can't learn nothing, try as well as I can. Go to the Catholic chapel every Sunday a'most, but can't understand what is said. They read out of a big book. Thinks it's the Bible. Don't know anyone that the Bible is about. Have only heard the lads talking about the Queen, and heard mother say that she's a

Protestant, I think. Don't know whether she is good or kind to the people, but think she *does* take care of us.

125. *William Morris*, age 11.—Blow and strike. Have done so for three years here. Did the same for 18 months before at another place where they made railway pins, and such things (works in Edgbaston Street). My regular hours then were from 6 a.m. till 7 p.m., sometimes worked till 8 and 9; 9 was the latest.

The work here is very hot and wets my shirt. Get 4*s.* 6*d.* a week; pay it to my mother. Have two hours for my meals. Have not been away from work poorly. Can spell some words (can). Go to school on Sundays.

[Wretchedly pale and weak looking.]

126. *Benjamin Mason.*—Last boy works for me. He is often poorly, and is very bad in the chest, and very often complains of his chest and head when at work. A fortnight ago he was crying all day. He has had nothing given him to eat but dry bread, no tea nor coffee, not a bit of butter, nor nothing. He was so weak from it that he was no good to me, and I told him he must either leave his father or not work for me any longer; and he now lives with his brother.

127. *Samuel Palmer*, age 11.—Blow bellows all day from 7 to 7, except two hours for meals. The man pays me 3*s.* 6*d.* a week.

Don't know all the letters. Was two years at the day school, and left when 7. Left off going to Sunday school six months ago, because I had not got no clothes. Father has been out of work two or three months; lost his work for drinking.

128. *Frederick Gough*, age 13.—File; also turn corks for muzzle stoppers, on a lathe turned by the engine. Get 5*s.* a week for day work. Am pretty well for the corks: have worked it two years. Was badly at first,—the dust got down my throat and was always heaving me, but I shut my mouth now. It don't hurt you, only like as if there was something in your throat and you couldn't heave it up. It made me spit a good deal, and sick,—quite sick, but does not now. Don't get out of breath. Swill my mouth out with water before I eat or drink. Sometimes have a ha'p'o'th of milk, new milk as we call it. It don't hurt you then. The master (man) told me to keep my mouth shut, swill it out, and take the milk. Sometimes do corks all day, from 7 to 7, and for a week together; can do 10 gross a day. My voice is always rough like it is now. Have cut my hand against the cutting wheel.

Know a few letters. Go to school on Sundays sometimes, but not very often. Have got such ragged clothes I don't like to go, and don't go out very often. Father was an iron caster, but he lost an eye at it; a piece of iron fled into it, and now he labours about at a foundry, &c.

[Pale and hoarse.]

129. *Ephraim Randall*, age 10.—Cut cork ends; here a year. Have cut three fingers and my arm at it. (*Shows marks.*) Feel sick sometimes. Have dinner in the shop here, and the other boys does too. Get meat on Sunday, and other days bread and cheese.

130. *C. D* . . . age 14.—Work a press for plates, triggers, and small things; the only other girl in this shop does the same. My hands are black with the oil from the tools, which are all oiled. Wash me at home, not here. There is a tap, and we could bring soap and towel, but there is no bucket in this shop.

Have to live away from home, because my father is dead, and the young man that lives with mother, who is not married, don't like us to be with him, so I pay 3*s.* 6*d.* out of my 4*s.* 6*d.* a week to live with a woman.

Was quite a little one when at school. Can tell my letters, but not spell them.

131. *Julia Kerr*, age 14.—Press girl. Know the letters; cannot spell. "Say" is "was." Was never at a day school. Go Sunday sometimes.

132. *Frederick John Hughes*, age 14.—Slit screws at a steam lathe.

Was at day school from 9 years old till 11. Can read and write. (Reads "delight," &c., imperfectly.) Cannot tell what the word means, why the Saviour is called so, or what is the Queen's name.

133. *Richard Shipley*, age 13.—Go errands for the men. At day school two or three years, but was often away at home for two or three weeks or more, to mind the young uns. Sisters were at pins.

134. *James Smith*, age 15.—Cannot read. Was at day school four years, but not regular, though more there than away. They taught me to try to read. Go to night school when there is any; don't pay. Have left Sunday school a good while.

135. *John Chapman*, age 14.—Go errands. Have worked at four places. Was never at a day school. "h" is "v."

136. *William Wiseman.*—Foreman. Am surprised to find how few can read; should have thought most could, but the men take whom they please. The boys take their meals when they please. If a case of ill-treatment were to occur it would be brought to the master's notice. It happens very seldom.

MESSRS. COOPER & CO'S, GUN MANUFACTURERS, WOODCOCK STREET.

137. The number of persons employed in gun work of all kinds varies very greatly everywhere, according to the demand. The number employed at this, which is a leading manufactory, was said to be at the time of my visit about three-fifths only of what it was a few months before. Quite young boys handle red hot barrels with tongs or iron bars, but are said seldom to be hurt, though I saw a boy of 10 drop one against his leg, from which it fell on to his foot. Other young boys, three sitting together being aged 10, 11, and 12, polish metal with emery powder on wheels turned by steam, in which process quantities of sparks are given off, varying according to the size of the surface polished. The air smells strongly of the metal and the work-bench becomes covered with the small particles, which, at the back, lay nearly three inches deep, the accumulation of four days. A fragment of metal hit my eye as I was speaking to one of these boys. No means are used for protecting them against the dust, though I was told that the men sometimes use handkerchiefs over their mouths. Though it is improbable that much injury would be observable in the case of boys who cannot have been at the work long, the statement of one of the boys seems to show that the dust is not without some effect on them. Much of the other boys' work is at lathes and filing at vices.

138. *Henry Martingale*, age 11.—Polish small pieces of gun work on a wheel; often cough, which hurts my stomach. My throat hurts too at times. Sometimes when the dust gets down my throat I have to catch my breath. Do not ever wear anything over my mouth. The sparks do not ever burn my apron, but sometimes they fly into my eyes. One piece stuck in the middle of it for a week, and at last the grinder got it out with his penknife. Sometimes something comes over that eye still.

"N-o-t" spells "the"; spells "horse." I go to Sunday school.

139. *Samuel Robertson*, age 11.—Catch barrels as they come red hot through the rollers. Have been at this very nearly two years. There are generally three or four boys at the same work. Have stayed till 9 at night two or three months together. The engine stops for dinner: I have it here. Get 6*s.* a week. Just know the letters.

140. *Benjamin Robertson*, age 10.—Straighten

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barrels under a steam roller. Have sometimes dropped a hot barrel upon my boot, but not to burn myself.

141. *William Derry*, age 14.—Am now "nosing "out" barrels, *i.e.* boring the end with a brace and bit, but I am not at it every day. Sometimes do it for an hour together. Do not feel it hurt my body, though I did at first, and I used to be short of breath from it, but I have got into it more now and don't feel it. Used the brace at a gun-screwing place before I was here.

142. *Mr. Joseph Jeacox.*—I assist in the management of the business. The brace pressing against the body is very injurious. It was used for most purposes formerly, and when I was young I suffered very much from it myself, and have known many who had to leave the work with their health destroyed by it, and go into decline from it. Now it is but little used comparatively, as so much is done by lathes and machinery.

Accidents from machinery are very rare here. I never knew one at the rollers, except burns from the hot barrels or from sparks flying into the eye, but these have not been serious. The chief accidents have been to boys at lathes, but these have been only to the fingers.

When I went round lately to take the list of the boys' names, I found a great many, not only of the younger boys but also of the elder, of 15 or 16 or so, who could not read or write, and who do not even go to the Sunday school, which, at least, they might do. But they are sent to work so young, viz., from 7 upwards, that they often get no schooling at all unless their parents are particular about it.

MR. HENRY CLIVE'S, GUN-BARREL MANUFACTURER, BAGOT STREET.

143. A few boys are employed in taking out red hot barrels from the rollers and helping the men. Three, said to mind machines for working the barrels when cold, were not at work at the time of my visit.

144. *William Newton*, age 10.—Rear stamps (long iron rods) up and put the moulds (pieces of metal to be formed into barrels) into the furnace for the men. Work from 8 till 7, never longer, and have an hour for dinner.

Was at pearl buttons before. There were three men, two women, and a girl at that place. My work hours were from 8½ in the morning till 9 at night. Dinner time was from 1 till 2, but I used to come back at 1¼, to make haste at the shop and do more work. Never had more than that time for dinner, but I was only there a fortnight. Half an hour was allowed for tea, and I had about 20 minutes. I had to "fike (?) out," *i.e.* pickle the buttons in a jowl, and keep stirring them up. Had 1*s.* 6*d.* a week and overtime for work in the dinner hour.

Don't know the letters: H is W, T is B. Go to school on Sundays.

[The father explained that the boy was "not "at work at all, did not get a farthing; "only helped him.]

145. *Samuel Newton.*—Age 13. Take the barrels as they come through the rollers, and lay them on an iron plate, to be straightened. Don't get burned much, but do a little. Here four years. Work from 8 till 7, and when busy from 7 a.m. till 7½ p.m., not ever much longer.

Cannot tell the letters.

HART'S MILL, STEELHOUSE LANE.

146. In this factory steam power is let to separate employers for different purposes, *i.e.* gun polishing gun-barrel rifling, wood turning, and printing; one or two quite small places. In a gun polishing shop (Pennel's) five boys, the eldest 15, the youngest 9, polish gun furniture on steam lathes, and do other odd work. Stoves and charcoal pans in the shop for hardening the metal at certain stages, &c., and the boiler of the engine just outside in front, make the shop hot.

147. *Henry Francis*, age 23. — Have worked at gun polishing all my life, *i.e.* since about 12 years old, in shops about like this (about 30 by 10 by 8) with steam power. In all the usual hours were from 8 till 7, with an hour for dinner, or if very busy, an hour or two extra. Have gone till 11 or 12 p.m., that is about the latest. The work has three branches, *viz.*, polishing, blueing, and hardening.

It is very unhealthy work from the heat of the hardening stoves and the charcoal burning in the pans to blue the metal. This and the dirt, *i.e.* dust from polishing, cause consumption. I have been bad two years off and on, and under the doctor's hands a great many times. Went to him for a pain in my stomach, chest, and side. He says it has brought a kind of asthmatical cough on me, and I don't suppose I shall get rid of it as long as I live. Have had a cough on me now four years on and off very bad; morning and night is the worst part of it. Have spit up blood a long while, ever since I had the cough on me, more foul phlegm than anything, but always blood when the cough is bad on me. When it comes on very strong it seems as if my eyes would come out. It will come on me to night when I leave the shop and the air gets hold of me; it always does. It would be a great blessing if I could get rid of it. Some stand it a great deal better than others; it's just according. I am worse than most. The boys here seem healthy, and I have known plenty work long, and not be affected at all. Those that are delicate it affects most. A great deal of dirt, *i.e.* the dust off the iron, gets down the throat, and I have many times had my apron catch fire from the sparks.

148. *Mr. Robert Pennel*, polisher of gun furniture, *i.e.* all the small metal parts of guns, as locks, sights, bands, brass guards, &c., not the barrel or stock.—Gun polishing must be done by power and in mills. Barrel grinding must be done in mills of the same kind, but on stones, which is very injurious, at least from what I have been told. They get leaning over the work so, and I have no doubt it gets on the lungs and causes consumption. It is not a lad's job, though they must learn as lads probably. This work, polishing, does not hurt me. I have been at it ever since I was 7. Have been in the country just now. It is enough to kill any body in here with the boiler just outside and our own stoves in. It can't help but be hot. But it is the dust of the stone in the barrel grinding which is injurious. The other shops in this mill have the same hours as this, *viz.*, from 8 till 7, with an hour for dinner. They employ about the same numbers as I do; sometimes I have only one or two. Must pay all the same whether we use the machinery or not. The people in the military line have been very busy of late; I am most in the birding line.

149. *Alfred Taylor*, age 14.—Polish. Polish this brass guard with an oil brush, then with a bigger brush, and rotten stone and oil. The dust gets into my mouth. Can breathe well always.

Can read but very little. (Reads.) "Mercy" means the little uns like, learning to read and write and asking for food.

[Clouds of dust flew off as he was using the brush. Of the only other three boys then in, one of 11 could read a little, one of 9 and one of 11, brothers, said that they did not know the letters. The youngest could "tell I, and O, and that."]

J. ABBOTT, GUNSTOCKER AND FANCY CABINET MAKER, ANN STREET.

Birmingham District. — Guns, Swords, &c. — Mr. J. E. White. — b.

150. I used to employ boys at making photographic trays, *i.e.* small cases for portraits, but they spoiled more than they made, and I gave them up. These cases are usually made by fancy cabinet makers, *i.e.* men, and covered in factories by children. What injures the trade is putting little ones to men's work. This trade might have been kept up if it had not been for the little ones being put to do it.

Gunwork, stocking at least, wants too much strength for boys, and they are of no use but for errands. I have had men, but they used to come drunk and once spoiled six guns; so I thought I would do without men at all.

Some of the lads I had I got from a woman in —— Street, who was allowed to have 20 from the workhouse to keep, and she let anyone have them out for half-a-crown a week. They were the biggest set of reprobates anywhere. I used to have to go and fetch them in with a walking stick. That was the only way that I could get them to work at all.

BENJAMIN DARBY'S, GUNSCREWER AND FINISHER, STEELHOUSE LANE.

151. The shop is in a separate building at the bottom of a yard on the second floor; the first floor is an empty shop; the ground floor, an ash-hole, a privy, and a wash-house.

152. *Benjamin Darby.*—Employ now, only one boy. Have had three. May have men, or a youth of 16 or so, or boys according as you have luck. From 8 till 7 is the time for the work; at times they may stop till 9. Screwing is fitting the work on to the stocks, after the stocker has let the barrel and lock in. Have to send the locks and small pieces to the polisher, the barrels to the smoother, and then to the browner, and the stocks to the varnisher, having them all back between each stage. The boys are wanted to carry the different parts of the gun to the different workers.

153. *James Hall*, aged 9.—Run errands. Here two years. Ran errands at a rifling and sighting place before. Worked from 8 till 7; the mill was always shut at 7. Carried as many as eight gun barrels; can carry 15 now. Have to stop to rest several times, because it makes your arms ache. Was at school till coming to work. Can read (can) and write large hand a bit. Beef comes from a cow. Go to school on Sunday, and read chapters out of the Bible,—about the prodigal son, &c.

[The master said that 15 guns was "a tidy "job" for him to carry, and that the boy could not carry so many any distance.]

154. *Joseph Jackson.*—In another shop in the same court. Gun stocker. Have had two or three boys at a time, but have none now, but a man works hand in hand with me. The boys, when here, work the customary hours, viz., from 8 to 7, with a dinner hour. They take the rough off with a file, and go errands. They would work longer for a few half-pence extra. Boys usually get 2*s.* 6*d.* or 3*s.* a week, and 1*s.* or 1*s.* 6*d.* when they first begin.

MR. ROBERT CHAPLIN, GUN MAKER, STEELHOUSE LANE.

155. I employ on my premises three youths, out of their time as apprentices, and two lads to carry guns backwards and forwards, who come from 8 o'clock till 7. Should say there were 20 gun manufacturers in the town with over 100 pair of hands each, but not more than three or four with 200. Very few indeed work in attics now, not one in 50 of what did; that is almost stopped. Where they do work so it is only a man by himself. A standing at a vice can be got in a shop so easily now, and many men even speculate in shopping instead of houses.

MESSRS. R. MOLE AND SON'S, SWORD CUTLERS, BROAD STREET.

156. Swords and "matchetts," short rough scymetar-like blades, used in foreign plantations for cutting sugar-canes, are made here by men and a few boys. Two boys, one of 14, who, however, had only been here a few weeks, were employed in "glazing" the blades on wheels, a process in which streams of sparks are thrown off. The smell too is plainly perceptible.

157. *Mr. Mole.*—The greater part of the work is done by men who forge the blades and grind them on stones. Two boys take the hot metal out of the fire for them with tongs. A few others glaze and do odd things. Besides myself and another manufacturer, who probably employs more persons than I do, as he also makes guns, there are only two or three small sword cutlers in the town, and I do not know of any other sword manufacturers in the kingdom, except the Government places. My hours are from 7 till 7, with two hours for the three meals. I have not worked overtime now for many years, having enlarged the place, which allows of more workers than formerly.

MESSRS. YATES AND SONS', EDGE TOOL MANUFACTURERS, PRITCHETT STREET, AND ASTON ROAD.

158. On the occasion of my second visit, being a Monday, between 5 and 6 o'clock, the workpeople were off work, but there was a boy in the warehouse. Edge Tools.

159. *Mr. J. W. Yates, jun.*—We are the largest manufacturers of edge tools in Birmingham and, I believe, in the trade, unless perhaps with the exception of one at Wolverhampton. The bulk of the articles are spades, shovels, hoes, axes, pickaxes, and all tools for the soil, not, however, including cutlery. The boys under 13 are employed at machinery or handing pieces of hot metal to men to be forged. They scarcely ever stay beyond 7. The piece workers come what time they please; perhaps in summer will come at 5 and leave by dinner time. They are nearly all men or close upon it. The boys are employed by the men. On Mondays very few come at all; probably out of the entire number of 300 or 400 there will not be more than 40 or 50. On Sunday I believe they are drinking. When the men are away, the boys are no use. There are no recognized holidays at all in the year, not even Christmas Day or Good Friday; the mill stops, but some come. They take, however, a great number of holidays, and on Saturdays leave at 5.

The greater part of the machinery is protected. We have had one or two accidents from lads getting over, &c.

Birmingham District.

Edge Tools.

Mr. J.E.White.

b.

160. *William Mountfort*, age 14.—Pack and label in the warehouse, and sometimes paint tools in a shop to make them look fancy. From 8 till 7 is my right time, but three parts of my time, very nearly always, we come at 6 a.m. and stay till 9 p.m., sometimes only till 8, and sometimes till 11, according to what work we have got, but we leave at 5 on Saturday. My hours have been as long as this ever since I came into this warehouse, *i.e.*, two years and a half. But when we were so very much in work as we were for eight or nine months together before the last twelvemonth we used to go on all night on Fridays in every week, and work on all the next day, just the same as if we had not worked at night. No time at all was allowed for sleep in the night, but an hour and a half or sometimes two hours was allowed for meals, and we used to sleep a bit then, as we sat on a bench or lay down on the counter or the floor. The time we could sleep was according to the time that the foreman called us at. I could not work very well next day, and sometimes lay down to sleep at dinner time. We have not often fallen asleep at work, but have sometimes. A lad a week younger than myself and another about 17 and three men were in this warehouse, and worked in the same way; but the number was according to whom the master, Mr. Yates, told to stay at night. I was in the lower warehouse half a year, but did not stay at night there. In the lower warehouse now there are only men, a lad of about 17, and one of 11. This boy works only from 8 till 7, but the eldest comes and goes with the men, and they come at 6 a.m. three days in the week and stay till 9 p.m. every night but Saturday. The smiths have worked all night too, at other times till 3 a.m., at others till 12 at night, according to what they have to do. Boys, the youngest about 14 or 15, have stayed with the smiths. I know they have, because they tell us so. I do not remember that the mill has ever run all night since I have been here, which is five years altogether, as I was in the yard and mill for a couple of years. In the mill, to which I came at 8 years old, I used to work from 7 till 7, never longer. I picked up spoons, carried out "breezes," *i.e.* cinders, in scuttles, &c. I have half an hour for breakfast when we came at 6, a quarter of an hour for lunch, an hour for dinner, and half an hour for tea, and had the same times in the mill. Sometimes we work in meal times and leave so much earlier, or, if we cannot be spared, are paid for it as overtime. Take my meals in the warehouse and can go in the street if I have a mind, but sometimes I am in here from morning till night without ever moving out. Like having the overtime, because I get the money for myself. My regular wages are 6*s.* a week. Have good health, and have scarcely ever had to be away from work.

Before I was here I was in a casting shop for a fortnight, where I chipped bits of metal with a hammer, helped the man turn the pot when he poured, &c. The work did not suit me at all. There was a funny smell, and it made me feel giddy and sick of my head, and I coughed very often, especially in the pouring. There was no trap or opening in the roof of the shop, but it was a pretty good size, about as large as the warehouse here. The dust and dirt used to black my face, but there was no place at which I could wash. I used to eat my dinner in the casting shop along with the caster. I brought it in the morning and hung it up in the shop by my jacket. The food did not taste bad from the smell. Used to get my feet burned through my boots with the hot metal, but not to hurt me badly, and also the front of my trousers. The casting didn't suit the caster. He lived next to we, and had been bad a long time; used to spit blood and choke. He died when about 36, the nighest that I could guess.

Have not been at a day school since 6 years old. Hadn't clothes to go in for one thing. Father gets 16*s.* a week here as an edge tool maker. But I go on Sunday and to church. Know all my letters, but cannot spell all my words. Can count up to 100 or 300. David killed the giant—Galgoph, I think. Yes, Goliah.

[Has much natural quickness and sense, though a dull look and manner. Looks of a healthy constitution.]

MESSRS. W. MAY AND CO.'S, ENGINEERS, MILLWRIGHTS, AND IRON-FOUNDERS, BERKELEY STREET.

Engineering Works.

161. The works are carried on in two distinct factories. In both the work is of a heavy kind, and carried on almost entirely by the labour of skilled mechanics and apprentices, and the size of the articles made and the nature of the processes secures ample space and air, though even here the iron foundry is said to be very exhausting for the men in hot weather. A few boys, three under 13 and a few over, are employed in the iron foundry shop, making cores, going errands, &c., but there appeared nothing peculiar in their work.

162. *Mr. W. May.*—We employ no females, and but very few young boys, as most boys that we take are apprentices. As a rule we do not like taking them unless they can read and write, and before they are bound they are always asked where they have been at school. Our hours are from 6 to 6, with half an hour for breakfast and an hour for dinner, and till 1 on Saturday. These are, I believe, the usual hours in the engineering trade throughout the country, except that where the workpeople do not leave early on Saturday, they leave at $5\frac{1}{2}$ on other days. The only thing that ever interferes with the meal times is, that if other people's machinery breaks down they want it repaired without any stoppage, but that very rarely happens. Sometimes orders oblige us to work overtime, but we do not like it; we pay for overwork 25 per cent. more, and the labour is not worth so much if continued for any length of time. Sometimes the men stay till 10 p.m. at the heavier work, but the boys are always allowed to go at 8 if possible, unless in very rare cases indeed. My opinion is that young people under 18 or even 21, if kept for any time together beyond our usual hours, do not do more work, in fact do less.

Judging from our own business, which I hope to be able to conduct without any need for overtime, I do not think that the engineering business in general would find any serious inconvenience from a prohibition of the work of young persons beyond our present hours, or at any rate to such an extent as should lead us to oppose any general measures which might be required for the benefit of the young in works of other kinds.

MESSRS. EVANS AND ASKIN'S, NICKEL MANUFACTURERS, GEORGE STREET.

Nickel Works.

163. By the account given at these works it appears that very few boys are employed either here or at the few other works of a like kind. The air outside over the casting shops is full of white snow-like flakes rising from the metal.

164. *Mr. Thomas Rose.*—A clerk here. Two young boys of about from 9 to 12 years old help in the rolling mills, passing blanks through the rollers. All the rest of the work is done by men; boys could not do it, as it requires so much strength. The blanks of spoons are stamped by machinery attended by

men. In the casting shops the youths who help the men and learn the work are from 18 to 20 years of age. The usual hours are from 8 a.m. till 7 p.m., with an hour for dinner at 1. When the men stay longer the boys do, as sometimes till 9, but that is rare. There are about four or five other nickel manufacturers of any size, but their work would all require to be done in much the same way.

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MESSRS. TUPPER AND CO.'S, GALVANIZED IRON MANUFACTURERS, BERKELEY STREET.

Galvanized Iron Works.

165. The greater part employed here are adults. The work-places are airy. The work in which the youths were engaged looked so little special, that I made no further inquiries. There was a strong smell of the acids, &c., near the dipping-places.

166. *Mr. Richard Pocock*, foreman and manager of the works.—The regular hours are from 6½ to 6½, with half an hour for breakfast, and an hour for dinner. If overtime is made, it is a quarter of a turn till 8½, or half a turn till 11, with half an hour for tea, but boys seldom stay. We have day and night sets, but very few under 18 at night; we like men best for that. I am very particular about their taking their meals regularly. Sometimes the men would like to go straight on with their work without stopping to eat, but I will not let them. I say, "Well, just have a mouthful at "any rate, and stop half an hour." I consider it the paramount duty of employers to see to such things. Though it might be a slight inconvenience, it would affect us very slightly, if boys under 18 had to work within 12 hours only; we employ scarcely any under 13. Still we should not like it, and it would affect others more. On the whole this is a peculiarly regular business, and the overtime is very equally distributed. When piece work is done, the boys are employed by the men.

The boys' work is chiefly rivetting, and helping the men, who dip and coat the metal in molten zinc, but not actually engaging in the dipping. A great deal of free ammonia is thrown off in the flux, and there are the gases from muriatic and sulphuric acid, used for pickling and cleaning the metal. On this account we should not like to employ asthmatical men, but like to have them pretty sound, and then I do not see that they suffer from it.

The machinery is used in corrugating the sheet metal. Accidents are very rare in this.

There is a feeling predominant that youths might attend night-classes with advantage, and get useful information. Several of our people, both adults and boys, do.

There are about half-a-dozen works of the same kind here, and about the same number in London, and three in Wolverhampton.

MESSRS. GRIFFITHS AND BROWETT'S, TIN-PLATE WORKERS AND JAPANNERS, BRADFORD STREET.

Tin-plate Works.

167. The manufacture includes a great variety of iron, tin, copper, and brass articles, as coffee pots, bowls, &c. The buildings are an instance of the class referred to (B. 16), in which the business of an establishment seems to have outgrown its space to a degree unfavourable to the state of the work-places, and in this case even of those in which processes especially needing high and well ventilated rooms, are carried on. (Cf. *Inf.* 173, 176.)

168. A band which turns a grindstone runs unprotected at about the height of the knee across an open doorway, said not to be used while the bands are in motion, though it has been used at other times. If the doorway were closed, the risk from a possible temptation to a short cut would be avoided.

169. In one workshop are some very powerful presses, worked by heavy fly handles, which men, in one case six, force round walking, as at a capstan. The handles of the only one which I saw at work, requiring four men, when let go swing round with great force close to the head of a boy, who stands in a sunk hole to put the metal under the press; but he is in no actual though great apparent danger from the handles, unless he moves from his position, and I could not learn that any accident had ever happened in this way. At one of the presses, however, a boy was stated to have had a finger crushed off, because he got "giddy," *i.e.*, did not attend properly. With presses, loss of one or more fingers, in whole or part, is the natural result of inattention, sufficient to cause a slight misjudgment of time in putting or withdrawing the hand; an inattention which the hospital practice books show to be very common, especially amongst children. I have understood that certain mechanical contrivances have been introduced at these works to prevent or diminish such risk.

170. The females are employed principally in two departments, viz., the japanning and ornamenting, and the cleaning rooms. The latter work is dirty, from the use of rotten stone, oil, &c., in rubbing, but the only means of washing is with suds used in parts of the work, which the girls fetch in tins. Girls, as stated by a woman who had been here for 10 years, generally come at about the age of 13, and work as learners under women, some for three or four years, beginning at a payment of about 2*s.* a week. In the former department but few young girls are engaged. Some of these sit with their backs a few feet from some of the drying-stoves, and put racks into the stoves, and take them out, though without entering the stoves; but the air at the doorways is hot and close. One or two young girls, away at tea at the time of my visit, were stated amongst other things, to grind colours for paints.

171. The employers take an active interest in general questions affecting the welfare of the working classes, and have adopted a system, which they have found to work extremely well, of bringing up boys and youths as apprentices at fixed payments up to a certain age, and after that allowing them to share in the profits of the work actually done by them, which supplies an effective stimulus to improvement, which is wanting where increased industry brings no immediate advantage. A workshop is set apart where boys are taken on trial for a short time, after which, if they appear likely to prove valuable workers, they are taken as apprentices. In several departments, however, both boys and girls are employed and paid by the adults with whom they work.

172. *Mr. Griffiths, junr.*—For several years I have thought much on the employment of the young in manufactures, and the possibility of legislating for it. My own conclusion, and that, I believe, of most with whom I have spoken on the subject is, that there is room for much improvement, but that it is difficult, in this district, at least, to secure it by legislation. Any limitations of the factory kind, would make but little

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difference to ourselves, but there are many to whom it would make much more, those, *e.g.*, who employ, as many do, great numbers of children.

The hardware manufactures are not subject to fluctuations from fashion, and our own business is regular, though at times we exceed the usual hours. But our experience is, that any continuous overtime is not only no gain but a positive loss. It occasionally happens that our men work hard and late, as *e.g.* for a week or a few weeks before Christmas, and earn more money, but then they waste afterwards more time than they have gained. Large establishments are generally fairly regular, and in fact must have a regular system of work.

173. *John Mitchell.*—Brass caster. Cast copper also. For brass, spelter, which is the name for zinc, is broken up from a cake and mixed with copper. Employ in this shop three men, and a boy to whom I give 3*s.* 6*d.* a week. Since I have been here, *i.e.*, about five months, till now (middle of May) there has been overtime oftener than not. In winter overtime is till 9½ p.m., at other times till 9 p.m.

It is very unhealthy work. Have been at it 17 years, having begun at 13. It's the sulphur on the chest. All we call it is—"you've catched the sulphur." You have a nasty hacking cough and like something tickling in your throat. Find these effects a'most always when we have been at play for a day or two, or a week or two. That man there (*next witness*) has been away a short time, and will hardly be able to walk home to night. He has been learning the work 18 years, but will never get to do it. Some spit, but none of them do here. It's when they get old a bit that that comes. Those who drink heavy are affected most. Milk is very good for this trade, but makes me bad. We do not put anything over our faces when we pour here. Fancy that you have to breathe the same air with a handkerchief on as without it. It is the custom to take opening medicines two or three times a week. Have found relief from it myself and seen others do it. Am not a strong man whatever I may look. Was three stone heavier when eight or nine years younger.

Casting shops generally ought to be high, open to the roof, with traps to let the vapour out. Most shops have traps, but this is a very bad place, because it is vaulted and has shops above. Those flues at the side are not enough. Think the shop was not built for this purpose. It is the only brass casting shop in the works.

[This man had struck me as of broad chest and powerful build, though sallow complexion, and his voice did not show strength.]

174. *Thomas Parsons.*—Brass caster. Have been at brass and iron casting for 18 years, beginning at 14 or 15. Like iron the best for health. Am well enough. (When further questioned.) Suffer a little from the sulphur at the beginning of the week; generally do. Feel "shaky" at the stomach, and can't get breath scarcely, and all of a shiver if sitting by the fire at night. Do not put anything over my face when pouring.

175. *James Ennis*, age 12.—Clean the sand out of bits of brass for hydropults in the brass casting shop. Have stayed overtime till 9 two nights this week and shall two more.

176. *Edward Fisher.*—Tinner. Have under me, in this shop, a youth of 17 and three boys, aged 12, 13, and 15.

The first process is pickling the iron in vitriol and water to clean it, which is man's work, as it wants judgment, but the youth has done it for three years.

The metal is put into vats of hot grease and the boys rub the grease off, and go errands. The tin is put on by steeping in vats of heated liquid, which is my work. I have been at it 20 years, and am now 36.

Some call it healthy work, but only those who have not worked at it: it is a mistake to call it so. Am not the man I was. Was very strong. For about 10 years my breathing has been short, and at intervals my appetite bad, *i.e.* when the wind blows the smoke down the chimney, but not when the smoke is pretty clear. This shop is very bad, being vaulted, and having a shop over. A tinning shop should be high and airy, but so as not to be draughty, and with a skylight to lift up. Have worked in many shops and found a great difference in my health, according as they were more or less airy. The work is done in great heat, and in summer makes me perspire very much. Spit a great deal,—and blood. In fact spit blood most mornings. Never had any illness to bring on bad health except bronchitis, but that is brought on by the work. Certainly have been a deal worse since the bronchitis. My bad health has come on gradually, and I feel it worse every month. The young ones don't think anything about the effects of the work. Have always been a very temperate man and never go into a public house by any chance. Have always been too attentive to business to get out of doors much. Have no doubt it would have been much better for my health if I had got out more.

177. *Thomas Culley*, age 13.—Grease the metal in the tinning shop. Have been in it two years. (Coughs.) Do not cough often; only sometimes. Cough most days when the pot is low and fresh grease put in.

[A boy of 15 in the same shop read monosyllables inaccurately.]

178. *Thomas Purdy*, age 15.—Solder pots with a blow-pipe and gas all day, and have done so for a year and a half. The hours are from 6½ a.m. till 7 p.m., and never any overtime. The gas makes me hot and sweat, so that I have to wipe my face. (Moisture is standing on his forehead on a cool spring day.) Am short of breath, after blowing all day, sometimes. Have the head-ache, but so often, nearly every day, that I take no notice of it: manage to keep on at work. Think I got the head-ache from turning a loom at Coventry: that makes some giddy and of some it turns the brains; but some have better health than others at it. Earn 5*s.* a week for mother, and 1*s.* 3*d.*, which master (man) gives me for working well, for myself. Give mother 1*s.* of this,—sometimes every week,—to find my clothes, and keep the 3*d.*

Was at week day school from 4 years old till I went to work at 8 or 10. Go on Sundays now, but never to a night school. Read (a few words slowly) but do not know T. Know 7 and 18, but not what they come to if added together.

179. *Charles Guest.*—Have been at the blow-pipe 20 years, having begun at 15. Unless a person is strong, *i.e.* if he is weakly to begin with, it hurts him and he can't carry it out. Have known many bad from it and, boys especially, unable to follow it. About 13 is the common age for them to begin, but they are of no account for the first three months, some for the first nine. They do not blow a full day at first. It gets to the chest of some and causes consumption. When I had been at the work about 10 years I had an illness on the lungs. The doctor said that it was a touch of decline, destroying the lungs, and that it came from the blowing. Had just before that been doing very heavy work, and for long hours, viz. about 13 or 14 daily. (*Coughs. Just afterwards*—) Didn't know that I coughed. A cold always affects my chest, but I have not one now. Appetite is fair. Was a strong boy.

[A slight, thin-faced man.]

180. *George Priest*, age 16.—At the blow-pipe for 4½ years. Am given to the sick head-ache, and have been as much as three days from work with it. Do not cough often.

[Has a weak, hoarse voice.]

181. *Anthony M'Hale*, age 12.—Put flat iron blanks under a large four handled press, which stamps them into bowls. Never got knocked on the head by the handles or pinched under the press.

182. *Henry Daniels*, age 12.—File. Worked at a chandelier place before. The hours were from

8 a.m. till 7 p.m., but I sometimes stayed till 9 and 9½ p.m. Got 2*s.* 6*d.* a week there, and the same here.

Was at school till I went to work, at 10 years old, for ever such a while, and never learned anything. It's only a lad of about 14 that teaches. He used to hit us and tell lies about all the lads to the master. (Reads "was" as "is.")

183. *Harry Ferrer*, age 12.—Work under father, pressing metal in a press and running errands. The hours are from 6½ a.m. till 7 p.m. Breakfast and tea in the shop, from 9 till 9½ and 5 till 5½. Home for an hour for dinner at 1. Go to a Sunday school, but not to a night school.

184. *Henry Ferrer*, father of last witness. Had to take my boy from school sorely against my will, and let him run the streets, for fear of injuring his brain, his head having been hurt. All boys should be at school, and I shall send him again for a year after a bit. Kept my other boy at school till 16, and he is a good scholar, and has got to rule-of-three, and is now doing well in work.

185. *Charles Hayler*, age 16.—Work a drill in a shop with six men. Went to rope-works at 8½ years old, and then to guard chains. Clean my machinery once a week, but only when it is stopped.

At week-day school a year. Read (makes mistakes in simple words), know some sums, and can write on a slate. School on Sunday.

186. *Lucy Mullens*, age 14. — Clean white metal coffee-pots, &c., by rubbing with whiting or rotten stone and oil and leather. Sometimes have overtime till 9 or 9½, as for six weeks or a couple of months up till Christmas. Can all wash in tins with the suds in which the pots are boiled, which we fetch up ourselves. Have dinner either at home or here at my bench. Some others stay dinner, nine or 18 or so. Have breakfast in the workroom, and begin work as soon as we have done, and tea here also. Work under the woman beside me as a learner, and have done so for two years and a half. Many of the women have learners like her.

187. *Harriet Lewis*, age 14.—Print by putting gilt on paper for patterns. Put racks into the stoves and take them out. Find the stove affect me a little. Am sometimes away with the headache. Get 4*s.* a week.

At school from 2 years old till 12. Can read, write, and sum.

[Is very pale.]

188. *Martin M'Manus*, age 13.—Went to work in the tin trade at 7 years old; then to screw making.

189. *Statement forwarded by Messrs. Griffiths and Browett.*—We are of opinion that the early age at which many children are sent to work by their parents (viz., 8, 9, or 10 years) is injurious to them morally and physically, and we have adopted a rule in our manufactory forbidding the employment of any child under 12 years of age.

We are also of opinion that some inducement should be offered to parents to apprentice their children to some trade before they attain the age of 14 years. The advantages that would be derived from this are as follows:—

1st. The youth would learn a trade by which to support himself and family in after years, instead of learning first a little of one trade and then a little of another trade, and again of another, until, by the time he becomes a man, he can do two or three things indifferently and none well; he consequently earns small wages; is the last man to be employed when trade is good, and the first to be discharged when it is indifferent.

2d. When a youth is apprenticed, his master is obliged to find him constant employment, and to pay him regular wages, and he is thus prevented wasting a great amount of time in mischief and bad company, and is removed from temptation to steal from want, in case he should from any cause be thrown out of employ.

3d. The average quality of our skilled artizans would be improved.

4th. A steadiness and stability of character very desirable would be induced by constant employment at one trade, and by having a fixed purpose in view.

MR. ENOCH CHAMBERLAIN'S, TIN-PLATE WORKER AND JAPANNER, ABBEY STREET, LODGE ROAD.

190. A new factory, airy and light, at the edge of the town, with ample space for the present numbers. The greater part of the work is cutting out and forming tin plate for small things, *e.g.* lucifer match, pepper, and other boxes, with stamps, presses, &c. A boy was working a stamp. Some girls, one or two quite young, work close to the stoves in the japanning shop, in which the boxes, &c., are varnished, and therefore in a heated air. Others work at wrapping up, &c., in the same shop. A strong objection was at first made to any inquiry, unless it was already actually "the law," but afterwards, on fuller explanation of the real objects, consent was given, and entire approval expressed of any legislative measures for carrying out these objects if the "same for all." While I was questioning a girl of 11, who works in the japanning shop, and who knew her letters only, as to her hours of work, she was taken up as follows by a young woman named:—

191. *Ellen Farley.*—Oh, my gracious! we have been here till 12 and 11 at night—till 10 and 11, and 12 usually, and I only wish the time would come again. We have stayed till 10 and 11 for weeks and months together. Can't get here before 8. Most in this shop, viz., japanners and wrappers up, stayed, and I'm compelled to stay to finish wrapping, &c.; but in other parts they would leave by 8 or 8½ or 9. It was a great deal through so overworking himself that the master's illness was caused. We may work in dinner time once in a way. Lately, however, there has not been full work, and there are only 30 or 40 now, instead of near 80. Came here when I was 11 or 12, *i.e.* 11 years ago. Most of those who stayed late have left now.

192. *Rachel Wilward*, age 18.—I varnish. Our hours are from 8 till 7, but when busy have come at 7 on Friday and Saturday and have stayed till 10 and 10½ two nights a week. But its so long ago, I have not kept it in my head exactly. Have an hour for dinner and a quarter for tea. We have oil to clean our hands, at least we used to, but we have dripping now, I think because it is a little cheaper. We used to have spirits once for it. Am pretty well. It's warm, and I think my headaches are partly from the heat.

Can read. Cannot read that (monosyllables—tries and fails). Have not heard of Scotland, Ireland, or York. Believe London is a county; have heard so however. Cannot tell any of the names in the New Testament.

[Pale.]

193. *Susannah Prince*, age 14.—Press girl. Did not go to any work till I was 13. Went to school from about 4 years old till 8 or 9, but not half my time, because I had to mind the baby. Know the letters, but not the figure "2;" 3 and 2 are—(after a pause in which I counted 80)—5. Have heard that angels fly, and have heard talk about the sea, but don't know what it means. Don't know if a robin redbreast is a bird, or if it flies or sings.

194. *Fanny Stuckley*, age 8.—Began work two years ago. Turn pepper boxes now; have worked with a press and at a stamp. My thumb is tied up because I pinched it at the slice and joint press.

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Can tell the letters. Was never at a day school. Mother wanted me to mind the baby.

[Of the only three other girls whom I questioned one of 11, dirty, and one of 14 could spell; one of 13 could not.]

195. *Mr. Enoch Chamberlain.*—Cannot bear overtime. Have had to pay the doctor myself through it; Would be very glad for the children to have schooling. It is one of the chief duties, near to downright necessary; we have seen too much of ignorance.

MESSRS. BECKETT BROS'., TIN-PLATE WORKERS, HARFORD STREET.

196. The account given by Mr. Thos. Beckett below of the benefits to the employers as well as their workpeople, which have been experienced in the short space of six months from the substitution of spacious and ventilated buildings for the old factory, is highly instructive and encouraging. Judging from the contrast of the new buildings with a small portion of the old still standing, the change must have been great. There are iron ventilating bricks in the walls, and the windows open aslant. Excellent rules for ensuring the punctuality, good conduct, and comfort of the workpeople have been drawn up by the firm, and printed on large sheets so that all may see them, and no one is to enter the employment who has any objection to conforming as the rules are to be strictly maintained. A person guilty of swearing or o scene language is declared liable to be discharged without the notice, which is otherwise required on both sides. All, including children, must belong to the sick club—managed by the firm, "whose duty it shall be to visit the sick, &c."

197. *Mr. Thomas Beckett.*—Our work is making all kinds of small articles, as lucifer match boxes, of which we send a great many to London, and other small boxes, toys, mugs, plates, &c. These are made partly by steam, partly by hand presses worked by women and big girls, the younger handing these their work and helping in light kinds, though all are in our direct employment. The machinery is chiefly lathes. If there are accidents at the press it is from mere carelessness and looking about. Our material, tin-plate, is made in iron rolling mills and tinned before it comes to us. This forms a separate trade, not carried on nearer to here than Bilston, and chiefly in South Wales. There are not many tin-plate workers in this town.

Our hours were from 8 till 7, and on Saturdays till 4, but now the people leave at 2 on Saturday without dinner, and work till 7½ on other days, with an hour for dinner, during which the engine is stopped and the fire raked out without much loss of heat, and 20 minutes for tea. Before this change they had 1 hr. 10 min. for dinner, which was often 1 hr. 20 min., and half an hour for tea. We have now, however, laid down our system as above, with printed rules for the workpeople, showing them the rules and discipline which must be observed, and which are strictly enforced. Many at first said that they could not bear the new rules, and left work in consequence, but they have wanted to come back since. Now all like the present plan best. Securing punctuality and order is merely a matter of discipline. The half day on Saturday gives them an opportunity of getting into the country, and we find an improvement in them, as they work fresher and better in the week, and the amount of work done is not diminished. If the advantages of the half holiday were more known it would be generally adopted; indeed it is growing daily.

We have formerly been obliged to work late, our regular overtime being till 10 p.m. for all hands, the elder coming perhaps at 6 a.m. That is nearly all done away with now. We have built large new premises, and we are thus enabled in a press to put on more hands and do the work quicker, and find that this answers our purpose better than working overtime. But we gain by the improvement of our premises in other ways. Though they have been in use only six months we have found a great improvement in the health of the workpeople, and they remark the same, and all appreciate the benefit; the difference in the sick list proves it. There have been fewer away from work, and these more amongst the elder from severe complaints. Formerly the greater number were amongst the younger, who were away from general depression, shown in headaches, faintness, and general weakness, caused no doubt by the closeness of their work-places, and so much overwork. The best test to show the difference between a crowded and airy place is to go into a large public building, as the Town-hall, and other such halls, or a chapel, when they are full, especially on a hot day; they are almost unbearable. Of course there is the same difference in workshops. Our new place is not to be compared with our old; we find that the people, being less cramped in their work itself and having better ventilation, and so better health, can do more work with half the fatigue, so much so, indeed, that we now do more with our present numbers than we could do with 40 more in the old buildings. In this way the enlargement and improvement of work-places would repay the outlay as an investment alone, without regard to the increase of business, which it allows of. There is no particular danger in the work if ordinary care is used, though they sometimes lose a finger, or, if at the cutting tools, take a bit off. The injuries are only crushes and pinches, and seldom make more than a bruise.

There is, I should say, less late work now than there was in the town generally. Even men who used to work till 11 would not now work more than two hours over. This has arisen, partly from people coming to think more about overwork than formerly, but in a great degree also from businesses having grown so large that they could not be carried on in the old small work-places, and from larger factories being built, which allow of more hands being taken on in a time of pressure as well as of the work being done much better.

As to limiting the work of children there would be no difficulty to masters in doing without them entirely if all were bound to do the same. The youngest that we take are about 11, but we find them while so young of not much advantage, except as helpers. In fact it would be an improvement not to have them, as others older and better able to do the work would be employed instead. Still, in a place like Birmingham, all must be allowed to have children, or none; there are so many small masters here who will employ children at any rate, and it might make a difference of as much as 10 per cent. in the cost of the labour, and those who did not have children would be undersold. I suppose that there is no place in the kingdom where there is such a variety of trades, and such a number of employers in each on every scale, down to those having only two or three workpeople. Birmingham is the toy-shop of Europe. In the small places the children work much younger and longer; in fact there is no regular limit to the hours, but the employers having only a scanty business have work only by fits and starts, and must do it when they can get it. A larger manufacturer, who has capital, is able to work to stock, which the smaller cannot. Of course, even with the larger, there is overwork sometimes, but not to an excessive degree. From the number of small employments, children's labour is so profitable in Birmingham that I believe that many parents come to live in the town for the sake of their children's earnings. It pays a man to do so, even if he only makes half as much himself as he did elsewhere, and sometimes perhaps he finds no

employment at all. Big girls, if quick, can make half a man's wages, and there are plenty who make 10*s.* and 12*s.* a week. This importation of families probably accounts for the amount of cheap men's labour in the town, *i.e.* of men who are not fit for skilled work. A country labourer making, as is the case in some parts, only 7*s.* or 8*s.* a man, can make here, with his children, 2*l.* or 3*l.* They do in fact find this out and come.

The state of education here generally is terribly bad. It is astonishing what a number of parents, and grown up people, cannot read or write; many even being unable to tell what time it is, though they appear respectable people. They have, of course, been neglected when they were young. There are a large number of night and Sunday schools, but these alone are not sufficient to give education. Those who have not been taught before find any school hard work and not to their taste. I believe that one or two manufacturers in the town have succeeded in keeping up schools on their works, and making the children go. But it is very difficult to do this, and it is not many that could go to the expense of building or keeping up a school. Most would think compulsion was putting upon their liberty, and would want an entertainment or something more than mere free teaching to induce them to attend, though if schools were once established and appreciated they would go on. But as it is, most seem heedless about it, and indeed it is no wonder that they do not care to go to schools and refine themselves, for this would bring home to them many things, which they do not feel now, more unpleasantly, and they would find their homes unbearable. The state of many of their homes is far below that of their workshops, and this is a great drawback to any general improvement of the people themselves. An immense improvement has been made in lodgings by the Act, and the railways also have done great good to the dwellings by cutting through crowded parts.

One great drawback to education is the number of attractions to pleasure that are coming up; but one cannot wonder at this with people who have been in a factory all day. What they enjoy most is a fête, and I believe that a half holiday on Saturday will do more to improve them physically and morally than anything. If they had this time for rest then they would be more likely to attend school regularly. It was the regular thing formerly not to have done paying the hands till near 9 on Saturday nights.

Public libraries were appreciated at once and have stirred up many to use them; I have seen people of all sizes going in and bringing out books. For three or four years we have distributed freely amongst our workpeople copies of the "British Workman," with pictures and reading. This gives them a taste for reading and does almost as much for education as education itself. They were very much pleased with them, and some have got all the numbers kept clean ready for binding.

I think that the great means for bringing about a general improvement in the condition of the working class, are,—healthy comfortable work-places, proper rules and discipline in their work, and a half holiday on Saturday, with any additional helps such as reading rooms and libraries, &c. These will bring it as near to perfection as is likely to be attained. A public dining room, on the Glasgow principle, will also be a great benefit. One has been lately established here. All such measures as I have spoken of, bring the people to respect themselves more.

198. *Edwin Ellis*, age 11.—Here nearly four years. Cob for a stamper; four or five other boys do the same in my shop.

Was at day school a year. Know one or two letters. The sea is where they catch the fishes, and they sail on it too. They call the Queen a widow. You pray to God to take care on you when you go to Heaven.

[Ragged.]

MR. SAMUEL TONKS', TIN-PLATE WORKER, HARFORD STREET.

199. An accident which happened here lately to a youth, in which, however, he had a wonderful escape from mutilation or death, has led to putting screens before the shafts, which run along under the work benches, close in front of the legs of the workers. I have noticed another case where screens were lately put, in consequence of a like accident caused to a young woman by a shaft of just the same kind. But in many other cases in factories of various kinds I have seen shafts in precisely the same relative position to the workers, male and female, with either no protection at all, or one merely delusive. The danger is obviously far greater to females; and I have been informed that in another factory, a late fatal accident to a young woman has led the employers to insist on the females abandoning the use of crinolines while at work.

200. *William Bullock.*—Foreman of the whole works. The hours were from 8 till 7, with an hour for dinner, but now are till 7½, with tea, for which no fixed time is allowed, but the people get it as they can. If they please they can work in their dinner hour, and generally do about the last two or three days of the week. About half go home to dinner usually. Overtime is rare, but usually quarter of a day over is made in a week just before Christmas, for from three weeks to two months. This is partly for the sake of the workpeople themselves, to enable them to get money for Christmas, as well as because there is more to do. The work is chiefly press-work, and the younger work independently of the others, so that they could go at a fixed hour, if necessary, without throwing the rest of the work out; but there are scarcely any children. The master likes to aid in any movement for the amelioration of the working class.

201. *Edward Wright*, age 19.—In the stamping shop. When 17, burnished on a steam lathe in the mill. One Saturday afternoon, I and another were cleaning up the shop while the machinery was still going, and as I stooped down, and put my hand under the shaft to pick up something, it ketched my shirt sleeve, and I was turned round on the shaft, and everything was tore off me but my boots and stockings. Was taken to the hospital, but no bones were broken; I was only "scraged;" so I come out again on Tuesday, and came to work again. No one else has been hurt so since I have been here.

["It was a good job you warn't fat, or you "would have got killed," said a man.]

202. *Margaret Jennings*, age 17.—Solder the bodies and other parts of tea-pots together. Have done it five years. Got 1*s.* 6*d.* a week when I first came here.

Was at three button factories. Went when I was but a little 'un; think not 8. Got 1*s.* 3*d.* Used to work from 8 till 7½, but sometimes they used to keep me till 8 and 9. At Aston's, Princip Street, I have stayed till 9½ p.m. Used to get my fingers pinched, and squeezed my thumb, which has made the end so thick.

Was never at school in the week, only on Sunday. Can read, but am obliged to spell the words, unless they are very short. Jesus was here a great while ago.

203. *Robert Rogers*, age 14.—In the tin shop; do anything, and go errands.

Was at the day school two or three years till 12 years old, and go on Sunday. Don't miss that very often. If we do they come and fetch us, as they know where we live. It is the New Jerusalem School. Can read, but not write. Can say the Lord's Prayer. (Repeats "Twinkle, twinkle," &c., and the two following lines.) Learned it at school.

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MR. JOHN MITCHELL'S, STEEL PEN MANUFACTURER, NEWHALL STREET.

204. These premises are of the kind so common in Birmingham—old street buildings with small yards and shops at the back adapted to a manufactory, but unusually gloomy. Two places in which two boys work are mere vaults or cellars unfit for human occupation. One is lighted only by an arch at the end of the vault, the entrance, and by a small space which also forms entrance at the top of another arch beside it. A band crosses the entrance horizontally at the height of about 5 ft., and the front is blocked up by a large boiler at the distance of about 30 inches. The approach is over the top of this boiler, down steep ladder steps at the side. Another boy is engaged in using vitriol in such a way as to destroy his clothes, in another, a deep dark vault lighted only by a small grating in the pavement of the street many feet overhead, near which alone I could see to write, and by the engine hole at the other end. On the floor of this, refuse dirty water, which had been used for washing, &c. in the factory above, was being discharged from a large pipe, and appeared to find no escape except by absorption. Possibly a drain may have been blocked. The air was full of small gnats or midges, such as are found near refuse or ash holes. The smell of the vitriol is strong, especially when the revolving barrel in which it is used to clean the steel is opened; but no loss of appetite, such as is complained of by a boy elsewhere as caused by the smell of "pickle," had followed, indeed rather the reverse. The destruction of his clothes was said, as most injuries are said, to be "entirely his own fault," for not rinsing his hands in water each time he had been in contact with the pickle.

205. A youth of 17 was doing the whole work formerly done by himself and another boy in a dark place, which had a sickly rancid smell from the oil used to steep the pens in. In this place he keeps and eats his day's food. His appetite and strength had suffered considerably in the short time of his employment here, involving also prolonged overwork.

206. The processes usually included in steel pen making are very numerous, and many require great nicety of workmanship. A form used in one factory for calculating the cost of the labour gives the following stages for an ordinary pen, viz.:—(1) blanks, (2) marking, (3) heel piercing, (4) piercing, (5) centre piercing, (6) side cutting, (7) raising (*i.e.*, forming the flat blank into a curve), (8) hardening, (9) straight grinding, (10) cross grinding, (11) slitting, (12) colouring, (13) looking over. A short outline, however, omitting the details of several, is enough for present purposes. Narrow strips of steel cut out from small sheets are cleansed from "scale," by soaking in "pickle," *i.e.*, diluted sulphuric acid, and then brought to the required thickness by passing through rollers. They are then cut into pieces of the pen size, and these are stamped, pierced, ground, &c., at presses and wheels till the shape is complete. In the course, however, of these processes the metal requires to be hardened and then tempered to restore pliancy. The pens, therefore, are heated red hot in boxes in a muffle, and then plunged into oil, which is cleansed off by shaking in revolving cylinders, and when completely tempered and formed they are coloured in a stove over a charcoal fire, and afterwards varnished and dried. There still remains the work of looking over, counting, and putting into boxes, &c. The preparation of the strips, the hardening, tempering, and cleaning the pens are usually the work of men and a few boys, while by far the greater part of the work is done by women and girls at presses, and in most of these stages each pen is handled and treated separately.

207. *Frederick Parkes*, age 15.—Have pickled down in this place (cellar part of engine hole) for 12 months. Fetch the pickle (vitriol) in a jug, put it with grits into the barrel to scour the metal, and mind the barrel as it turns to see when the metal is scoured enough, and then take the metal out. Also do bits of jobs in the mill (rolling) when wanted, but am down here most of the day, but eat in the yard above.

The pickle burns my clothes and fetches holes in the bottoms of my shoes. It's no use having new clothes at this job. This shirt was whole a week ago (Monday), now the right sleeve to the shoulder is entirely burned off, the other nearly so. This (yellow) is the colour the pickle turns it. It rots my hands and makes big holes (*shows*), and when my hands are in the pickle the heat of it hurts them. When I pull the bung out of the barrel, if there is too much pickle in, it runs out on the ground where I stand. Wash me at home and sometimes up in the mill; the pickle smells, but it makes me eat well at this job.

Was never at a week-day school in my life, but went to a Sunday school regularly till 6 or 7 months ago, but left off then. One thing was that my clothes got worse, and I could not get any to wear. Get 8*s.* a week here, and have 1*s.* 6*d.* or 2*s.* a week for myself to buy my things. Can read (does) but not write. Tried at a night school, to which I went for one night only, and never was at any other. Cannot say why I did not go again.

208. *John Hammond*, age 17.—Riddle pens, and place the pans at the mouth of the muffle ready for the man to push in. Our proper work time, *i.e.* for the man and me, who are all that work in this place, is from 8 a.m. till 7½ p.m., but now I work from 7 a.m. till 9½ or 10 p.m., and have done so for a tidy bit now, above three months. Leave on Monday nights now at 9½, but other nights exactly at 10. When I first came, seven months ago, there was another lad who showed me how to do the work for two or three weeks. I did not want to work overtime, so one did as much as t'other, he staying late one night and I the next. When I have got the things ready in the morning I have breakfast for about a quarter of an hour. The engine stops for an hour at dinner, and half an hour at tea. Have to bring all my day's victuals with me in the morning and keep them by me here, and eat them in here also. Bring soap with me and wash me at the tap. The engine stops at 7½, but then I have to put pans into the muffle and put pens into the pans ready for the morning. The work don't suit me very well, and is too hard for me. Some of the things are very heavy to lift. Two lads used to do it, but now I have to do it all myself. Get 6*s.* a week, and 1*s.* 6*d.* for overtime. Father puts it all by to buy me clothes. He works at coal wheeling. When I first came I noticed the smell very bad, but don't at all now because I am used to it. But I can eat very little even if it is good food, and can eat nothing if it is not. Used to eat very well before I was here. Don't feel sickly, and have no pain anywhere. Used to be very strong when I came here, but ain't now. Father says I am getting as weak as ever so.

Was at some rolling mills for some time. In one of the mills there, not mine, the engine ran all night, from 7 p.m. till 7 a.m., unless the work set for the night was finished sooner, as it was sometimes by two or three hours. Two boys of about 18 worked in that, with two men. That was hot work, rolling red hot copper. Sometimes, in my mill, we stayed later, till 9 p.m. but never later. Stayed for about a week together once in every three months. When there, was very often sick, generally about half an hour after I had washed my hands and eaten; was quite sick. T'other boys used n't to be sick, only the

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little uns, of from about 8 to 10 or 11 years old; they were, very. One, of about 9, was sent home for it every day nearly. That work was more greasy than this because it was rolling.

Before that I had been where they made pins for railways. There I was sitting waiting for screws on a barrow which a man told me he had done with. He came back and said he had not, wheeled me across to some red hot screws and tipped me out, and held my hand under them, burning my arm badly from the shoulder to the wrist: there are the marks now (*shows*). It was four years ago. I went to the doctor and had to "play" three weeks, and was in the house two weeks, and had my arm in a sling. The man only paid me 2*s.* 6*d.* He was not drunk, but was always ill tempered. He had burned a many lads and had to pay; one, his own, *i.e.* the one that worked for him. One he burned nearly through the arm, the screws being round and so running in: my screws were flat. Master gave him the sack. Father said I shouldn't go to be "munched" no more like that, and I left and went to a cooper's.

The first work of all that I went to was buttons, at about 11 years old. I had to be under the press and take up the buttons for the man, but I popped up my head too quick and the press catched me across the eyes. It swelled my two eyes up, but has not hurt the sight, but has left these lumps across my nose (*shows*). I saw the doctor for it every three days, for a fortnight. It was done on the Saturday and I had only begun the work on the Monday before. Dared not go there any more.

On Saturday, after leaving work, I used to wash me clean, and sit down and read my book ready for Sunday, to go to school, but can't do so now because I have forgot all my reading and can only tell the letters, but not spell, so cannot get my book. Could read pretty tidy when about 11 years old, and had been at school till about 10, but only for six months or so. Learned my reading at home night and morning, mother teaching me about three days a week. When I used to have time to go, *i.e.* left work by $7\frac{1}{2}$, father used to send me to school at night. If I were to leave sooner I should go every night and pay 2*d.* or $1\frac{1}{2}$*d.* a week. The Bible is "about God "and Jesus, and many things:" people have to learn about them. Them as is bad have to go to be burned, and them as is good to heaven above with God.

[A thoughtful and pleasing mannered youth, and not showing in manner any wish to complain, though somewhat depressed.]

209. *Charles Hammond*, age 12.—Work in the mill taking out metal from the rollers. Eat my dinner in here; don't wash first. Bring soap sometimes.

Was at rolling mills before; could not wash there; there was no water or soap. The proper hours there were from 7 a.m. till $7\frac{1}{2}$ p.m., but we used very often to have overtime till 9 or 10; about 10 was the right time for it. Was not very well there; it used to make me bad and sick. There were some boys of 8 or 9. They were not often sick. We used to work all the nights. Once I worked all the day as well as all the night; was obliged to do so. There was a lad as was bad, and I worked in his place. I went to sleep and took no notice, and the hot metal came out and cut my fingers badly across here, all on 'em, and I had to go to the doctor. I left the nights and came on the days, but I used to work on the red hot metal still. We used to throw water on it to cool it and then carry it away. Put something on our hands when we could, but we couldn't very often get anything. It was bits of "herbs" they called it, white and hairy-like. The boys tumbled down very often and cut themselves if their feet catched against anything that stuck up. Some were not so big as I was. This metal here cuts my hands sometimes. Got 3*s.* 6*d.* a week there.

Used to go to a night school twice a week, but don't now. Go on Sunday. (*Q.* Can you read?) "Yes; "I know two or three letters."

210. *Charles Brown*, age 15.—Break down, *i.e.* pass metal through the first roller, taking it out of the pickle. Have been at the pickle 12 months, and at rolling four years altogether. The pickle does not hurt my hands, unless there are cuts. Wear this canvas jacket at work to keep me clean.

Can read and write. Go to Sunday school.

211. *Joshua Lamb*, age 11.—In the rolling-mill. Left school at 10, having been there six years. Can read (does), write anything, and sum: 12 times 12 is 144. Father is a barber.

212. *Alfred Jones*, age 16.—Put in to the rollers. Was at school when 4 years old, and have been to night school a month or two lately. Can read a bit. (Reads: "made" is "milk," is "melt;" "wheat" is "with," &c.) Cannot write at all.

[The remaining boy, age 12, in the rolling-mill could read, not write very well; goes to Sunday school.]

213. *Thomas Morris*, age 14.—Bronze and temper the metal, turning it in a barrel over a fire. Stand or sit, either, for this. It makes me sweat.

Was at a week-day school for two years; go on Sunday, but never to a night school. Can tell my letters, but not read. Do not know what a village is; mountains are hills with trees; there are some out on the Warwick Cut.

[Works in a close corner, just in front of a fire.]

214. *Henry George Gough*, age 15. — Polish. Went to a casting shop at 7 years old.

215. *Mary Langham*, age 16.—At steel pens three years, at three different places.

At school till then. Did reading, writing, grammar, and geography. Do not remember Africa or Europe, and forget whether France is near England. 11 times 11 is 132, isn't it?—is 144.

MR. JOSIAH MASON'S, STEEL PEN AND SPLIT RING MANUFACTURER, LANCASTER STREET.

216. This factory shows that much can be done towards securing healthy work-places, even under unfavourable circumstances. It fronts on the street in a crowded and poor part of the town, but care has been taken to provide the best known modes of ventilation in the workshops, and also up the main staircase, closets free from smell, &c. The "twice-divided" shafts of Mure, *i.e.* with four actual divisions, so as to secure an up and down current of air from whatever quarter the wind sets, are found to be far more effectual than the shafts only once divided, which are said to act fully only when the wind is in certain quarters, and some of these have been carried from lower through upper floors. A marked improvement has been found in the health of the females engaged in one of the shops, in which a dusty process is carried on, since these means have been adopted. More space has lately been secured, and further improvements are being carried out. Guards are used to protect the workers from the flying oil and dust, and some machinery under the benches is guarded. In some shops all or most were women, their strength or skill being needed, any younger being no profit; a man in charge of one shop liking married women best, not "a lot of giddling girls."

217. The owner is a most munificent benefactor of poor children, having built and maintained an admirably conducted orphanage and widow's home at his own expense, and being now engaged in building

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another, very handsome, beautifully placed, with large grounds and land belonging to it, in which, in time, some hundreds of orphans are to be maintained in like manner.

218. *Henry Warner*, age 13.—Roll steel, as do two other boys. Get 4*s.* 6*d.* a week. Mother saves me 6*d.* out of it, and buys me trousers.

Can read (can). Learned by going to school for about half a year while in a factory at Tutbury. Could not read at all before, and have never been to a day or night school since, but go on Sunday. Cannot write. Christ was Him as died on the Cross for us, to make us go to Him.

219. *Samuel Enfield*, age 10 y. 11 m.—Here nearly 4 years. Lacquer pens, turning them in a barrel by a handle.

Worked at umbrellas before, and went there when going 7. The hours were from 8 till 7, but sometimes till 8. Got 9*d.* a week at first, and then 1*s.* Was the youngest there.

Was at day school 12 months, and go on Sunday, but cannot at night, because I stay here till 8.

220. *Thomas Whitehouse*, age 13.—At day school a month once. Don't go on Sunday. Cannot spell "i-s." Know some of my letters. Been at this and wire work since 9 years old.

221. *Charles Walters*, age 10.—Harden pens. Fill pans, and about every half hour for five minutes pull them out of the muffle with an iron, and help the man. The hours are from 7 a.m. till 8 p.m.; but on Monday and Friday only till 7, and on Saturday till 1. Get 4*s.* a week. Was at gun work before, and minded a machine.

Was at day school a year, and have been on Sunday. Can read the Testament, but not do sums. Cannot read "doubt." The minister is him as preaches at church.

222. *Mary Saunders.*—Have bobbed steel on a wheel for nine years. Am 25 now. Wear the brown paper over my apron to keep the sparks off. Sometimes they burn it, and my apron strings too. Feel stuffed up in the chest, and have a cough.

[There is a constant stream of sparks, not, however, warm to the touch. The steel dust lies on the folds of the brown paper, &c.]

223. *Charlotte Woodcock*, age 14.—Cut strips of steel with a rotary plane, worked by the steam. Get 3*s.* 6*d.* a week.

Was never at a day or night school, but go on Sunday now and then. Father or mother never said anything about school to me. Don't know "S" or "N."

224. *Sarah Ann Wedge*, age 12.—Was at school ever since mother could see us reach the top of the stool, when we was little children. Can read, write, and sum. One sum was "Dictation." Am sure.

[Very tidy, and happy-looking. Parents are well off.]

225. *Martha Sarty*, age 17.—Always have the same hours of work. Get 7*s.* 6*d.* a week. Went to buttons at 10 years old.

Can hardly remember what I did at school. Can read, but not if the words are hard, and cannot write. Go to school on Sunday, sometimes; never to night school.

226. *Eliza Bashford*, age 14.—Pierce lids of paper boxes with a press, to fasten a pen in as a pattern. My finger is hurt from pinching it, by my letting the fly drop. Did so once before.

Can read the Bible, and write, but not very well. Read about "Joseph, and Abraham, and Isaac, and all "those." Was at school till going 14, and paid 3*d.* a week.

227. *Jane Lury*, age 14.—Never was at school till I came to the warehouse here, and could scarcely read at all. The woman under whom I work, got me to go to school four nights a week for 2*d.* I can now read, write, and spell.

[These pains were taken, because the girl's appearance betokened good capacity.]

MESSRS. HINKS AND WELLS', STEEL PEN WORKS, BUCKINGHAM STREET.

228. These are large works, including rolling mills, in which steel is rolled for other purposes, *e. g.*, crinoline, as well as to for pen making, and which, though under the control of the firm, are worked by a subordinate employer, who rents the steam power. A number of boys are employed at the rollers and in odd ways. Their clothes are very dirty and soaked with the grease with which the metal is fed, and some of their shirt sleeves yellow from the pickle. They scour the rollers while in motion, which is necessary for the scouring process. This caused at first a noise so loud as to make me think some accident had happened to the machinery. In one mill the metal is steeped in vitriol and water, to which steam is admitted, and which gives off a very disagreeable steam and smell, the liquid bubbling fiercely. There are no washing appliances, some which were once provided having, as I was told, been given up in consequence of the difficulty of keeping them in order, owing to the neglect of the work-people. A boy pointed out to me a quart or two of very dirty water in a small pan put fresh each day, which he said was used by the men in his mill, and which he might use himself, though he did not. The engine stopped at the dinner hour while I was there. Many of the people took their meals in their work places, others went home.

229. *Alfred Belus*, age 11.—Take out at a roller. Here 1½ years. Hours are 8 till 7. Never work overtime. An hour for dinner at 1½; go home to it. Tea at a quarter to 5 in the mill here. Have 3*s.* a week. Get the grease off with a rag (small dirty piece). There is no washing place, but the men have some water. (Shows the small pan already mentioned.) Cut my hands, but they do not fester.

Went to "cob" buttons at 10 years old, and before that had been at school for six months, but do not go on Sunday or at night ever now. "T" is "A," "D" is "B," "4" is "three." Father stamps.

230. *Jack Parden*, age 11.—Takes out, &c. Here a year. Cut my hands with the metal and make them sore, and have to put rag on to make them well. Do not stay away from work ever for them. Mother wouldn't let me lose my place over my hands. Have had bad eyes a good while; ever since I worked here. They hurt me, but I can see well. (Coughs.) Cough more in the night than in the day. Can't eat much ever at dinner. Always come back from it by 1¼, before the other boys, and go up to the muffle (where the pens are annealed) to warm myself; do not begin work till 2.

Lost the top of that thumb at buttons, to which work I went when going 10; was putting the buttons under a press for the wench for whom I worked when she let it down. It smashed my thumb, and they cut the end off at the hospital, which I went to for a fortnight, but the nail has grown up again.

Was at school from about that high (*his waist*) for two years. Do not know large B.

[Stands close by a vitriol tub. His eyelids are clogged with matter. Is very ragged.]

231. *Alfred Freeman*, age 12.—At a roller. Cut myself with the metal. (*Shows cuts in the palm and fingers, and also on the back of his hand.*) When

I put my hand into the tub to pull the metal out the "pickle" gets into the cuts and makes them hurt. Clean my hands with a rag (*dirty and greasy*). Wash them every night at home with warm water, and before dinner. Get 5*s*. 6*d*. a week.

Was at school "on days" before I came here, but do not go on Sundays. Do not know large A.

232. *Henry Bolus*, age 14.—"Run through" steel for crinolines. Cut my hands. They hurt when the pickle gets in, as it does when I take the metal out of it. It rots the flesh away and makes a big hole. That hole there (*showing scar*) was bad a month.

Was a little one when I was at school. (Spells "was," "have," &c.)

[Was waiting in the steam coming from the hot vitriol tub mentioned above.]

233. *Walter Freeman*, age 15.—Here five or six years, and was at buttons before. Am now scouring the rollers. Do this by moving the rollers farther apart by means of screws, and putting between them a wedge of wood with emery on it, which I guide backwards and forwards with a stick. Do this whenever the rollers want it, usually for about half an hour once a day. The other boys who work at the rollers scour in the same way.

Never was at school. Ain't got no clothes to go in; but on some Sundays have been at church. "T" is "N."

234. *John Caraghan*, age 9½. — Here a year, I think. Used to be at the rollers, and have scoured them four or five times, but now my work is to carry steel coils from one mill to another; carry several coils at a time. Do not know what they weigh. Go home for an hour at dinner time, and have 20 minutes for tea.

Was at school two months once. Do not know T or A. Have been at church sometimes and heard about our Saviour.

[This boy, according to the statement of a man for whom he was working, can carry as much as 7 stone of steel coils at a time, and usually carries 5 or 6 stone. He is small but thick set.]

235. *Alfred Flint*, age 10. — Here half a year. Pull out. Hands bleed at times with the cuts. Get 2*s*. 6*d*. a week. Was at guns before for a short time, at a big place. My work was to carry guns to another place.

Before that played about in the streets. Mother said I ought to go to school, and would have paid for me, viz., 2*d*. a week, but I didn't want. My brother and sister go. Mother grinds pens here. Was never at school on the week day, or Sunday, or at night, and nobody ever tried to teach me anything. Do not know A. Was never at a church or chapel. Mother doesn't go. (At first says that he never heard of the Bible, or God, or Christ, but afterwards in answer to leading questions says:) People go to heaven when they die, and the bad "t' ell." Do not know who punishes them, but God burns them (the bad).

236. *Mike Peck*, age 10.—Take out. Do not know how long I have been here (Another says it is half a year). Have no other dress to put on. (Is grimed with grease.)

Was never at any school, church, or chapel. Do not know A or T. Good people go to heaven; never heard where the bad go. Take 2*s*. 6*d*. a week to mother.

237. *Henry Hewlett*, age 11.—Work at a roller. Just come here. Was not at work before, but was never at any school. D is B. Used to nurse mother's baby. Have no sister. Get 2*s*. 6*d*. a week.

238. *Charlie Deane*, age 12.—Run through. Here three years. Keep dipping my hand in the grease to make the metal go easy. Wash at home but cannot here.

Was two months at a day school once. Go on Sunday now, and went to night school for a fortnight, but had to leave because father died, and mother could not pay the money, 3*d*. a week. Go to chapel on Sunday night and hears about Christ being nailed to the cross.

239. *Sarah Pierce*, age 16.—Pierce pens with a press. Hours are from 8 a.m. till 7 p.m., or with overtime till 8 or 8½, never longer. All but myself and one other girl, now in this shop (about 40), are over 18. They have breakfast in the shop as they come in the morning, and most of them have dinner in it also at 1 o'clock, as I do. Never begin work again till 2. Went to another pen manufactory (Turner's) when 9 or 10 years old.

Never was at a week-day school that I remember, and never went on Sunday or at night. "T" is "P," "h" is "c." Have been in a church or chapel two or three times in my life, not more. A man prayed to the Lord, and read out of the Bible, but I never heard of Adam or Eve, or the flood, or of all the people being drowned by it. Father is an iron caster.

[This girl appears almost grown up, and not below the other young women in the room in social position or natural intelligence

240. *Elizabeth Steward*, age 17.—Have marked pens in this shop for three years with a weight, which I raise by a pulley with my foot. It does not tire me. Have pinched my fingers with it three times, once from my foot slipping from the loop, but have not hurt myself badly. They all of them pinch their fingers.

Went out to work at 10 years old, and was at school till then, and go on Sunday and to an evening school now. Can read and write very well, but sum only a little. Gets 6*s*. a week.

241. *Emma Webb*, age 16.—Work at "raising" pens with a press, *i. e.*, forming the flat pieces of metal into a curved shape. Glazed buttons before: my hours at that work were from 7 till 7.

Was at day school from 11 years old till 12, and have been at Sunday school twice a day since I was 2 (?) years old. Can read. (Has to spell "T–o;" reads "lie" as "ill," and cannot tell what "guard" or "trusty" mean). Go to chapel every Sunday night, and hear about God, and know of (when named to her) the Old Testament, Joseph and Adam. (When asked about Noah) haven't heard of that, or of the flood.

242. *Jane Jeffries*, age 10.—Slit pens with a press. Have three elder sisters here.

Was at a day school for half a year, and am going to a Sunday school, but have not begun yet. Do not know P, or 3, or 2.

243. *Ellen Cuff*, age 12.—Sort waste. Here three years, and "put in" at two button manufactories before.

244. *Charlotte Kimbley*, age 14.—At work four years at this and another pen place. Was at a day school for three years before, but not very regularly, because mother was ill. Cannot write, and cannot read very well. (Has to spell "careless.") Go to school regularly on Sunday, and have got a prize for good attendance.

245. *Eliza Snooks*, age 12.—Box pens in the warehouse. There are six little girls there, two of them younger than myself. Our hours are the same as in the workshops.

MR. JOSEPH GILLOTT'S, STEEL PEN MANUFACTORY, VICTORIA STREET.

246. These are very large works, conveniently arranged, and the work rooms clean, fresh, and cheerful.

247. In one process, performed by a girl, viz., sand-papering penholders in a machine turned by steam, the dust from the sand-paper and wood flies off in clouds, and lies in heaps around. Penholders are made here as well as pens.

Birmingham District.

Steel Pens.

Mr. J.E.White.

b.

248. In one press, worked by steam, I noticed a simple contrivance for protecting the fingers, by means of a guard. If some such plan could be more generally adopted in press and stamp work, as it seems it might easily be, it would save children and others much pain and many of the slight injuries, such as the crushing or entire loss of the finger tips, now so common.

249. *Mr. Gillott, jun.*—We have a rule not to employ any children under 13, and have very few under. There are many girls under 18, but they are a small proportion of the whole number of persons employed, which is towards 500. The majority are young women of from 18 to 25 or 30. The day's work is 12 hours, with two hours for meals, except in winter, when it is from 8 till 7. It would be less convenient for the people themselves to begin earlier, as a few of them come from a considerable distance, though most live in the neighbourhood. It would, however, make no difference to the work itself. Those who come from a distance take their meals here in their work-rooms. None are allowed to work in their meal-times. Washing places are provided for the workpeople. The amount of work is much the same throughout the year, the business not fluctuating with seasons. Little change therefore would be made by factory regulations. It is desirable that there should be a school for the young, and if it could be secured I should like it.

The steel pen manufacture in England is almost confined to Birmingham, though there is a little in London.

250. *Emily Gosling*, age 14.—Put penholder sticks into a sand-papering machine, and have done it for three years and a half. Have good health; no cough. Work from 8 till 7; never stay later.

Can read (badly) and write in a copy book, but not do sums.

251. *Eliza Jackson*, age 12.—Put pens under a press worked by machinery. Slip them through the guard and they go under the press themselves.

Can read the Testament, but have to spell some of the words. School on Sunday, but never to night school.

252. *Mary Ann Thompson*, age 16.—Glaze pens upon a wheel. Can read a newspaper.

253. *George Swain*, age 12.—Take out steel from the rollers. Hours from 7 to 7.

At school till half a year ago.

254. *William Bourne*, age 14.—In fitting shop. Am turning metal on a steam lathe.

At day school till 18 months ago, when I came here. Read books lent me from the Sunday school. Can do fractions: $\frac{3}{7} \times \frac{2}{3} = \frac{2}{21}$. Father is a fitter here.

MR. WM. MITCHELL'S, STEEL PEN MANUFACTURER, CUMBERLAND STREET.

255. A shop in which pens are lacquered and a boy of 15 is employed in turning round a barrel over a stove with a handle, was oppressively hot. In another, where pens are ground on wheels, an infant was sitting with its mother at her work. No boys are employed here, as is usual in steel pen manufactories, in rolling.

256. *Mr. Job Harlow*, manager.—I was bred up in Birmingham, and have been manager here 18 years. Steel pen making is a business that varies but little through the year, and is more regular probably than many other trades. But the hours in Birmingham generally are sufficiently moderate, and are shorter than they were formerly. It is right enough, however, that they should not be allowed to be excessive. Long hours are undesirable both for the workpeople and the employer, and no real profit to either in the long run. There is no necessity for longer than the ordinary days of work in order to get sufficient work for the wants of the country executed. This country has great mechanical powers already, and it is owing to these that many advantages formerly beyond the reach of the mass have now been brought within it. In proportion as mechanical power increases, the need for manual labour and mere numbers of workers diminishes. I have not thought it desirable to have a half-day on Saturday, as the time cannot be spared, and would have to be made up in the earlier part of the week, and the afternoon, probably, would not be beneficially employed by the workpeople. Another reason is one connected with the nature of the business, viz., that it does not seem worth while to start a steam engine for only half a day.

The majority employed here are females at press and stamping work, who work by the piece. A few boys help and do odd work. I do not like girls till they are nearly women, and have seldom taken any under 15 or 16, both on account of the elder, as a rule, doing the work better, and, though this is not the case always, it is not well to have a young girl working among women and earning as much as they, which may be the case if she is quick. Sometimes one part of the work has to stand, *e.g.*, for another which happens to require more labour than usual, and then the unemployed part leave earlier.

It is to be wished that an improvement in education should be secured if it can be. From my experience there has been but slight improvement even now. Evening schools are insufficient as a means of education, and children when at work soon become independent and will not attend them unless they please. It would be well for all to be at school up to 12 or 13, and if they were better educated they would probably have less disposition to work beyond reasonable hours. Some are much more intelligent than the witnesses selected, and fill up the intervals in their work with reading and sewing.

257. *Caroline Falkner*, age 17.—At press work for six or seven years.

Can tell the letters but not read. At week-day school for 2½ years, never at night, left Sunday school two or three years ago.

258. *Jane Alsop*, age 15.—At a press both here and at a brass foundry before. Dinner from 1 to 2¼, and tea from 4 to 4½, both in here. Only those who live a good way off dine here. Work piece work and do not always take the full time for tea.

(Asked to read words of one syllable, says,) It's a long while since I tried. Do not know "price" or "p," or what sums are. Was never at a week-day school; a little on Sunday, not much; went to a night school twice a week for three months, but left because I had to work till nearly 9, sometimes till 8; 7 was the proper time. Was never later than 9 at that work-place, and have never been later than 8 here.

259. *Harriot Mason*, age 15.—Have stamped for four months, and pinched just the end of my finger off twice. Pull up the stamp with my foot in a loop. It tired me at first.

Can read (cannot, *e.g.* "mean" is "learn") and write a copy, but not a small one. Was at a week-day school from 6 years old till 11.

260. *Lucy Reyton*, age 13.—Box pens. Was at necklace snaps at 10 years old, and had the same hours as here, viz., from 8¼ to 7. Can read, but not a newspaper (*shown*) and cannot write or sum. Am learning writing now at the Sunday school. Never at night school.

261. *Samuel Webb*, age 17.—Help scour pens. They are in cases turned round by machinery.

Cannot read. Was never at a week-day school.

262. *William Guthrie*, age 13.—Sort pens. Can read, write, and do compound addition; 23 and 23 are 44,—are 46. Have left Sunday school, was at a night school three nights a week for two years.

MESSRS. M. MYERS AND SON'S, STEEL PEN AND SEALING WAX MANUFACTURERS, CHARLOTTE STREET.

Birmingham District.

Steel Pens.

Mr. J. E. White.

b.

263. The workshops were closed and the people absent at the time of my visit.

264. *Mr. M. Myers.*—Our regular work hours are seldom exceeded, and then not for more than an hour. I should prefer working from 6 to 6 instead of beginning at 8 as at present. More work would be done. But I could not get the people to come earlier myself. 7 perhaps would, on the whole, be the best hour for beginning. That would give time for all purposes, and suit the work just as well if the arrangements were made the same everywhere. The works are newly built for our two manufactures, and are lofty and airy.

MR. WILLIAM ASTON'S, BUTTON MANUFACTURER, PRINCIP STREET.

Buttons.

265. Of several hundred persons employed in this manufactory about 60 only are men, 300 women, 100 girls of from 7 to 13, 200 more under 18, and the remainder boys and youths. From the nature of the buildings the workrooms are unavoidably much overcrowded; but those most so, being at the top, have the advantage of being open to the roof, and thus being enabled to be somewhat higher and have sky-lights; which, however, were not open at the time of my visit (in June). In button manufactories generally much of the work is done by women, sitting as close together as they can on one side of a workbench to work the presses, and children in rows facing them on the other side, who help them by "putting in" buttons under the press for them, &c. These benches are generally quite narrow for convenience of working. Some here are only 18 inches wide, and so close together that the children's backs touch, being divided only by a board a few inches high, which serves as a back for each seat. In such and like cases the only means by which the children can reach their seats is by creeping under the benches from the end or between the women's dresses. It is obvious that under such circumstances the amount of cubical space per head must be improperly small, especially considering the obstacles to window ventilation (B. 17). In some rooms the air was noticeably foul and close, though on a cool wet day; in one, occupied however only by women, extremely so; and in another, strong with the smell of cookery, apparently of red herrings. Dinner, as well as tea, is taken by large numbers in some of these rooms.

266. The rooms generally are heated by steam pipes (as to the effects of which *vide* Nottingham Lace-finishing Evidence); and much gas is needed. At some of the press benches there is a gaslight to each pair of workers, and this is placed beneath and in front of the child's face at the distance of about a foot.

267. Many of the girls are ragged, and apparently ill fed, and 13 young boys employed in a mere dark out-house or hovel in cracking vegetable ivory nuts appeared especially rough and neglected.

268. There is a considerable amount of machinery, but little within reach in the parts in which most of the children work, and serious accidents are very rare. A girl, however, of 10 years old, who as I was informed elsewhere was caught in a band here, was admitted to the General Hospital about the time of my visit to this factory, and was reported on there to me as "having a contusion of the "abdomen, and discharged well in six days, the injuries not being severe;" and a recent serious accident to an adult female has led to the fencing of shafts in a room in which she did not work. It is not uncommon in factories generally for persons to be at times in other places besides their own workrooms for errands, meals, &c. The slight injuries, however, to fingers, nails, &c., incident to press work, are common here as elsewhere. The noise and vibration caused by the presses, &c. is considerable; and in one room full of young girls is increased by bands, &c., not connected with their work.

269. The general ignorance was great. Of 80 girls between the ages of 7 and 16,—the majority being of from 9 to 11 or 12, whom I questioned in succession, taking the workers by rows and omitting none but the apparent adults, and exclusive of those in whose names statements are given,—one girl of 7 years old, one of 8, nine of 9, 13 of 10, eight of 11, three of 12, two of 13, seven of 14, and one of 15, and seven more between the ages of 8 and 10, and six between the ages of 10 and 13, when asked by me if they could read, said "No." Of 11 of the 80 who said either "Yes," or that they could read "a little, not much," "read, but not spell," "spell a little," "read a bit," &c., none could do more than spell short words in a child's book, some not so much, not all knowing all the letters. Of the remaining 11, those whom I set on in a child's book could read easy words with more or less difficulty, and one of 15 said that she could read anything. Thus, of the whole number, 72·5 per cent. admitted themselves unable to read, 13·75 practically were so, 12·5 could read a little, and the remaining 1·25, *i.e.*, one girl, appeared plainly competent. The only one of the readers whom I thought it of any use to ask if she could write said "No."

270. Of the 13 nut-cracking boys referred to above, two were 13 years old, the others from that age down to 9. I examined them as a class in school, one or two however being occasionally absent and returning, and found that only two, or sometimes a third, could answer the simplest questions. None of them knew the Queen's name. Only two knew of London, one because his father was killed there; the other had a brother there, and knew that it was a big place. Two had never been at any school, four do not ever go to Sunday school, five only had ever been at a week-day school, one of these for as much as 2½ years, the others only for from four to six months. A few between them named Ireland, Russia, and America as other countries. One, aged 10, who stood forward as able to read, could read a little, and one or two others said that they could. Some of the bigger laughed at the idea of being supposed to know anything, and the general knowledge of elementary religious matters was almost nil; nine had never heard of the Bible or knew anything that was in it.

271. It is proper to add that school teaching was tried for a short time, but found not to be appreciated, and was given up.

272. *Mr. Wm. Aston.*—My manufactory employs between 800 and 900 persons, principally females. About a third of these, including all the youngest, are employed not by me but by the adults whom they assist, the boys by men, the girls by women. I never myself engage persons unless they bring a good

Birmingham District.

Buttons.

Mr. J. E. White.

b.

character from a former place of work, or are promoted from the lower parts of the work as being promising and well behaved. It is very important to require a character, and the plan of gradually promoting the best hands gives control over all, and works very beneficially. When parents think that their children can earn more, they come and press to have them promoted. The button manufacture employs, I should say, more young girls than any other trade in the town. There are five or six button manufactories of importance, and several smaller. In addition to these there are several garret manufactories, employing perhaps on the average about half a dozen persons, or sometimes only their own families. In these cases the work is done either in their own garrets and bedrooms, &c., or in small shops attached. The body of those so employed would be girls. In these places there can be no regularity of work, on account of the smallness and uncertainty of the businesses. The different kinds of buttons are so numerous that they cannot be classified; but the pearl and glass buttons form entirely distinct branches from the general manufacture.

I wish that no manufacturer of any kind could employ children under 16 years of age; but so long as some do so all must, or be undersold. The work now done by young children, of whom I have such a large number, would then be done by the elder persons themselves. The latter would thus produce less, and the cost of the articles would have to be raised a trifle. But this would make no difference at all to the trade if all manufacturers were in the same position.

I also wish that the work could begin earlier in the day than the present hour, 8½, which makes it 9 before the people are set down fairly at work. An hour in the morning is worth two at night; but I must conform to the general hours. If some members of a family had to go to work earlier than others it would involve two breakfasts at home, which would not be put up with if it could be avoided. The hour for leaving off is 7 p.m., and all are paid and gone quite by 4 on Saturdays. It is only seldom, when there is a great deal of work to be done, that these hours are exceeded for an hour or two. To stop at 2 on Saturday would make but little difference, as preparations would be made accordingly.

The hands in the warehouse, &c. are of a higher and more intelligent class than those in the factory, and have some education, as they must be able to read, write, and count. Their work is principally looking over, picking out waste, sewing buttons on cards, wrapping up, &c. But few young girls are employed in this. The majority are as much as 18 or 20. Some of the boys in factory are very rough; and I wonder that the men show so little care in improving them, as it would be for their own benefit. If the homes of rough and neglected children were traced out, it would no doubt be found that the fault arose from the parents being worthless or given to drink. Accidents from machinery are very rare, perhaps not one in three years. One happened lately from a girl going into a room in which she did not work and reaching over for something, when her dress was caught in a shaft. Since then I have had screens put to these shafts. She was taken to the hospital and much shaken, but no limbs or bones were injured, and she soon recovered, but now is put to work quite away from the sight of machinery.

273. *William Nicholson*, age 7.—Shove buckles up. Was at week-day school two months, but mother would not let me go any longer. She paid 2*d.* a week. Don't know the letters. Have been at Sunday school and church. Don't remember the words I heard there now, but they told us about good and bad people. Christ was a wicked man. He said the people wouldn't believe in him, and He died. Don't know how, or if He is alive now. Preacher didn't say.

274. *Matthew Collier*, age 8.—Here six months. Cob. Hours are from 8½ till 7. Sometimes come at 7½ or 7 in the morning, and stay till 8 at night, but not later. Home for an hour for dinner.

Don't know all the letters. God lives in heaven. Have not heard of Christ or Jesus as I can remember, or of a Christian. Have heard a many things as I can't remember. Don't know if I'm a Christian. (A boy near says, "Mother told me I was.") When people die they go to heaven; not all, but most on 'em does. T'others go to the naughty man; some on 'em as is very wicked. Mother told me of the naughty man. God made the world. At the flood there was a good deal of rain, and it lightened and thundered; and the walls fell down the Monday arter the flood was. There wasn't many drowned.

275. *Joseph Perry*, age 8.—Cob and sort work. Know some of the letters. Was at school a good while, and go on Sunday now.

276. *William Ridding*, age 8.—Cob. Can read. (Reads "must not tease, &c.") Don't know what it means. "Sick" is when you throw up.

277. *Alfred Harris*, age 11.—Don't know my letters. Was at the day-school for two weeks, but sister came for me to go to work. Was never at Sunday school. Get 1*s.* 3*d.* a week. Tea in here at 4½.

278. *Horatio Todd*, age 11.—Cob. Am paid by the man I work for, 1*s.* 2*d.* a week. Here a year. Don't know "B." Have left Sunday school. Father does not tell me to go.

279. *William Bramhill*, stamper.—The boy (last witness) cobs for me; but if I want to work late I can do without keeping him, as he has plenty of time to get beforehand with his work.

280. *Alfred Luckman*, age under 13.—Our hours are from 8½ a.m. till 7 p.m. Sometimes we work from 7½ till 9, never longer than that, but most nights till 8; till 9 about once a week. The two biggest get 3*s.* 6*d.* a week, the little ones 2*s.* 6*d.* Are paid by the hundred. So many are set for the day. The rest is overtime. Are paid 2*d.* or 3*d.* for ten hundred, according to the size. Some on us bring our dinner here.

281. *Samuel Todd*, age 12.—Went to night-school for two months, but left because we had to work late. School was at 7½, but we all had to work till 8½ for three months.

282. *John Banks*, age 11.—Have been to night-school for the last month, because mother died, and my aunt, with whom I live, now sends me and pays 2*d.* a week.

283. *Thomas Green*, age 11.—Went to Sunday school for three weeks, but mother would not let me go any longer. She did not say why.

[The last four boys all crack nuts.]

284. *Mrs. Huff.*—Overseer in a press shop. There are about 58 presses in it, and a woman and a girl work opposite to one another at each, but they are not all full now. Each press has a gaslight close down to it. The girls come from 7 and 8 years old upwards; some of them get to work presses themselves by 10 at simple jobs. They go away to dinner or stay in here as they choose. There are steam pipes round this and other shops to warm them. The heat in winter when gas is burning is about the same as in summer; not too warm.

285. *Maria Young.*—Press woman in the same shop. We open the windows in the morning; feel ready to faint if we don't; it is so very close with so many breaths. When the gas is lighted it is very hot, and we let the skylight up to let it off. Some are subject to headache. The woman next me is very, and I am. Two of the four little girls just opposite have the sick headache.

[This woman sits facing a window, with only the bench between. The two girls next named sit on the other side of the bench with their backs close against sash windows, which are open, it being June, as do two other little girls beside them. The two girls named after the next two work in like positions in another part of the same shop.]

286. *Susan Stokes*, age 9. Here 2 years. Have sore throats and sick headaches.

287. *Sarah Ebb*, age 9.—Have sick headaches.

288. *Betsey Walls*, age 10.—Have the flannel round my neck because I have had lumps; they were very large, and my throat was sore inside. Have been at the Children's Hospital for 2 months, and they are gone down nicely now. Have bad boots that let the wet in.

289. *Susan Russell*, age 12.—Wear the flannel round my throat because it is sore. It often is.

290. *Emma Millington*.—Press woman in another shop. Have worked a press 11 years, and began at 10 years old. Have not the headache; the little ones have before they are used to the work. It is very hot in summer, and in winter when the gas is lit. It does not smell much unless it escapes. The little girls get their fingers squeezed in the presses if they look away from their work.

291. *Bridget Conroy*, age 7.—Put in. Here 8 months. Have the headache many a time here. Was at week-day school 3 months.

292. *Jane Randall*, age 10.—Put in. Here a year. Minded mother's house before. Have lost the top half of my thumb nail; was putting the button in the die, and the girl didn't know as my thumb was under the press.

Go to Sunday school, but never was at any other. "Can read, but can't spell it," *i. e.*, read the letters. (*Picture of children kneeling shown.*) They are saying prayers. I only know "Our Father," and say that at night when I go to bed. Mother learned me.

293. *Emma Anson*, age 7.—Put in. Don't know the letters.

294. *Harriett Rickett*, age 7.—Put in. Was never at school except on Sunday. Don't know "A."

295. *Emma Robinson*, age 8 years 10 months.—Put in. Here 18 months. Never at school on a week-day, but go on Sunday. (When asked to read, cries.) That picture (bird) is "bird."

296. *Mary Conroy*, age 12.—Put in. Get 1*s.* 3*d.* a week. Can spell. "Made" is "men." Aint been to Sunday school this three weeks. Mother wants me to mind the house. She goes out somewhere.

297. *Mary Cox*.—Overseer in a press shop. Here 30 years. There are 48 presses in this shop, many of them having a girl as putter in. The women can't do without the girls. Have had as many as 70 women and girls in this room before a small corner was taken off, and since then as many as 60, but it is not so full now. The girls come at about 9 years, old, but are not so nimble as if they come at 7, but that is against the master's rule.

298. *Amelia Rogers*.—Overseer in a press shop, in which 29 women and elder girls work in pairs with 29 girls, who put the buttons into the die. The putters in are mostly between the ages of 9 and 13. After about that age they will have a girl under themselves at a press, or go into other branches. They come to work at 8½ a.m., sometimes at 8, and leave at 7 p.m., but sometimes stay later, as till 8, but very rarely till 8½ or 9. If the women stay the girls must, as the women cannot get on without them. The work obliges the children to keep brisk, and keeps them from going to sleep.

Three parts out of four of them take their meals in this room, and are in it from morning till night. Dinner is from 1 till 2.20, and tea from 4½ till 5. They take their full time or work as they please. They would rather work their dinner hour than have to stay extra time at night.

There is no place to wash in,—not exactly convenient. I don't addict myself to it, so they are not allowed.

[A girl whom I examined at another place (b. 202) stated that she had stayed at this (Aston's) manufactory till 9½ p.m.]

299. *Emma Green*.—I see to the children in the "forming" room, *i. e.*, where buttons are formed by machines or presses worked by a treadle. The girls are generally between 12 and 15 years old, but some are grown up. There are 46 presses, but they are never all full, not more than 30 or 35. The girls never stay in the work-room at dinner time. I lock the door. Half an hour is allowed at tea; they please themselves whether they work or no then. At the beginning of the week they generally go and play, and at the end stay and work. All work by the piece, and get from 2*s.* 6*d.* a week upwards. About 3*s.* or 4*s.* is the average. They learn the work in 3 weeks or so. Sometimes they stay till 8½, seldom till 9; half-a-dozen times in the year is quite as much as they do. Do not know whether they can read They are a pretty tidy lot considering.

They generally catch their fingers in the press when they first come, because they are awkward; it is when they look off their work. They are seldom away ill. Generally open the windows in the day, if warm, and in the winter at night. In every room there is some one to see over the girls.

300. *Elizabeth Hope*, age 13.—Work a forming press. Have pinched my thumb three times since I began, *i.e.*, 12 months, and twice left work three or four days for it. Was minding my work. The press tired my leg at first, but did not hurt me.

301. *Esther Crowder*, age 13.—I and my sister Amelia, 10 years old, who works beside me, have both been at week-day and Sunday school for two years. I can tell my letters and spell the little words; she can't tell any letters at all. I go straight from here to school three nights a week, and pay 2*d.* She does not go because teacher cannot understand her. (She pronounces very imperfectly.)

She came here just before she was 10, and has pinched her thumb two or three times (*marks shown*).

302. *Ann Crompton*, age 13.—At a press towards three years, and put in two years before. Have pinched myself once or twice in a month, and have a black nail now (shows). Have lost a nail once before.

Know some of the letters. Have been at chapel in the morning, and heard about God being a good man. He makes us everything to eat. The Lord told Adam and Eve not to eat one tree, and they done it, so he turned 'em out of the gate. Don't know if He punished them anyhow else. Christ was a good man.

303. *Mary Ann Bartly*, age 9.—Put in for a woman. Dine at home Mondays and Tuesdays, and other days in the shop, and fetch mistress's dinner. Very near all on 'em stays. Shove the button down in the die under the press. The little girl next me has pinched her finger.

304. *Sarah Hooper*, age 15.—At a press in another shop. Sometimes stay till 8 or 9 p.m., but not often. Some stay to meals. Am not strong in health. We does'nt have sufficient to eat as we ought. Mother is a cripple with children, and father is dead. Get 3*s.* a week.

Was at school when father was living, five years ago. Cannot spell.

305. *Mary Ann Collins*, age 15.—Cannot read. Was at week-day school when going 12, and did go on Sunday.

306. *Ann Maria Thomas*, age 13.—"Black stick," *i.e.* stick pieces of steel into a round board covered with black sticky stuff. Always go away to dinner. Get 2*s.* 6*d.* a week. Pay 2*d.* of it for my own schooling, and put all the rest in the bank. Have done so for a good while. Father is a pork butcher. Am always well and don't have the headache. (Works close by a large fire.)

Was at week-day school a year; go on Sundays, and three nights a week. If work is going on late I ask for leave to go. Can read (a little). Cannot spell "cow" from sound. They are "these live things." Can write a copy, but not reckon up figures.

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Mr. J. E. White.

b.

MESSRS. DAIN, WATTS, AND MANTON'S, BUTTON MANUFACTURERS, REGENT STREET.

307. This is one of the principal button manufactories, and employs a large number of young children, the greater part of whom are girls who "put in" buttons, for which the women employ and pay one child each. The buildings share the character of so many of the old Birmingham factories which have grown by degrees, by the addition of fresh work-rooms; the original parts being 100 years old. Many little girls sit with their backs right against the open side windows. In several places, however, ventilators creating an up and down current, the suggestion of one of the firm many years ago, have been placed in the ceilings in places, and much regard has been shown in several ways for the well-being of the workpeople. A washing conduit is placed in each room. A night-school was established a few years back, and was well attended for a time, though it has now fallen through. The great need of instruction shown by several of the girls when questioned by me led one of the principals to express an intention of reviving the school, and, in my hearing, to give directions for the purpose. There are also clubs for several purposes, and a committee of the workpeople also exercise a control over the conduct of the people in the various rooms.

308. Many of the children are very young indeed, three or four being only 6. The mother of one of these, however, a boy, said that she must have him to work as she saved the value of his labour, and also the expense of his being taken care of by some one else. In another case a girl of 6, *i.e.*, "going 7," birthday unknown, one of three sisters working here, had worked for a woman here eight or nine months. She was a beautiful child, with bright innocent face, but looking lost and bewildered amongst so many workers. Her eldest sister, aged 12, had a sullen hardened look and manner; the middle sister seemed in the intermediate stage. So neglected, however, was their condition, both of body and mind, as shown by their dirty appearance and tattered dress, and the want of even Sunday school instruction, and melancholy ignorance of even the eldest sister, that one of the firm who saw me speaking to them was so struck and pained, that he directed the mother to be informed that they could not be received to work any more unless she showed more care for them, at least in their outward appearance. The eldest makes 2*s.* 6*d.* or 3*s.* a week, the two younger 1*s.* each, and the father is in work as a mechanic. I have noticed this case as an illustration of the kind of care which many of the children whom I have seen in Birmingham plainly receive from their parents.

309. *Mr. John S. Manton.*—I have a very strong dislike indeed to any kind of interference by the Government or Parliament with the conduct of private affairs, including in these the employment of labour. It is absurd to think of making people good or wise by Act of Parliament, but there is a strong tendency at the present day in many minds to run in this foolish and mischievous direction. My dislike, however, to government interference is one which I have simply as a man and as a member of the state, not as a manufacturer; as such I have no objection whatever to a Factory Act, such as Oastler wished to introduce. I understand his plan, and thoroughly approve of it, and if it could be made applicable to Birmingham I should indorse it at once. If, however, the Government thought fit to apply it here, some modifications might be required, as the labour of the adults in some cases depends so much upon that of the young.

My belief is that the misery of the working classes can be diminished only by the general advancement of education. It is, however, certainly very difficult for the young to obtain the benefit of education under the present system of employment, and external help is probably needed. There are, already, a vast number of the best appliances for education in Birmingham in the shape of schools of all kinds, Sunday, day, and night, and other means, and these have done much good; but that they have not been able to reach a large amount of ignorance is unhappily plain.

Long experience has taught me not to be sanguine in looking for immediate results, but to be content if real improvement can be made, however slow and partial.

I do not think that working children on half-time by relays would be any real obstruction to the business; indeed, I think that such a plan would be better, as it would plainly be so for the children, and they are the most to be considered, as it is they who need protection. They would also probably work fresher. There would no doubt be a little inconvenience at first, but that would be got over.

From the extension of free trade however, and other causes, foreign competition has become so severe in our business, that any measures which deprived us of any now available labour would be a very serious thing, unless their effect also were, as it might perhaps be, to compensate the deficiency by an economy of labour in other ways, as by husbanding the health and strength of the workers.

We had an evening school on the premises for towards a couple of years, in which one of the men took a very active part; and it worked well for a time, but gradually fell away when, from press of business, I became unable to give it my personal supervision. The only remains of it now are a few women whom this man teaches in their dinner hour. I am speaking to him to use his influence to organize the school again. It is plain that instruction is needed. In addition, however, to the necessary difficulty of providing and maintaining it, other difficulties arise from the light in which the workpeople are apt to look upon it. If it is given free, many think that it is not for their benefit so much as for some other object of the givers, and that they confer rather a favour by taking it, and, at any rate, are jealous of being forced to it. I was obliged, in consequence, to put on a payment of 1*d.* I believe that I did mischief by telling some, by way of encouragement, that if they would learn to read and write they would become more valuable, and could, perhaps, be advanced to higher positions. They thought that they were being instructed for our benefit, not their own. I have known marked instances of such advancement as I refer to amongst the workpeople here to a greater or less degree; one that of a girl who came as a mere child to work, and being a steady good girl, with fair intelligence, rose gradually till she had charge of the book-keeping and business of a department embracing the work of 80 persons, and she has since prosperously settled in life.

310. *Lydia Brookes*, age 12.—Do not go to Sunday school. Never was in a chapel or church, or heard any one preach or pray, and do not know what prayer means, or who it is said to. Do remember mother telling me "Our Father," but do not remember any more than those words, or what they mean. Think I have heard of Jesus Christ, but do not know what a Christian is. Have a father and mother.

[This girl has two younger sisters at work here, both of whom I saw, but thought it needless to question.]

311. *Rosina Marston*, age 17.—Cannot read much (only words of one syllable very imperfectly). Have not heard of France; have of the Queen, but only know that it is the Queen, not what her name is, or what she does for the country. (*After much leading, and very doubtingly, says,*) Think she sees to us. Have

been at Sunday school for eight years, at night school for six months, and at week-day school, but only at 6 years old.

312. *Emma Clarke*, age about 10 or 11 ?—Don't know how old I am. Don't know A. Have been in a chapel, but don't know anything that I heard about. Did hear of Jesus Christ, and that He was good and kind. The "preach" told us. Don't know if people were kind to Him or killed Him; they did crucify Him, but I don't know what that means. Have not heard of an angel. God made everybody; don't know if He made any one first.

[Very pale and squalid in dress and looks. A younger sister working beside her looks happier. Their father is a pearl-button maker, the mother works in a percussion-cap factory.]

313. *Jane Bitter.*—Press woman. Emma Clarke works for me at putting in; I give her 1*s.* 6*d.* a week. I think she really does not know any more than she has told you. She is very poorly cared for at home. The women would be very glad to do without girls at all, only wages are so low that they must have them to make it up.

314. *Harriet Martin*, age 12, press girl.—Have worked at the press 18 months. Pinched my thumb under it three times, and once was at home three months for it. Have had several pieces of bone taken out of it. It was dressed by Mr. ———, the doctor here, not at the hospital. Get 3*s.* 6*d.* a week now, and pay it to my married sister to keep me. Began as a putter in, at 1*s.* Do not ever wash here at the basin.

Know my letters, but cannot spell them, or tell figures. Never went to school of days, but have on Sundays for four years. Can do better than when I first went; could not say my alphabet then.

315. —— *Waring*, press woman.—Have a little boy here between 6 and 7 years old. He saves me the 1*s.* a week that I should have to pay for a girl, and the 6*d.* or 8*d.* a week which I should have to pay for sending him to where he could be cared for in over-hours, *i.e.*, all beyond the regular school-time, while I am here at work. Am not a widow, but my husband has left me for six years. Have one other child, a little girl, who gets 1*s.* a week at another button factory.

316. *Richard Hitchcock*, age 7. — Cob for a stamper. Was never at a day school, and don't know my letters.

[Of four other boys in the same place,—a dark place in a part of it in which large print could be scarcely seen on a bright summer day,—one aged 9 gave precisely the same answers as the boy just named; the three others, two of 9, one of 10, had been to school of some kind, and could read words of one syllable. All were rough looking.]

317. *Josiah Metcalf.*—I have been here 20 years. About four years ago I took part in working an evening school for the workpeople here. The school was open three nights a week from 7 till 9, and was attended at first by nearly 100, chiefly of the younger. It lasted for a year and a half, or two years. I still teach a few women in their dinner hour, which I was led to do by finding some that could not read at all. Some now cannot tell their letters; one of about 24 could only just tell her letters, and in three months she could read easy things, and now, *i.e.*, in about two years, she can read very nicely indeed.

We have sick and other clubs, to which most of those who are big enough to work for themselves belong; 75 per cent. of the sick club subscription is divided out each year to the subscribers. In addition to the regular subscription, each member subscribes 1*d.* a week towards a fund which purchases tickets for the General, Lying-in, &c. hospitals. I should say that it is the young women of about 22 or so who fall most on the sick club.

The workpeople do not come to work on Monday till 9 o'clock, at least on the average, often much later. A great many used not to come on Monday at all; but they are more regular now, since the employers have given a half holiday on Saturday, and insisted that in return the people should not be so irregular on Monday. I think that in time they will be brought to be regular.

MESSRS. HAMMOND, TURNER, AND SONS', BUTTON MANUFACTURERS, SNOW HILL.

318. An old established and leading house, though, as the mere manufacture is only a part of the present business, there are other manufactories employing a larger number of persons. The confined character of the buildings was pointed out to me by the principal, who stated that there were accidental obstacles in this case to effecting a substantial improvement, though it was desired. Of ten boys between the age of 9 and 12 employed in cracking ivory nuts in a small dark outhouse, five held up their hands as able to read, and five dine there.

319. *Mr. J. P. Turner.*—I do not believe that there is much excessive work of the young in Birmingham, but it is quite right that if it does exist it should be prevented by legislation. The great difficulty here would be that there is so much work done out of factories in houses and small shops which could never be reached. It would not, however, be any material injury to factories if they were under regulation, and the small work-places were not. The latter depend chiefly upon the former, and work for them. There is probably as much work done out in small places as ever there was. The tendency of all small fancy articles is to run into such places. The increase of large factories has been mainly in those which produce plain and useful goods.

Any general measure regulating the labour of the young would cause some practical inconveniences at first, but these could be met without serious difficulty or loss. If children were limited to half a day's work I should employ two sets; half days would be less inconvenient for this work than alternate days. As to the others, a day of 12 hours with meal-times is sufficient. The day here scarcely exceeds that even when there is overtime, and on ordinary occasions it is far less, the nominal time being further shortened by the workpeople coming in late and taking more than the stated time for their meals, so that the average time of actual work does not probably exceed nine hours. My business is almost entirely in fancy buttons of different kinds, and much of the day's work often depends upon the morning's post, so that it is probably a more variable business than that of almost any other house. The button trade, I should say, employs more women and girls than any trade in the town. A point in which a change is most to be desired is in the employment of married women in factories, at least if they have children. It makes them neglect their homes and families, and they have often to pay large sums weekly for putting out their children to strangers to be cared for, and these children in turn grow up untrained in household duties. One result is that the husbands are led to seek for their comforts and amusements away from their homes, often in drinking. The women also thus bear a great part of the expense of maintaining the family, instead of performing their natural duties at home. In Birmingham generally the men are able to maintain their families without the labour of their wives and young children. If legislation could in any way discourage this practice, though it would not do to prohibit it directly, it would be a good step to take, and not an undue interference with private rights. I think it

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might be possible to do something towards this, though probably only indirectly. At any rate I think it important that attention should be called to the point, and wonder that it has had, so far as I am aware, so little public notice. If a right and higher feeling in the workmen can be brought about in any way, they will not like the thought of their wives going on working in factories, a work which stands on quite a different footing from the other miscellaneous ways in which women can make themselves useful. This is the feeling of many of the better kind now. Whatever tends to raise the standard of the men's feeling will be a help.

It is desirable that parents should be bound to give their children some education. I have understood this to be the case in some countries, in which the children are said to be much better educated than in England.

This manufactory labours under the disadvantage, common to so many in Birmingham, of being old, and having grown up gradually in a crowded space. Other houses are gradually taken on to those in which a business started in a small way, and shops are added one by one,—a plan which is unfavourable to freedom of space and arrangement. I have done the best that I can to improve this place by means of ventilators, &c. ; but where the ceilings are low it is difficult to keep the rooms fresh in summer or when gas is used.

The only accidents are from pinches in the presses. As a rule these might be prevented by care, and in some probably, though not in all, by mechanical arrangements, such as guards, &c.

320. *John Mably*, age 10.—Cob. Don't know all the letters. Used to be at school for six months, and took 1*d.* a week.

They got a big book at school ; there's a many stories in it ; but I cannot tell any of the Bible names, except God and Christ, and don't know what they said about them, or where God lives. A cross is if you get a bit of wood and nail another across it like. Don't know what a river is, or where the fishes are. People go to another country sometimes in a cab, sometimes in a train. They go in a train to America,—all the way. Cannot write.

321. *Henry Shawe*, stamper.—Three men in this shop stamp, and each has a boy to cob for him. The boys can always get done afore we, and go at the proper time. In some work we don't want them at all.

322. *Samuel Purcell*, age 9.—Never at week-day school, but go on Sunday. Cannot read.

323. *Herbert Dodd*, age 11.—At week-day school a year when 5 years old. Know my letters.

324. *George Fielding*, age 12.—Turned an engine at Coventry, worked at watches, and here at guns. At day school at 6 years old, and go on Sunday now, but not to a night school. Can read, not write.

325. *William Hawkins*, age 9½.—Am the youngest of the 10 nut-cracking boys. The eldest is 12. Have cobbed in this factory for 18 months before, and was at a jeweller's before that. Never stay later than 9 p.m. here.

326. *Ellen Hodgson*, age 12.—Am "drawing through" at a press, and have done so for a year, and was here for four years before. Have "squedged" my thumb and got a black nail, and also, when I first began, my finger. There is a bump at the end now. It was dressed for me here.

School on Sundays, and on the week-days when a little one. Did learn a little, but can hardly tell you what. Can hardly read at all now.

327. *Ellen Williams*, age 10.—Put in shanks to buttons.

Was never at a week-day school, but go on Sunday. Don't know all the letters. Learned to spell a little at the Sunday school.

328. *Mary Ann Gale*, age 11.—"Bump" at a press. Left the day school to stay with mother, who was ill. Go on Sunday. Can spell (only words of about two letters).

329. *Harriet Kirby*, age 12.—Put in shanks. Come at 8 a.m. and leave at ¼ to 8 ; once or twice have stayed till 9. Stay in here for dinner, and so does another little girl out of the nine.

Was never at a day school ; go on Sunday. Can tell my letters.

[Another girl of 10 had never been to day-school, and could not spell. Another of 10 could scarcely read "It is" &c. One of 12 "hadn't had much schooling."]

330. *William Morris*, age 9.—Turn a wheel with a handle, and run errands. Had been at school two or three months, and left to come here. Know my A B C all through ; "a" is "n" ; "e" is "t" ; "T" is "H."

331. *Kate Buckley*, age 14.—Draw through at a press. Sometimes away from work if I get a pinch. Squedged a piece right out once, and couldn't work for three weeks.

Cannot count or read, but can tell the letters.

332. *Amelia Edwards*, age 9.—Cannot read much. Don't know "m." Was never at week-day school. At chapel they tell us about Jesus and God, but I don't know what. He loves us, and lives up in heaven. Have not heard of the Garden of Eden.

333. *Selina Lander*, age 16.—Press girl. Cannot read at all.

MESSRS. SMITH AND WRIGHT'S, BUTTON MANUFACTURERS, BREARLEY STREET WEST.

334. These works, except the ivory-nut shop, are clean and light, and attention is paid to ventilation. A school-room has been lately built, and instruction under a certified master is provided for those engaged in the works three evenings a week. Of the eight boys in the ivory-nut shop, a boy of 14 could read a little, one of 13 and one of 10 could spell, two of 10 and two of 9 did not know the letters. Of the latter, one always goes to Sunday school, and went to day school when he was little. The eighth, aged 7, is named below. Nut-cracking boys, however, are probably not a fair specimen of the mass employed either here or elsewhere. Their outward appearance and mental state seem everywhere to point them out as belonging to about the lowest class.

335. *Bill Squelch*, age 7.—Pick out nuts. Don't know A. Never was in a church or chapel, or heard a preacher, or heard of Adam and Eve.

336. *Annie Brown*, age 15 years 11 months.—Don't know all the letters ; "g" is "n."

337. *Sarah Wile*, age 14.—At work since 9. Was at day school six years ago. Do not go on Sunday now. Cannot read.

338. *Herbert Hatton*, age 13.—Mind a machine for cutting out buttons. Go to the night school, and do not miss. Can do sums up to simple interest.

339. *Mr. J. S. Wright.*—The usual hours of labour in our manufactory are from 9 a.m. until 8 p.m., allowing 1¼ hour (1 to 2¼) for dinner, and half an hour (5 to 5.30) for tea. The demand in our business is very irregular, and sometimes we have to continue business until 9 or even 10 o'clock. The children and young persons occasionally work with the others those hours, probably about 2 months in the year, for which this overtime occurs. It is at no particular seasons. On

Saturdays business in the manufactory closes usually at from 4 to 5 p.m. We have not tried the system of relays, nor is it necessary, the work not being laborious, and change of posture very frequent.

In our particular trade, as well as in many similar trades in Birmingham, the labour of children if not indispensable is very useful and important. They perform many of the operations more rapidly and effectively than grown up persons. The boys place and prepare by brushing, &c. the work for the men; sometimes they turn wheels, or perform light operations where steam power moves small "punches," "rolls," "saws," &c. Some girls are employed in placing buttons on paper cards with holes punched in them, and in sewing buttons and hooks and eyes on cards. A large number are employed in this latter operation at their own homes, or in the houses of their neighbours. Some varnish or coat the buttons with japan, others assist the women by placing the various parts together, and some work at small presses like the women. I do not think that any of these operations are unhealthy or in any way injurious to the children, except turning the wheel if long continued.

It would of course be better if the children could be trained in well-regulated homes, and receive a proper education; but as such cases are exceptional, I am of opinion that the children are on the whole in a better position, both physically and morally, than they would be if their labour was interdicted. The shops are generally warm and dry. No doubt the association of children with young persons and adults tends to a precocious development, but at the same time it appears to have a restraining influence, and must on the whole be beneficial, as there is a less amount of female crime in Birmingham than in any other large town in the kingdom concurrently with the unrestricted employment of girls and women in factories and workshops equally or more extensively than in any other community in the kingdom.

The labour of children is very important to our and to kindred trades, as competition is now more severe than ever. The Germans especially, who have an unlimited supply of cheap labour of both sexes, are by reason of this advantage able to undersell us, not only in foreign countries and our colonies, but at our own doors, in such articles as brooches, clasps, and buttons, which are made in so large quantities on the Continent as to give employment to many more persons than are engaged in the same trades in Birmingham, and these articles are imported into this country. Though we cannot in any sense be now considered the "toy shop of Europe," yet it is of the highest importance, if we would retain any considerable part of this class of trade, that adult male labour should be supplemented by that of children and young persons.

I believe that only in very few cases where both parents are living, is it necessary for the children to come to work to earn sufficient food. In most cases I fear it is owing to the improvidence of the father who is unable to resist the temptations which public-houses (sanctioned unfortunately, in my opinion, by our social usages and the supposed necessity for Imperial revenue) hold out to our industrious and skilful artizans. Still in such cases, as well as those where the father is unable to work, or has died, the labour of the child is the means by which it obtains the necessary nourishment for its health and maturity.

I am of opinion that there would be great difficulty and but little advantage, all things considered, in carrying the provisions of the "Factory" or any similar Act in Birmingham. The trades are so diverse, and so many persons are employed in places which cannot be called "factories" or even "workshops," and very large numbers are employed in their own houses by their parents; and these in most cases would stand more in need of protection than those employed in the larger establishments of the town.

I think, however, that an enactment which would make it imperative that no child should be permitted to earn wages away from home, unless he or she could read, write, and do the four first rules in arithmetic, would be found beneficial in such towns as ours, and would only in a very trifling degree interfere with the course of business.

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I am satisfied that means would speedily be found, without further Government aid, which would enable every child to receive the required amount of education. I would observe that the inability to write and even read in an adult is not conclusive that they never were taught; as my experience with many proves that these "arts" which they acquired in childhood have been lost by disuse.

Some two years since we erected a school-room, and engaged a certified teacher to give instruction three nights each week. It is a matter of regret to my partner and myself that the advantages thus offered are not valued. It is only by threats of dismissal, and sometimes by actually discharging the child, that we can enforce attendance. Some few of the parents appreciate the opportunity, but we have frequently found them conniving at their children's absence.

[The following letters and table were afterwards sent by Mr. Wright.]

Employment of Children in Birmingham.

Hotel de France,
DEAR SIR, Bruxelles, 22/12/63.

THE impression which you say would be conveyed by my remarks is what I desire to be conveyed, viz., that in my opinion the operation of the Factory, or any similar enactment, would be to exclude from work, in the larger factories in Birmingham, all children. I think that the system of half-time or relays would *not* be practicable in the trades that require child labour. I have been informed that in the neighbourhood of Manchester, the result of the Factory Acts has been to prevent children being employed at all, except to a very limited extent. You ask, do I mean that the masters or the children would be as injuriously affected by such limitation as by exclusion from labour? As stated above, I believe the half-time system to be impracticable; and I think that certain manufactures would be injured if children's labour were abolished. As regards the children, I have stated, I think, that I consider an elementary education necessary, but it may be obtained without the Factory Act, or exclusion from earning wages before they are 13.

From the extracts which I have seen of the report of the Potteries Chamber of Commerce Committee, I concur in their views of the inexpediency of applying the Factory Act, and believe that the same difficulties would arise in our town from relays, changing hands, leaving off work at different periods to adults, &c.

Yours, &c.
J. E. White, Esq. JNO. S. WRIGHT.

165, Brearley Street West,
DEAR SIR, January 2, 1864.

HEREWITH are the additional statistics. They have been carefully made up and may be relied upon. The school is an average one; the scholars are the children of artizans almost exclusively, and they may be considered as fairly representative of the young working class of our town. There is a class below those, not paupers, who do not attend Sunday school for want of clothes, &c. &c.

It must not be understood that those who are tabulated as being able to read and write can do so efficiently; they can generally read well, but their writing is indifferent. It will suffice as a rule to enable them to keep their "work books" when they become adults, but only a part, not half I should think, would be able to write a letter.

Yours, &c.
J. E. White, Esq. JNO. S. WRIGHT.

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Mr. J. E. White.

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TABLE referred to in preceding Letter.

Great King Street, Hockley, Baptist Sunday School, Birmingham.

Boys.							Girls.						
Number.	Age next Birthday.	No. Read and Write.	No. Read only.	No. at School on Week days.	No. at Work.	—	Number.	Age next Birthday.	No. Read and Write.	No. Read only.	No. at School on Week days.	No. at Work.	No. at home.
5	7	4	1	5	—		2	5	1	1	2	—	—
1	8	1	—	1	—		3	6	2	1	2	—	1
4	9	4	—	3	1		8	7	5	3	8	—	—
14	10	13	1	11	3		4	8	2	2	4	—	—
*5	11	2	2	1	3	*1, neither read nor write.	14	9	10	4	11	—	3
4	12	3	1	—	4		8	10	3	5	2	3	3
5	13	2	3	—	5		5	11	4	1	4	—	1
8	14	5	3	—	8		7	12	4	3	6	1	—
2	15	2	—	—	2		12	13	7	5	4	7	1
4	16	4	—	—	4		4	14	2	2	1	3	—
3	17	3	—	—	3		4	15	4	—	—	3	1
2	18	2	—	—	2		2	16	1	1	—	—	2
1	19	1	—	—	1		1	18	1	—	—	1	—

MESSRS. J. AND T. CHATWIN'S, BUTTON MANUFACTURERS, GREAT CHARLES STREET.

340. The work-rooms, though low, are not crowded with persons, and pipes have lately been placed over the gas-burners with the view of carrying off the impure air. Some of the women whom I asked said that the rooms had been improved by this; and the employers appear anxious to do what they can for the comfort of the workpeople. A large boiler of water is prepared for tea, the people bring only their own tea and cups.

341. Of 15 girls taken at chance out of the entire number of 20 under 13 employed here, one of 12, who went to day school three months and goes to Sunday school sometimes, knew none of the letters; three of 11, one of 9, and one of 8 did not know all; one of 11, three of 9, and one of 8 could not spell; one of 10 could scarcely be said to read; one of 12 and one of 11 could read; one of 10 could read well: *i.e.*, three out of 15, or 20 per cent. only, could read. A girl of 17 could not read without spelling; she goes to school on Sunday.

342. *Mr. John Chatwin.*—Regulations of the young people's labour would make but little difference to us. If they led to the work beginning earlier than the present hour in the morning, viz., 9 every day except Saturday, on which day it is 8, it would be inconvenient for the married women. It would be better if women with two or three children could stay at home altogether. We do not like children at any time under 9; they are better if they come at about 11. Children should not work more than eight hours a day besides their meals. If children under 13 had only half days, the women for whom they work might prefer girls over that age. They could well afford to pay older girls, as they get very good wages, some as much as 12*s.* a week, others 10*s.* and 7*s.* I think that such little girls, who get only 1*s.*, do not answer so well to the women as helpers, as the bigger who get 1*s.* 3*d.* and 1*s.* 6*d.*

The most convenient way for us would be for the children to have all Monday for school, or to leave at 5 o'clock on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday. They do leave at 5 on Saturday now. The workpeople leave early on Saturday now, because the carriers will not come late. When they used to come late work-places were open on Saturday night till 10. But little work is done on Monday, as the women reckon to make enough on the other five days.

If children are to be got to school there should be some attraction, as a meal or cake every time, which could easily be provided for by voluntary subscriptions. Unless they learn young they will not learn at all. I have tried to get big boys of 17 to learn to write, offering to pay for it, and telling them "you "would be worth 1*l.* a week more;" but they say, "Oh! I don't like it." I find the girls more orderly after they have been here a bit. Sometimes women, especially Irish, come unable to tell the clock.

I have put up pipes over the gas to carry away the heat to the outer air. I have found it make a great difference in my own office and in the small work-rooms. In the larger the difference in effect is less; but as the people leave at 7 not so very much is burned. The expense of putting up this piping is very trifling. If any one would suggest anything better, I should be very glad to adopt it, even for my own comfort. Where there is gas there must be some bad effects. If the windows are down, the people get toothache, and we are obliged to let them do as they please.

I believe that steam power has been applied to button making (*i.e.* covered buttons), but experimentally only, and not to any extent so as to answer. Restrictions on labour such as referred to would not practically diminish the labour which we can employ at present. If they did they would probably lead to inventions for economizing it, and appliances taking the place of the hand. I consider that children should not be put to press or stamp work at all till they are 13. If they are, they are apt to hurt themselves nor should they work at all with steam till that age, as they must keep up with the pace of the steam, and the revolutions are sometimes quickened. On this account there is less occasion for restrictions in employments in which steam is not used. Some of the younger ones are less fit for work from not being fed as they should be.

343. *Mr. Thomas Chatwin.*—I am a very great advocate for the education of the poorer classes, and have taught in a Sunday school. I think that more should be made of Sunday schools as a means of giving some secular education, *e.g.* in writing, though I am a Churchman myself. There might be classes on the Sunday evening, and people would be more likely to go than on other evenings, as they are clean and dressed. The additional teachers for this are a mere matter of expense, and could be got. I have found on inquiry that many of our people go to the Quakers' Sunday schools, (which is strange, seeing that this is not the national religion,) for the sake of the writing, and because they are more systematically taught, and not confined merely to the Testament. Some go to these schools when far from young. A woman who

did not begin learning till 30, can now just write, and is our best warehouse-woman; but such improvement at this age is a very rare case.

344. *Eliza Rundell*, age 8.—Look over buttons. Have been here two years, and was at three button places before. Went when going 7, and "put in." There were six as little as I at my first place. The hours were from 8 till 7. Here they are from 8½ till 7, and Saturdays till 5.

345. *Agnes Overty*, age 10.—Can read (well). Learned at Sunday school, and my brother, 15, taught me at home too.

346. *Isabella Glascott*, age 13.—Put in. Can read all manner, and write a little; never did sums. Left school four years ago.

347. *Mary Ann Field*.—Press woman. It would be just the same to us when we got used to it if the little girls who work for us came one for one half of the day and another for the other. Half days would suit as well as their working every other day; but we could only pay the two what we now pay the one. There are two women who have three girls each. Coming late in the morning suits me best, because of getting the children's breakfast.

MESSRS. ILIFFE AND PLAYER'S, BUTTON MANUFACTURERS, NEWHALL STREET.

348. On the day of my visit many of the hands were away, but if all the benches were filled the space would be but small. On Saturday afternoons instruction is provided for the children by the firm, with very good results.

349. *Mr. John Player*.—The greater part of the children are employed as putters in of linen buttons, and the bigger girls at presswork.

I do not see that there would be any obstacle to employing two sets of children. We do not think that the women, much less the younger females and children, can work properly more than 10 hours a day, and we should not mind such a limit as that being fixed for all, and think that it should be as to the young. I notice that when we have worked till 9 numbers got locked out the next morning, so we rarely work after 8 now, as it loses as much as it gains.

For the last three or four years we have had a half day on Saturday, and found it very beneficial, and should be very sorry to give it up. I see no disadvantage in it. I doubt, however, if the custom is growing in the town; if anything, I think that it is going back.

I think that our children, as a body, are better educated than the elder workers, and attribute this to a school on Saturday afternoon, kept by one of our women, which we have had for the last four or five years. We do not enforce their attendance, but we tell them to go, and they do regularly, and profit much by it, and also appear grateful for it. We give them prizes.

350. *Elizabeth Smith*, press woman.—I teach the girls on Saturday afternoon from 1½ to 4½. About 30 come, and out of these the average attendance is about 25. I should say that out of the whole number only five or six are unable to read an easy child's book at all, and that nearly half could read it without difficulty. They also say tables and sing them, and half a dozen or more copy out pieces in writing from books. They seem to enjoy the singing, and go on fresher with other things afterwards. They also are fond of asking to have interesting stories read out. Some learn things, and repeat when they come on Saturday. I have had this class about five years now. Many, including some of the big ones, used to come unable to tell their letters, and can read very nicely now. Some go to Sunday school, and are in my class there. I have been thanked by children after they have left, when they have met me in the street, and said how thankful they were for having learned their letters here, and told me how nicely they have got on.

351. *Sarah Ann Greely*, age 9.—Here two or three years; at another button place two years before ("perhaps one year," a woman, with whom she works, says). Worked there from 8½ to 7, here from 8¼ to 7. Can read. (Reads words of two syllables.) Learned at the school.

352. *Elizabeth Porter*, age 6.—Put in. Here three months, and was at another button place before, where I worked from 8 to 7. Bring my dinner here. The woman pays me 1*s.* 1*d.* a week; a sister here going 11, and another going 12, get 1*s.* 7*d.* each.

353. *Mary Ann Broderick*, age 13.—I japan. Was not 8 when I first went to buttons. Don't very often go to the school; mother knows when I do not.

354. *Thomas Smith*, age 11.—Cob. Was never at a day-school. Know the letters.

355. *Caroline Perks*, age 13.—Japanner. Went to put in when 8.

Can read (one or two words). Was never at a day school; go on Sunday and at nights. Was never in a chapel or church; heard a preacher at the school.

MR. J. COPE'S, BUTTON MANUFACTURER, COTTAGE LANE.

Bone, &c. Buttons.

356. The buttons made at this factory are principally bone, wood, vegetable ivory, and horn, and several of the features of the employment in this and factories of the same kind differ considerably from those where other buttons only are made, though some covered linen and silk buttons are made here also.

357. The bone is boiled in a building in the middle of the premises, with an open door leading into a shop in which three boys, one of 8 years old, and a girl, assist a man and woman in making horn buttons. The smell in both these shops was offensive; in the bone-boiling shop, though no boiling was going on, apparently from sacks full of bones and refuse bone lying about; in the horn button shop from horn being heated over stoves to soften it for pressing. At the time of the cholera complaint was made of the bone-boiling here.

358. The greater part of the work is done by steam machinery, much of which appears highly dangerous, from exposed shafts, wheels, and bands, the protection originally provided being in many cases quite insufficient, and even that in some cases having been broken away and not replaced. The boxing of a large band, close beside a woman, had been away for several months. I saw, however, none but adults engaged near any parts which I noticed to be dangerous; but it appears that young persons of either sex may be, and the works were but very partially filled.

359. Circular saws for cutting ivory-nuts, &c., a work of great risk, which few appear to escape without more or less serious injury, were attended only by men; but this is said not to be the case in places where the trade unions do not succeed in keeping out youths from the work.

360. Some of the shops are very low, the rafters in one or two cases knocking my hat, and many are dirty from thickly and apparently long accumulated dust of bone, wood, &c., resting on floors, &c., hanging from roofs and ceilings in cobwebs, &c. In one shop flour-like dust fell at intervals from the floor above, shaken down apparently by the vibration caused by the machinery. These unfavourable appearances may be owing in a great measure to the oldness of the buildings and the depressed state of the trade for some time past.

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361. *Mr. John Cope.*—The number of persons that I employ is now about 100, but it varies very much, and in good trade would be half as many again; the greater part are females from 7 or 8 years old upwards; but there are some boys, some at machines and some at odd jobs. Of the females, the elder work at steam lathes or hand presses; the children assist by putting in for the press women, being paid by them, at first about 1*s.* or 1*s.* 3*d.* a week. The women cannot do without these children now. No doubt they did all themselves formerly, but since the prices have so sunk it is necessary to employ children to make up by saving in the wages.

There would be no inconvenience in having two sets of children, or limiting young persons to work within a day of 12 hours. It is rarely that the hours are exceeded here. It is not to the interest of the manufacturer to work long hours, especially where there is machinery. The shorter the time in which he can get the work done the better. The people themselves cannot work so well beyond the regular time.

My people generally have a half-day on Saturday, and make it up by adding an hour to the other evenings in the week. It is much better for both workpeople and the employers. It gives the well-disposed an opportunity of getting into the country and enjoying themselves, and also improving their health.

It is very desirable to see whether anything can be done to better the condition of the working classes. The effect of some restrictive principle, as regards the young, would, no doubt, be beneficial; the work would, no doubt, be done if necessary, arrangements being made earlier and carried out more punctually. The effect would be either that the lazy workpeople would have to give place to those who would work, or that more would be employed.

The pearl button trade is an entirely distinct branch of the button manufacture; it has been most seriously affected in common with all haberdashery by the depression of cotton. Youths are kept out of it to a great degree by the combinations of workmen.

A great deal of work is done in the town in little shops in back courts, a dozen children, perhaps, being huddled together in a shop. Perhaps the japan button makers are in as rough a state as any; some of them are black as little sweeps.

There are a great number of evening schools in the town, and if any of my people want to go I always let them.

362. *Robert Harris.*—Turn wood buttons. Began at about the age of 15 or 16, at which age boys often begin. Do not consider it unhealthy. Bone working is healthy; know this because when the cholera came the bone boiling here was complained of, as what they call a nuisance, and it was decided that it was not injurious. Find no inconvenience from the dust myself. Have not seen any accidents here from the shafts.

[His face and back of head are yellow with layers of wood dust.]

363. *Samuel Hines.*—Saw bone for buttons with a circular steam saw. Began the trade at 17, and have worked at it 40 years, but have only sawn for 20 years. It is very dangerous work; you soon nip a finger off; I have cut a piece off the end of each of my forefingers and slit up my thumb nail, the mark of which will never go. Some work a long time without an accident, but it's all chance. If a bone is cracked you are liable to be hurt; there are some that are lamed altogether, and no good at all afterwards. Some learn sawing as lads, but we're against lads because of the Society. If many lads learned it would over-run the trade and give our children no chance. It's that that has ruined the trade; we have about stopped it now.

In Sheffield the work is done in a different and safer way, *i.e.*, with a gauge, instead of pushing the bone against the saw with the hand, but we fancy it don't do the work so quick.

364. *Charles Perkins*, adult.—Turn bone buttons on a lathe. Lads begin this at about 15 if big enough.

365. *Robert Fillan.*—Turn. Sometimes girls have drilled at the lathes opposite. A girl of 12 could do some parts of it.

366. *Mary Cardley*, age 18.—Drill vegetable-ivory buttons at a lathe, and have done so for six years. Have no particular time of work, because we have what we can get; but usually we work from 9 till 7. Have worked for a week together till 9. Have come at 6 a.m. and worked till 9 or 10 p.m. five or six years ago, but there has not been much work lately. Bring my victuals with me. Went to lacquer brass nails when I was, I daresay, turned 7. There were a tidy few girls, and some the same size as I. Our hours were from 8 till 7.

Ain't such a capital reader; daresay I should have to spell some words (reads a child's book). Cannot write. Have heard that diamonds are got from the seaside.

367. *Ellen Moore*, age 12.—Sort buttons. Was never at day-school, but go on Sunday sometimes. Cannot read at all. Went to service as nurse when going in 7.

368. *Eliza Owen*, age 13.—Card buttons. Sewed for mother at home before. Was at the day school when living at a village near Birmingham, and could read a little then, but forget it all now, and cannot write; do not go on Sunday now.

369. *Berkeley Coleman*, age 8.—Carry dies from the press to the emptier in the horn-button shop. Cracked nuts before.

Don't know all the letters. Was never at Sunday school, because I ain't got no clothes to go in.

370. *George Mitchell*, age 13.—Empty the horn-button dies. Was never at school on a week day but go on Sunday. Know the letters.

[Has perspiration in his place from the heat of the place in which he stands by the stoves.]

371. *Thomas Regan*, age 13.—Was at week school two or three months. Cannot read.

[These three boys are employed by a man.]

372. *Fanny Smith*, age 13.—"Crap" buttons at a press and work for the woman, who pays me 2*s.* 3*d.* a week.

Don't know the letters, or what I heard at chapel, or whether I was told about Christ there, or know who He was, or know the Queen's name.

MR. E. LEPPER'S, BUTTON MANUFACTURER, ASTON ROAD.

373. Bone and vegetable-ivory buttons are made here in a shop in which steam power is hired for the purpose. It is very dirty with rubbish, &c., shakes from the vibration of the machinery, and smells strongly of the bone, and the bone and other dust hangs on cobwebs from the roof. Three boys squat on the floor cracking ivory nuts, men and women working round at the machinery, the men sawing and turning, the women drilling and polishing. In a separate room women and girls card the buttons.

374. *Mr. Edmund Lepper.*—Cannot go beyond 7 in the mill, because the engine stops and we cannot hire the power longer. In the carding shop they may go perhaps one night a week till 8½ some weeks.

375. *Thomas Hughes*, age 11.—Crack nuts. Have all I get, *i.e.*, 6*d.* a thousand, and do three or four or five thousand a week. Was at tin buttons before. From 9 till 9 were the regular hours, with an hour for my dinner and nothing for my tea-time. There were three boys and four girls.

Go to school on Sunday and three nights a week, for which I pay 2*d.* myself. Have a father and

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mother. Was at a day-school five or six weks. Don't know the letters. D is J. Have not heard of king. The Queen belongs to all the world. The Bible is a book about Jesus making the world. God maked all us. He maked Jesus first.

376. *William Billingley*, age 8.—At day-school a short time. Know the letters. People pray to Jesus and the Saviour. Do not know whether those two are the same person. They are not the same person as God. They have got a Testament of mine in the house. They gi'en it me at school and I couldn't read it. The Bible is a great big book. Mother reads it out sometimes, but I don't know anything that it is about.

377. *Emma Brooks*, age 13.—Card buttons. Can tell the letters (can most, but says) "E" is "V." School on Sunday and went on days till at work.

378. *Mary Ann Francis*, age 14.—At Sunday school 4 years and at day-school a little. Read in the Testament (spells monosyllables). Try to spell the words, and if I can't, teacher tells me. 5 times 5 is 10. Have not heard of an apostle, a whale, or the sea. (Other girls tell her she has.) Whales go on the sea. Could have told you before if I had thought of it.

379. *Henry Hands*, age 9.—Crack nuts. The engine stops an hour at dinner. Have dinner in here sometimes.

Don't know A. God is Jesus. Don't know whether people killed Him, or who made the world. Am a Christian; it is a good thing.

MESSRS. THOMAS BULLOCK AND SON'S, BUTTON MANUFACTURERS, CLIVELAND STREET.

380. The greater part of the work of this manufactory, the buildings of which are large and new, is done by means of saws or lathes moved by steam power. The motion of the machinery is very rapid, and unprotected shafts run along a few inches in front of the legs of some of the workers. A shaft of this kind lately caused a serious accident in another factory which I visited, in which all such shafts have since been fenced. Some of the lathe work also appears dangerous to the hands, the small pieces of bone, &c. being held with the fingers. Scarcely any, however, but adults are in contact with the machinery. The button makers in this district endeavour to prevent the employment of boys or youths at this work; but it is said that this is not the case everywhere, and two boys are engaged in it here; one of 14 was working close before one of the shafts referred to. Owing to the bad state of the trade, far below the full number of persons were at work. The air is full of fine dust thrown off from the lathes, and smells strongly of bone, &c. The dust therefore must be largely inhaled.

381. *Mr. W. H. Bullock.*—We manufacture bone, ivory, horn, and wood buttons. The greater part of the machine work is done by men and women, though there are two big boys engaged in it. The button makers' rules here do not allow of boys working at the machines, though I believe that in Sheffield boys do much of the work done here by men. This is principally sawing and turning by steam power. The women drill and polish, also by steam power, on lathes. The younger boys fill in dies, the girls sew buttons on cards or work at a press, and the bigger are in the warehouse. Our numbers, however, have never been full since the beginning of the American war. In a time of good trade we should have towards 200 persons, in about the same proportions as to age and sex as at present.

When we are busy we do not work beyond 8. The system will not stand more than a certain amount of work, and if work is carried beyond that amount it is not well done, as we have found. If the hours of the young were limited in any way we should increase the numbers if necessary at any time, which we can do, as we have enough room and machines to put on more hands. In crowded places, however, this cannot be done so well, and providing more presses, &c. causes an increased outlay of capital.

The workpeople are required to be punctual in coming on account of the machinery. We allow women, not able to come at the proper hour, if they have a good reason, such as staying to attend to their families, to come in at 10½.

382. *William Jones*, age 14.—Turn at a steam lathe. Have done so for 2 years. Never got caught in the machinery or saw anyone else so. Have good health and appetite. Go home to dinner for an hour.

Was at school till I came here. Can read a newspaper, write, and do practice.

383. *Louisa Taylor*, age 15.—Card buttons. Only know the letters and spell short words like "the." Was at a day school for a little while.

MRS. S. ROWLEY'S, PEARL BUTTON MANUFACTURER, CLEMENT STREET.

Pearl Buttons.

384. This factory, though quite small, is said to be about the largest in the trade. The workshops are cheerful and airy, and the place apparently thoroughly well conducted. The dust given off from the lathes, &c., which are worked by treadles, in some of the earlier processes settles on all surrounding objects and on the ceiling like flour in a mill. Two or three of the men, however, who perform the more dusty processes, as cutting out and turning, and whom I questioned on the point, attributed no bad effects to the dust. But lathe work is said to cause considerable strain upon the eyes, and I noticed four not old men working side by side in spectacles.

385. *Mr. Joseph Anstey*, manager.—I have been in the pearl button trade 39 years. It is a small trade, and confined almost entirely to Birmingham. There are one or two small establishments in London, one in Dublin, and two or three in Sheffield, but they do not average more than half a dozen persons in each. The total number in the trade in the whole kingdom was about 1,200, but now there are not more than 500 or 600 at work. It may be that there are only 300 or 400 trade union men, but the number may be made up by the "black legs," *i.e.*, men who do not belong to the union. The numbers given are from the Report of the secretary of the trade union. The pearl ornament is quite distinct from the pearl button, and much smaller, and is carried on in Birmingham and London. There are in the pearl button trade probably about 500 women and girls, from 13 upwards, and about the same number of boys from 12 up to 18, all of whom work at the lathe, except some of the boys, who file. Scarcely a dozen in the trade are under the age of 12, except the carders. Boys cannot begin cutting out till about the age of 16, and turning till about 14. Women and girls drill and polish. The work can be done by steam, but no quicker. It must take its time. A shell cannot be forced through. A good sized one weighs 7 or 8 lbs. If more speed were put on it would burn the button to pieces. The shell cannot be softened in any way for working. A great many have tried steam, but never could make any good of it, and, I suppose, never will.

The trade has been crushed down by there being so many intermediate buyers, the larger buying from the less, and there being the profits of so many hands. The profit is so small that it discourages capital, and

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the work can be carried on with very little, a man merely having to buy a little material. If the trade were better there would be fewer small masters and more large. There are now about 150 pearl button manufacturers in the town. A great many work in attics, or get just a bit of a shop, working with merely their own family. You would hardly find a dozen that would show outside any sign of the manufacture being carried on. The great evil of the trade is that boys are not apprenticed enough. The trade unions will only allow a certain number. It is generally found that the character is better where boys are compelled to go apprentice. But in other ways the trade unions have done some good to the character of those employed. It was very bad. The habit of masters drinking with their men is, however, very bad, and brings up boys to the habit.

The general rule of respectable places is to work from 8 to 8, but in the smaller places, which are very numerous, the hours are less regular. The men often play the first two or three days of the week, and work longer at the end. On Monday the little men go to buy their shell, and perhaps take their men to bring it. Then they go drinking, and are not fit for work till Tuesday. This is very bad, not only by the example which it sets their men, but also to the boys, girls, and women. They must work hard at the end of the week to make up for this; some from 5 a.m. till 10 or 11 p.m.; but even then there are very few that do not take their dinner hour and tea half hour. I do not think that they could stand it without, as they are on foot all day. The work is not so much hard as tiring and dreadfully aching. Though the carders have to card the buttons after they are made, I do not think that they are kept up much later, as they work close upon the makers.

In good trade the rate of wages is,—boys from 4*s.* or 5*s.* to 7*s.* a week; girls as finishers and carders from 3*s.* 6*d.* to 9*s.*; men, cutters, from 25*s.* to 35*s.*; turners from 18*s.* to 26*s.*; and men who "bottom" or work the back of the button, 17*s.* Taking all kinds together, men's wages, working full time, would be about 1*l.* 1*s.*

The dust of the work is considered injurious to the lungs, though some men live to a good age. There is dust in all parts of the lathe work, but more in the cutting and turning; but all generally work in the same shops, and the filers close to the men that they work for. The health of the people here is generally good; but, of course, if they take to drinking the work injures them more. The common kinds of button are not polished on a lathe at all, but put in *aqua fortis* and shaken in a jowl. At first they are stirred about with a stick till the strength of the acid is gone off, *i.e.*, for about three minutes, and then the hand is put into it and the buttons rubbed about. This is usually done by boys and girls. It does not hurt the hands unless they are bad or have cuts before. If it is too sharp they take their hands out and dab them in water. I knew a girl, however, who had "back friends," *i.e.*, chaps on her hands, who got her fingers bad for several weeks from putting her hand in so. They do not use the acid in sufficient quantities to get it on their clothes, though it would burn them if they did.

The lathe work is close for the eyes, as they must watch constantly, and cannot be taken off a moment or the work would be spoiled, but there is nothing really injurious to the eye. Glasses, however, relieve it, and sometimes men who can see without put them on for rest after working three or four hours without them.

The state of education of those employed here is about the same as in other trades. Some of the girls have been in others, as at hooks and eyes, pens, and press work. Many have been kept at home to nurse, the women being away at factories.

386. *Sarah Lindford*, age 14. Polish buttons at a lathe with soft soap and rotten stone. Drilled at first; am now polishing with "smoking sauce," (which phizzes) in a bowl. Have been at the work four years nearly. Have pretty good health and a good appetite; have not often a cough. Was a good deal tired with the lathe at first. My leg used to ache when I got home, and I had a pain in my knee and up the left side above my waist. Have it sometimes now but not often. Began to work full days when I first began, viz., from 9 till 7. Here the hours are from 8 till 8. Go home to dinner. Sit down in the shop to tea.

Can read (not all words of three letters only). Was half a year at the day school, never at night; go on Sunday afternoon, and to chapel.

387. *Jane Skelly*, age 13.—Drill at a lathe. Began nearly two years ago; was tired a dood deal at first, but could go on without stopping. Gets 4*s.* a week. Was at errands in a warehouse before.

Can read. (Reads) "I may of endless life partake." "Partake," by itself, without the other words, means "die." "Endless life" is in heaven.

388. *Selina Holmes*, age 17.—"Hub" at a lathe. Have finished pearl buttons since 12 years old. Came in from the country (8 miles) to live here.

Can read (a little); not write.

389. *Christina Slack*, age 12.—Carder three years here and at another place. Can read, write, and sum.

390. *Mary Elizabeth Payne*, age 11.—Carder. Was at home till a year ago. Can read, write a copy, and sum figures on a slate. Did not ever do addition.

J. WATSON'S, PEARL BUTTON MAKER, ST. GEORGE'S STREET.

391. Only three persons, viz., the master, his son an adult, and a boy of 16 work here. The workshop is a loft over a washhouse used by other persons, neither forming part of a dwelling, in a court reached by a narrow brick arch or open doorway. Waste water from the washing stood on the floor of the washhouse and escaped over the sill into an open gutter running down the whole length of the yard close in front of the long row of houses. The gutter appears common to these houses, and was slimy and stagnant throughout. At the bottom of the yard is another small manufactory or workshop for thimbles, where two men, a woman, and a boy work.

392. *John Watson.*—I have been in the trade 40 years, and am secretary to the pearl button makers' society. The trade, which is quite distinct from all other branches of button making, till lately contained from 1,000 to 1,200 men, but now there are not more than a third or a fourth of that number in it, probably about 300, and those only half employed, the remainder having gone into other employments, and many to the workhouse. The trade has been in this depressed state for two or three years, in consequence chiefly of the American war, a large proportion, I should say two-thirds, of the goods having formerly been made for America. The manufacture has never been carried on in large factories. The usual number of persons in each ranges from 4 to 40. The greater part of the work is done by men. The first or "piecemaker" cuts out the pearl from the shell with a circular saw. The next or "turner" turns it. Women drill, polish, or "finish." These processes are all done at a foot lathe. If the piece cut out is too thick a boy splits it with a chisel, and, if the small pieces are uneven, files them even. A boy or girl sometimes works at a lathe, but it is quite the exception, as it wants strength. A boy is not strong and big enough till 16, as a rule, though he may be at 14. I began at that age. Girls usually card, *i.e.*, sew the buttons on paper, which is very light work. Boys and girls do not begin to work at all till about 10 or 12.

In the larger places the work is regular through the week. In the small the hours are not excessive. The men work the hardest, but as they usually do but little on Monday or Tuesday they do not average

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more than 10 hours a day. The small makers have all to finish and take in on Saturday, but this does not throw much work on those who do the finishing processes. From 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. would be a long day for these.

Steam power is not suitable for this work. It has been tried repeatedly in my memory, but without success, at least for any but the large work. The brittle nature of the material does not allow of working it at a greater rate than a foot lathe will give. Rapid motion would split it, and also heat it and make the edges too hard to work afterwards, and machinery could not be adapted to the different thicknesses of different parts of the same shell as the hand can. Getting steam power, therefore, would be mere outlay without any gain, and must come from the earnings, which are too small already. In addition to this the maker likes to have his work all done in his own place without going off to hire mill power elsewhere. There is only one pearl button factory in the town that uses steam power, though it is used in America, where, owing to the heat of the climate, the men wish to save themselves the exertion, and the work is also bigger.

With regard to education, pearl button makers are in the same case as people in many other trades. They are so poor that the children must be sent to work as soon as they are able to earn anything. It is said sometimes that the poverty and ignorance of the pearl button people are owing to their habits of drinking and irregularity. I believe, however, that it is owing to their being so ill paid. A marked improvement in the character of the men has taken place since a rise in wages of a farthing a gross was obtained from the large masters and buyers, not by any strike but by quiet reasoning. The obstacle to a slight increase in wages is caused by factors and buyers insisting on a far more than proportionate increase in their own prices for sale. The rate is 2*d.* for a gross of 150, six pieces being made over to allow for breakage in the later stages, and the increase thus amounts to 2*s.* 6*d.* or 3*s.* a week. Since then many have reformed, and some who merely rambled about idling now teach in schools, &c. The boy there gets $\frac{1}{2}d.$ a gross for filing. He is unable to read, write, or tell figures, but he can tell at the end of the week exactly how many buttons he has done, and they might be in quite a full week 150 gross ($150 \times 150 = 22{,}500$).

If the object of this inquiry is for the real good of all, I hope it will succeed.

[The witness's son supplied parts of this statement. Both were men of much clearness and thoughtfulness of mind.]

393. *Frederick Tunstall*, age 16.—File the pieces. Began at 10 years old, and have been at several places. Was never at a day school. Know some only of the letters.

WILLIAM LANE'S, PEARL BUTTON MAKER, NEW SUMMER STREET.

394. This is merely a dwelling house in a court. By the door of a house in the entrance to the court lay a heap of lettuce leaves and refuse, and down the yard ran a couple of dirty surface drains, bare footed children running about before the houses. The house was marked as a pearl making place by waste round pieces of pearl shell thrown from the windows on the ground. Two women and a daughter of the family were "carding" buttons in the downstairs living room, apparently in great poverty.

395. *Emma Lane*, age 16.—"How old am I grandmother?" Began sorting blanks up in the attic here at 10 years old, and went on to the lathe at 11, and had learned well by 12, but could not get more than 2*s.* 6*d.* a week then.

Went to day school when about 9 years old, and when mother put me on work she sent me to school of a Sunday. I learned very well for a while, and could spell a bit. Learned more of a Sunday than I had done of a week day, but I stopped away about two years now; don't know why; and forgot all my reading. Never did any writing or figures. They used to try to learn me, and I learned as well as I could. Teacher never took much notice, and I never took much notice of what they used to say. Believe they used to tell me about God, but I am very bad at remembering. Do not know about the world being made,—whether people were made, or Adam and Eve, or if they were the first people. I was one as never took much notice, and did not go in till near 10 and came out at half past.

[Has to hold the top of her dress together to cover herself.]

396. *Rebecca Lane.*—My husband William is almost the oldest little master alive now; has been here 33 years. We had eight or nine at work, but now have only two women and my daughter. There were 700 men in the pearl button trade, but trade has been so bad the last three years that now there are not more than half; they're dead, or gone for soldiers, or in the workhouse, and scattered about. Some work in factories, with 20, 30, 40, or 50, according to their machines and kind of work; others in houses in small numbers, down to three and two, or so like. Fifty is the largest place I ever knew. Men cut out and turn, women and girls drill, polish, and fancy edge; all at foot lathes, and generally at so much a gross. Little girls begin at carding and rise to the other parts, but do not begin at a lathe till 10 or so; they are not high enough to reach it. Work is generally from 8 till 7, with an hour dinner. If any work longer it's over-time for them. When there is trade some may get 3*s.* or 4*s.* a week, but have to work from 7 a.m. till 8 or 9 p.m. to do it; quite that long. It is according to how they are in the fingers.

MESSRS. G. LAYTON'S, JAPAN BUTTON MANUFACTURER, LITTLE CHARLES STREET.

Japan Buttons.

397. The workshops are parts of a gloomy and deserted looking set of buildings in a back court, reached by a steep narrow passage, and employ besides the master one man, five women, two girls over and one under 13, and two boys of 8 and 9. The nature of the manufacture is described below (b. 402–4). The floor of the shop is covered with apparently long accumulated litter and heaps of waste metal, &c. To judge from appearances cleaning is very rare.

398. In the adjoining buildings are shops of the same outward appearance in which various works are carried on; pearl button making, gun-work, glass moulds, stirrups, boots, hinges, &c.

399. *Jane Freeman.*—Am 20. Work a press. My thumb is tied up because I have pinched a piece out of it with the press. Pinched off the end of my right forefinger at some tin-plate works in cutting out tin cans with a press, and was out-patient at the hospital for two months with it. Have been also in a percussion cap and a pin factory.

Am a tidy scholar; can read (can), but cannot write. Go to Sunday school still, and did go to a night school.

400. *Louisa Copeman*, age 14.—Press girl. Have pinched the end of my thumb in the press. Work from $8\frac{1}{4}$ to $7\frac{1}{2}$, sometimes 8. Go home to dinner from 1 to $2\frac{1}{4}$. Can read (spells "h-e," "m-y," &c.) Was never at a day school.

[Dress half torn from her bosom.]

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401. *Ann Taylor*, age 9.—Shove buttons on a wire ready for blacking. Was at another place just about like this before, and worked from 8 to 7. Littler girls than me worked there. Get my hands clean before I go away from here. Mother brought me here. Get 2*s.* a week. Can tell my letters, but not spell them. Go to school every Sunday and three nights a week.

[Sits 4 or 5 feet from the stove. Looks healthy but uncombed, &c. The two boys did not know the letters.]

MR. S. DARLASTON'S, JAPAN BUTTON MANUFACTURER, BRANSTON STREET.

402. A new factory but littery and dirty, and some of the children very forlorn looking. A little girl showing me down some very steep steps, such as have in many Birmingham factories struck me as dangerous, slipped down the two or three last, but without hurting herself. The cutting out of the tin is done by presses like other press work. The japanning is very dirty work indeed, and the smoke from the stoves when opened very strong, and pungent to the eyes, but is said to be healthy.

403. The master's daughter thought that none of the girls could read. Five of 7 years old had never been at any school; an elder girl not since she was 7.

404. *Mr. S. Darlaston.*—The work consists of several branches, viz., cutting out, drawing through, putting shanks in, and closing, all done with presses, except putting the shanks on. When made the buttons have two coats of japan; this work is done by two women and four girls. A woman takes work from me at so much a hundred, and keeps a girl or two. If they take two or three presses they keep more girls. Think I am nearly the only japan button maker of notice. There are a few quite small employers working almost in their own houses with their own children. Elastic sides and eyelet holes for boots have almost entirely thrown the trade out. Seven or eight years ago I employed three times my present number of hands. Even formerly, if I wanted more work I put on more hands. Always knew that I should lose more than I gained by working overtime. Generally pay for overtime something like 25 per cent. better. When I have had 10 hours amongst them myself I have had enough, and they are no good without me.

405. *Kate O'Brien*, age 17.—Employ from 15 to 20 girls, and have a press myself, but I have about enough to do in keeping the rest to work. They are all cleared out for dinner. The little ones begin at about 1*s.* a week.

406. *Kate Dowd*, age 8.—Put in. Am working at a press now. Don't know O or A.

407. *Mary Brady*, age 11.—At a press a few weeks. Have pinched half a nail off. Pinched my finger once before. Christ is Jesus—is God.

408. *Ann Burns*, age 14.—Was never at school except sometimes of a Sunday. Have a brother of 8, and two sisters younger than I who have never been to school on Sunday. Don't know B. Go to church sometimes of a Sunday morning, and hear the preacher, but cannot hear what he says. Have not heard of Noah. Adam and Eve were two wicked men.

[The master's daughter says that the preaching, &c. is all in Latin.]

409. *Bridget Fry*, age 17.—Cannot tell any letters, or tell you what London is; it *is* a town in England, but I have not heard whether it is big or little. Don't know where rivers run into. Have crossed the sea coming from Ireland. A mountain would be on the water, I should think. Don't know where the snow falls from, or whether it comes from the clouds, or sky, or where.

MR. J. MATTHEWS', GLASS BUTTON MANUFACTURER, NEW JOHN STREET.

Glass Buttons.

410. Several very young children work here as "nippers," *i.e.*, clipping off with scissors the corners of small squares of glass previously cut out from sheets or cylinders. The square thus roughly rounded is fastened by cement to the end of a short stick and ground on a grindstone by a woman or bigger girl, and afterwards cut in facets on a small wheel by an adult or at least a person nearly 18, if not over, as more skill is needed, and then polished by a boy, girl, or woman. The persons who perform these four processes work usually in sets of four. The "nipper" working faster than the others can finish, spends about half of his or her time in turning a grindstone for a grinder, either alone or merely helping to turn. This they are said not to be obliged to do, but to "do it on their own head." Two or three girls work in the house carding. This, as I was told, is probably one of the largest manufactories of glass buttons, the manufacture, in which there are different branches, being often carried on by a very few in a room in a house or in one small shop.

411. *Mr. Jesse Matthews.*—I would not practise overtime. I wish we could have children so as to work and go to school too. It's lamentable to see them, I assure you. We have been looking for better days, but there is a set in Birmingham who will not send their children to school, but get intoxicated. I am sure we shall never do any good with education unless there is compulsion, but we should then. This, however, is the only means, for if children are left, as they are, to run wild, they are about the streets; and while this is the case it is no use Recorders and so on talking about crime. I think that if there was an Act passed it would be the saving of several of them. It is a fearful looking forward for the working class for the coming generation, though there is more done now in the way of education. But with most it must be very indifferent, as they do not get a chance. There is a want of school for youths at night, but they cannot get it of a week night. A great many places work till 8 and 8½ on Friday night in a general way if the work stops early on Saturday. I have found this very awkward since there has been the half-day Saturday. Our own boys (sons) cannot get to their lectures in time; they attend several. By the time they are home and washed it is 9 o'clock, and then it is too late. In a great many places 8 is a common hour to stay to, but even working till 7½ is too late for school if they come home first, which is wanted sometimes, as some work is much dirtier than others, from grease and oil, and the master does not like to see them dirty. I have a great objection to any being kept late.

Once, when I had not so many lads, I tried to get them together to school, but I found that they did not appreciate it, though here and there one wanted to come. Sometimes, too, I was apt to look for fruit before there was any to be had. I have often talked to that big one who could not read (b. 417, age 19), and said "Why don't you go to night school?" It grieves me when they come to receive payment and say, "Please write my name."

Several times, too, I have tried to get up general adult schools, and some years ago took a great interest in it. But there seemed to be a bashfulness in any who were backward, as if there was something that they could not overcome. The men before joining would begin to ask questions—"Do any lads go?" and I have said, "Well, none under a certain age." I think that the Quakers have a limit of age in this way at their adult school in Severn-street, to which 300 or 400 go at 7 o'clock or so of a Sunday morning. Their plan is, I think, good. They make no difference as to being teetotallers or anything. If you are to do

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good you must open the doors to one as well as another. If a man signs the pledge and holds out a bit, and then after a month or so breaks it, he dares not show his face amongst his own society again. I have known several who have been reclaimed at the Quakers' schools. These schools have wrought a wonderful change in one of my people, a married woman, both in her character and language, though she was always a hard worker. She has told me that she has to get up at 6 o'clock on Sunday morning to be ready to be off to school between 7 and 8, but she says that she would not leave it on any account. I was quite surprised when I heard that she could read after going for only a year, *i.e.*, 52 mornings. I believe now that she is learning her husband, who works beside her, but who slunk away for fear of being asked questions by you; and another was frightened in the same way. She was first picked up from the shop by one of the town mission, and I think that she has now enlisted four or five more out of the shop. The Quakers' schools are setting an excellent example.

I have many very young children who have neither father nor mother. It grieves me to see them so young, and perhaps to be able to give them so little. I have often been grieved to see the little ones come and ask for work and to have to send them back. Some come looking up with such anxious-looking eyes, and their eyes glisten so if they think you can entertain them. It is a shame to put such little things to work. Some's skin is as beautiful as a lady's. One little girl, 8 years old, has to help support the family, but her mother could send her to school. I have thought two or three times of sending her.

They are all off to day at a fête of the Band of Hope, at Aston Park. The Band of Hope are doing a great deal with children. I am not connected with it in any way but approve of it, and have contributed to it, and am so pleased to find now that they interest the children. They have a band, lectures, magic lantern, &c. Some of the young children would work all manner of hours,—would go through fire and water, —sooner than miss a chance. They work hard to get tidy and mend their clothes, &c., to be fit for these holidays. One was laying by for five or six weeks before for a bonnet and frock, and at the same time had not a bed to lie on, and I believe that at the present time she lies on the floor. In this way the holidays inculcate saving habits. Two could not pay, and their father took no notice of them, so I had to pay their 3*d.* or they could not have gone to day.

The little hymns too that they sing then are good. Children have no other way of picking them up, as they cannot read; but if one has an ear for music she picks it up, and others pick it up from her. I always like to hear them sing at their work. I think that it makes the work go as sweet again, and they seem to fancy so too. It relieves the monotony, and the children are as lively again. Also good often arises from it to the grown up. I always like to hear the lads too sing at work, and would sooner hear them sing than talk. Last winter I stood out in the cold listening to them all as they sang carols in the shop, and some took parts as well as in a practised choir.

I have never any trouble with the children. Never a week passes but what they are regular at their posts, and I can rule them with a look. There is something very peculiar in children. If you show them a kind look they never forget you. When they meet me in the street they are respectful, and like to show that they remember me. It is the bigger ones that we have the trouble with. I cannot get them to do much work on Monday. They seldom come till towards 10 o'clock, and some leave after dinner. The women are pretty well behaved altogether, but would be better if they were more educated.

I have heard many complaints of cases where women have to support the family, the husband drinking and working them very hard. I do not say that the men hit them, but talking often leads to blows.

412. *Henry Greatorex*, age 7, nipper.—Work from 8 to 7, and have an hour or sometimes an hour and a half for dinner, and when I have done eating play in the open.

413. *Catherine Coley*, age 19.—Cutter for two years. Henry Greatorex has worked for me three or four months, but is not big enough to do anything, and gets only 1*s.* a week. His mother sent him here because he would not go to school and wanted to run the streets. Her said her didn't care if he came and worked for nothing if her could get him out of the way. Two other girls help me, one nearly 9 helps turn the stone and pulls the buttons off sticks on which they are placed in the fire to soften the cement. A little boy did this before.

414. *Henry Philips*, age 15.—Polish. Have worked at this trade close on 10 years. Think I was nearer 5 than 6 when I began. Nipped at first. Used to bring my food.

Can read a little (scarcely words of one syllable.)

415. *William Plant*, age 9.—Blow bellows with my foot to heat the gas at which buttons are made at a glass pot. When one foot is tired can blow with the other, and so on, till I knock off. The loop cuts my boots through on each side. Sometimes put in shanks.

Do not know what becomes of people when they die. They are never alive again.

416. *Thomas Eggington*, age 10.—Put in shanks. Know a few letters. Was never at a day school but go on Sundays and to Church. They don't tell us nothing at Church. Don't know what they preach about. The preacher preaches and christens. He *did* preach about Jesus Christ sometimes, sometimes not. Don't know whether He (Christ) died. I am a Christian. Don't know what it means. Think, perhaps, you (J. E. W.) are one. Good people live again after they die.

417. *William Eggington*, age 19.—Make round shoe, &c. buttons, taking the glass out of a small pot on an iron and holding them in gas. Have done it for five years. Have the screen in front of me to keep off the heat and look through a glass in it.

Was never at a day school. Cannot read, write, or sum.

418. *Ellen Fletcher*, age 12.—Nip and size and turn a grindstone for a woman. Turning don't tire me now, because I am used to it, but it did at first. Am away from work sometimes with a pain in my left side (turns with left hand), but not till the last three weeks. Have been here a year. Sometimes it lasts half a day. When I lie down it goes off. Have the headache very often. (Another girl complained of the tiring in the same way. J. E. W.)

Was at a button factory (a large and very crowded place, J.E.W.) before. My head ached more there than here. Somtimes 'played' 3 days a week when there.

Cannot read, or spell "on." Used to play about and mind the baby, not go to school.

419. *Janie Seaborne*, age 9.—Pull off buttons from the sticks and turn a grindstone. Can turn it quite by myself when I have a mind. Get 1*s.* 3*d.* a week.

Can spell "T-o to." Have often been at chapel. They told about good people.

420. *Eliza State*, age 11.—Stick on buttons to the sticks, and at other times help a grinder by holding something to keep her work from slipping and hurting her against the stone. Have been cut by the stone. It was worn out, and so my hand slipped against it. In nipping the scissors galled my fingers like this (shows). It makes all the girls' fingers so.

Can read a little bit (with spelling).

421. *Elizabeth Thomas*, age 13.—Polisher. At it more than four years. Get 4*s.* 6*d.* a week. Came to the work first when about 7, about a week over, and dropped blanks in solder of lead and tin over a stove, and then nipped. Have had good health always.

Only at Sunday school a bit, at no other school. Have no father. Can tell my letters and spell a little.

422. *Samuel Bickly*, age 10.—Here on and off for three years. Work from 8 till 7, sometimes till 7½ or

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8. Sit most of the day close by the fire here sticking on buttons. It makes me hot but not poorly.

Before I came here I filed gun locks, working from 8 till 7.

Cannot read, but know the letters.

[Of 5 other girls of from 9 to 12, 3 knew no or only some letters, 2 could not spell, and another girl of 17 could not read words of two syllables without spelling.]

423. *Martha Ross.*—Have been at work since I was 8 years old, am 23 now. Polish for my husband here. The work is not unhealthy, only sloppy.

Went to day school when I was little, and for the last year and a half have been to the Quakers' Sunday school. Could not tell my letters when I first went there, but now can read the Testament pretty well, spelling some of the words, and am beginning to write.

MR. CHARLES ILE'S, HOOK AND EYE, &c. MANUFACTURER, PEEL WORKS, MACDONALD STREET.

Hooks and Eyes, &c.

424. These large works have been built within the last few years, on a side of the town not yet fully built over, and show the advantage of space. The making-up rooms, in which large numbers of girls are employed, are remarkably pleasant and clean. The difference of feeling produced on a mere visitor by such a place, as contrasted with dark crowded workplaces, so usual in the town, is striking. The influence of this feeling alone, without regard to the purity of air, upon the health and spirits of persons employed day after day in the same place, must be considerable. There is a great deal of machinery, some, minded by boys, very noisy.

425. A large number of women are employed off the premises as "carders," in sewing hooks and eyes on to cards, &c., but they were thought not to employ children. (But cf. b. 339, 613, 754.)

426. *Mr. Charles Iles.*—I have been engaged in my manufacture over 20 years. It now consists chiefly in making hooks and eyes, small clips, thimbles, pins, hair pins, umbrella furniture, and miscellaneous small articles, by means of steam power and hand presses. The bulk of persons employed are young women and girls, with comparatively few boys. A large number are engaged in making up for sale. I do not like children under 13, but they frequently get in, and I have to speak to them, and send them away. I should be glad if they could not be employed at all, and generally they are of no advantage; but there may be employments for which they are suitable. The regular hours of work are very rarely exceeded; in fact, not to be worth mentioning.

I believe that I was the first in the town to introduce the Saturday half-holiday, about 20 years ago. Before doing so, I wrote to several influential persons in Manchester, for their opinion of it, and they all agreed, that from their experience it was very beneficial. I have found it extremely so myself, for the men as well as for the young. Men will have some recreation, and it is likely to be better by day than by night. It has much diminished irregularity in the early part of the week, and the hands are more ready, if wanted, to work extra at other times.

I also find the yearly gipsy party, or holiday, a great advantage. It induces the people to keep themselves tidy to be fit for it, and it enlarges their ideas by showing them things which they do not see at other times.

When we started a steam engine, I told the people that it would be necessary to begin at a fixed hour, instead of the irregularity which had been usual. The men objected very much, and said that it could not be done, and only gave in when I said that it was of so much importance to me, that if they would not agree to it I would not keep them. Even then, some of those holding the best situations, and who thought they were the most valuable, left, though they were glad enough to return when they had been out of work some time. It was very much, indeed, the case in Birmingham, but much less so now than formerly, for very little work to be done early in the week. I attribute the change chiefly to the spread of knowledge, and to the fact that both masters and men, in consequence, understand their mutual interests much better, and attend to them more. An illustration of the fact, that this change is owing to an increase of knowledge is given, by referring to the practice of those in a higher position, as clerks, &c., who have not the same disposition to irregularity, no doubt because they have more knowledge.

Punctuality and discipline are very essential. I always insist on my wishes being carried out. There is no intermediate stage between this and disorder. Whenever, as is generally the case, the rules are based upon reason, I find no difficulty in this. I am always ready to explain the reason to all that please, and they are as ready to see and accept it. Formerly, the workpeople were apt to come in at all times, but the half-holiday enables me still more strongly to insist on regularity, and say, "No; you have had your "Saturday, and must be regular now."

The works have been newly built, *i.e.*, about 10 years since, and there is ample space, and the shops double-lighted, *i.e.*, on both sides, and warmed with steam pipes. I consider ample light very important, and believe that there is no economy in bad shopping.

There has never been a loss of life or limb in the works, and considering that there are just about 200 bands for lathes and other apparatus, that is something to say. I do not even remember the loss of a finger, no do I find the employment in any way injurious.

Children ought at least to have a chance of education, and I must say that the interest of the manufacturer, even if it should be affected by this chance being given, which I do not think would be the case, ought not to stand in its way, but rather be sunk. All matters, however, of general improvement by education are of slow growth, and better parents must be secured, in order to get better children. It must be the rule—I cannot doubt it—though there are, of course, exceptions, that the better educated men educate their children better. The very fact of children having been at school some time without learning anything of value, as shown in the case of some who have just been questioned here to-day, shows how little interest the parents really took in the education of those children, and how little value they put upon it, or they would not have been content with so little result.

427. *William Beesley*, age 11.—At a hook and eye machine. Came here before the last gipsy party. Five of us boys mind all these machines, and clean them. The engine stops for the cleaning on Saturday. It also stops every day for dinner from 1 till 2, and a bell rings at those times. Have dinner in the yard, or sometimes in here.

Have been at a good many schools for a good many years, but never learned nothing. Can tell the letters, but cannot tell what they make, unless such words as "the," or "that." Was at Sunday school, but left. Dare say I'll go next Sunday, when I've got new things. Do not know of Scotland, or whether Liverpool is a town.

428. *Richard Hodgetts*, age 13.—"Cut off" the ends of thimbles at a steam lathe. Here 4 years. Work from 8 a.m. till 7½ p.m., and till 1 on Saturday, with an hour for dinner, and quarter of an hour for tea. Home to dinner; tea in here. The dust flies into my eyes more than into my mouth. Was at some rolling mills for three years before coming here.

Do not know the letters. Not at Sunday school,

and at night school for a week only, and never at day school. Have heard of London. It's the Exhibition, aint it?

[It is unlikely that this boy went to a rolling mill at 6 years old, as his account implies. It is more probable that he understated his present age, as he was stated by the foreman to have been of his present size when he came here.]

429. *John Lowe.*—Foreman of a thimble shop. The boys work at lathes, and do light work; they are no good till about 13. Some of the girls at the presses are under 18, but I do not want them under about 16, as the work is heavyish. It is more according to their size and strength than to their age. The only bad job is "glazing" on a wheel, and that is done by a man; there is no harm in the lathes.

No serious accident has happened in this shop in the nine years that I have been in it. We are generally pretty careful. This big upright band, though it is not covered, goes so slow that it would not do any harm. The only accidents are to the girls at the press work, and I believe that they are less here than at any other place in the town. In some of these there are two or three a week. The quicker the work the greater the danger.

430. *Ann Russell*, age 13.—Cut out small papers for parcels. Get 3*s.* a week.

Can tell my letters but not read. Was at Sunday school 3 years, but never on the week day. Had to stay at home and mind the baby. The Queen is a lady: don't know her name.

431. *John Linnett.*—Manager of the department for making up goods for sale. There are about 81 females under me, most of them girls from about 12 or 13 upwards. Most of them can tell "three dozen" or such a thing as that on a printed ticket, but not much more. They have no occasion in their work for counting. As a rule the girls go home to their meals unless they live far off or are little.

Birmingham District.

Hooks and Eyes, &c.

Mr. J.E.White.

b.

432. *Elizabeth Kensall*, age 13.—Was at school about a year: "yes; and I didn't learn anything." A gentleman taught. Don't know "B," or whether an eagle is a bird. Fish go on the sea; so do people. But I don't know if they go to other countries so, or if there are any besides England.

433. *Elizabeth Hines*, age 13.—At day school 6 years; learned reading, writing, summing, and the tables. Nine times 9 is 72,—is 84; 72 and 9 is 86.

434. *Ann Stedman*, age 13.—Cut out crinoline clips with a press.

Can read pretty well. (Scarcely reads two syllable words.) Don't know what a mountain is. A steamer is a train; there is no other kind. Can read 9 and 17, but not say what they make together.

435. *Mary Regin*, age 11.—Work at an umbrella iron press. Was at four umbrella places before this. Used to work from 8 till 7, or till 8. Liked to leave at 7 best.

Was at day school 2 or 3 years, and go on Sunday and at night now. Can not read very well (only two or three short words).

[A girl of 15, another of 13, and a boy of 12, could not read or explain simple words. One girl of 13 could read.]

MR. WM. KIRBY'S, HOOK AND EYE, &c. MANUFACTURER, ORMOND STREET.

436. These premises have fair room, being newly built at the outside of the town. Hooks and eyes, eyelets, buttons, rivets, &c., are made in steam machines attended by young boys. The noise, as is usual from machinery of this kind, was great, but the machinery appeared not to be of a dangerous kind. The ignorance disclosed is melancholy. (See b. 438, 439.)

437. *Mr. Wm. Kirby.*—I am satisfied that if children were not at work they would not go to school. They will not even come to work regularly. I could not get two sets. If children could only work half time I should improve my machinery further, and enlarge my premises so as not to want lads at all, or only a few big ones. The machinery which I now have does, with a few hands, the work formerly done by several times the number. If the law could ensure the children going to school, there is no question that a plan of their working half time could be carried out, but there would be great difficulties. I should not, however, oppose any such measure. If attendance at school could be really secured it would be better to require it. Indeed education is quite necessary.

438. *J— Millard*, age 10.—Cut up sheets of metal at a machine, and have done so a long time; I think not 2 years. Never got my fingers under the punch. If anything goes wrong a man comes and gets the punch out. Home to dinner at 1.

Was never at any school, weekday, night, or Sunday. Do not know any of the letters. Never was in a church or chapel or heard any one preach or pray. Do not know whom people pray to, or what they do when they kneel down: they say something. Have not heard of the Bible. It is not a book. (Q. You know of Jesus Christ?) Don't know I'm sure. When people die, them be buried. Don't know what happens after that except some other folks die as well. All go in the pit-hole where them be buried. They never get out or live again. They have not a soul. I have not one. The soul does not live afterwards. It's quite an end of people when they die. I have heard of hell: a good many people go there. Don't know I'm sure what sort of place it is. It *is* bad. Good people are in heaven. Have not heard of an angel.

Have a father and mother at home. Father is a plasterer. Earn 2*s.* a week, and mother puts 1*d.* of it in the penny bank for me, and will buy me some things with. Was never at work till I came here.

439. *John Miller*, age 11.—Mind a machine.

Was never at any school. Mother taught me A B C. Know F, not I. Was never in a church or chapel. A church is where a parson preaches. Have not heard of a mountain or a river; never saw a river. Cannot tell how many pennies there are in a shilling, or a sixpence. (After much explanation) There are six. Have not heard of Jesus Christ. (Q. A Bible?) Ne'er had a book nor Bible.

440. *Albert Pipkin*, age 10.—Mind seven machines: have minded 11. Here 11 months.

Wasn't at day school long. Go four nights a week. Can read a bit (short words).

441. *John Hinks*, age 12.—Mind machine. Was never at week-day school. Do not know any letters.

442. *Henry Bradley*, aged 10.—Mind an eyelet machine. If it gets wrong I stop it, and get the scrap off the punch. Clean it on Saturday at 1½, after it stops. Get 2*s.* a week. Was at nails before. Can read, not so very well.

443 *George Thomas Claydon*, age 13.—Can read and write a little.

444. *William Woodwall*, age 12.—Fill tubes with pieces of metal for the machine. All go home to dinner from 1 till 2.

Was at week-day school for 7 years, but they ain't learned me at all. Can read a little: learned it at the Sunday school.

MESSRS. EDELSTEN AND WILLIAMS', WIRE DRAWERS AND PIN MANUFACTURERS, GEORGE STREET.

445. The two departments of these works though adjoining are distinct. The material is brought from other places in the form of very thick wire, *e.g.*, of half or quarter of an inch diameter. It is gradually

Wire-drawing and Pins.

Birmingham District.

Wire-drawing and Pins.

Mr. J.E.White.

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reduced to the required thickness by successive drawings by steam machinery through gauges. It undergoes intermediate processes of softening or annealing in heated pots, cleansing from scale in sulphuric acid pickle, washing, and drying in a heated stove-room, operations conducted by men. The principal employment of the boys is in carrying wire to and from the stove-room and the mill, cleaning, and laying the coils ready for the men. The weight carried is very considerable, and the distance 20 or 30 yards. The mill is high and airy, and the greater part of the machinery covered over by the tables on which the wire is drawn.

446. Birmingham is said to be now "the great seat of the wire drawing trade," and to turn out very large quantities of telegraphic, fencing, pin, steel, and other wire.

447. In the pin making department the wire after being further reduced by passing through a gauge, work done by men, is placed in coils on a drum, to be wound into a machine. A single machine of the newer kind feeds itself with wire from the coil, cuts it into pin lengths, forms the heads by means of hammers, the points by revolving files, and throws out the pins complete, in a continuous stream, at the rate, without stoppage, of 220 in a minute, or in the day of 11 hours 145,200. A single woman or girl watches on the average about four of these machines, of which there are a considerable number in a single room, though a beginner does less. Thus one average woman or girl can turn out in one day a good way towards 600,000, and in the week of 5½ days considerably over 3,000,000 of pins, though this amount would probably be somewhat diminished by stoppages. The work consists principally in removing obstructions which occasionally arise by the wire or pins not moving evenly, and cleaning the dust from the machines. The noise in this room is very great, and with the constant motion distracting to a stranger. In the older kind, of which several are still kept in use, the cutting, pointing, and heading machines are distinct. They cause equal noise with the newer, almost drowning the voice.

448. In the old kind of pointing machine a very large amount of dust is thrown off and spangles the dress of the girls, and settles on and around the machine in some parts in layers as thick as a finger. In the new machine the greater part of the dust is confined in a box.

449. The machines, except parts of the new such as shafts, &c. cleaned by men, are cleaned by the girls who attend to them, and while in motion, but in most, though not in all cases, this operation appears to be of a kind involving no risk.

450. In one room are a number of machines for sticking pins in rows into the cards or papers. Each is worked by a treadle by a woman attended by a young girl whom she employs. The girl stands on a stool to reach over the top of the machine, which is of quite a harmless kind, but the position looks tiring. Some of these girls were very poorly dressed. The windows have ventilating panes. Heat is supplied by a steam pipe. A printed caution against meddling with the hoist is put up.

451. *Mr. John A. Williams.* — Our week is 60 hours' work with a half day on Saturday, and these hours are hardly ever exceeded, except perhaps in the wire mills on special occasions for a week or so. The Saturday half holiday, introduced some little time back, is a great benefit to workpeople, and allows them some fresh air, though there is a slight loss of working time even after adding half an hour to each of the other evenings. Our own business would scarcely be affected at all by regulations of the factory kind applied to the young. It might happen that we wished to work longer for the execution of a particular order, and then might think it hard not to be allowed to do so; but such occasions would seldom occur. Personally I should feel glad if no young persons could be kept beyond the proper hours in any employment.

With regard to the age at which children should be allowed to go to work it is difficult to fix a limit, as children vary so much in skill and natural size and strength, by which their earnings are chiefly regulated. If any limit, however, were fixed it should be high enough to give the weaker the benefit of protection. Other employments may need children younger than ours does, but I should say, that in any of the employments of this district 9 is quite a low enough age. Many parents however will send their children to work as soon as they are capable of earning anything. One great object also is to be rid of the care of them.

Up till the age that children go to work they should be at school. It is very desirable that some means should be found for securing education to one generation, and then future generations would have less need for any such external measures. But it is difficult to see how this can be done without interfering with the natural liberties of the parents.

A great change has of late years been made in the pin manufacture by the application of machinery, which has immensely reduced the proportion of young people employed in it. Birmingham turns out in a week about nine tons of pins, which is more than was produced weekly in the whole of the kingdom some years back; but as the trade as a whole, though it has increased with the population of the country, has not increased proportionately with it, Birmingham may now be taken as its principal seat. In all places probably machinery is now used, as the old hand work could not stand in competition with it.

The same kind of change has come upon many other of the manufactures of the place. Owing to the cheapness with which things are now produced, and the consequent low rate of profits, to make a business answer it is necessary to carry it on on a large scale, and this leads to the introduction of larger manufactories, which have very much increased in the town of late years. And this tendency must continue to operate. The greater part of the largest factories in the town have been built or grown to their present size within the last 20 years.

452. *Frederick Mellish,* age 16.—Carry wire for the men, colour it with lime and water, work for a welder with a hammer, &c. Carry wire for a good many men. The more I do the more they pay me. Could supply six, but for that should be carrying all day pretty near. My regular load is 1 cwt., and when I began was about three parts of a cwt. (The distance for which he carries it is probably from 20 to 30 yards.) Carry three bundles, equal to 4½ cwt. for 1*d.*, or 4*d.* the dozen bundles. If there is much work, and I am wanted by the men, I stop here at dinner time, and stay at night till 8 or 9 or 10, but never later. Have been late at night for a whole week or two or three weeks together. Have just finished my dinner. Did not clean my hands before. (They are stained with brown grease.) If I want to clean them, put more grease on to soften the old. Lime and spirits would clean it. Shall go home in the clothes I have on now (very greasy). Sometimes wear an apron when I can get one (*e.g.*, one of the men's).

Went to a glass-house at 7 years old for two years, for 12 hours a day, and carried coal. Then to a nail cutter's, where there were a great many boys, then to a screw place.

(Reads "one" as "on," "two" as "the," "3 as "2."

453. *James William Edge,* age 12.—Carry wire for my father and two other men. Father is calling me to do it now (20 minutes to 2 p.m.) When I

came three years ago could carry three or four pieces at a time (*i.e.*, towards ½ cwt.), 13 pieces going to the bundle. Count 1*d.* a bundle. Each of the two men pays me 2*s.* a week, and father used to reckon to do the same when I first came, *i.e.*, for about four months, but he left off. Sometimes get 3*s.* 6*d.* a week only. Never stayed at night after 7½, but sometimes have to go on at work in dinner time, if the men do, as they can't get on without me. Never go away for dinner, but have it in the yard. If the men want the boys who go home to work in dinner time they tell them, and the boys bring their dinner. The engine never goes in dinner time, but the men gauge their wire, cut, and get it ready to begin. (Coughs.) Did not know it. Do so sometimes. Am in good health ; can eat pretty well; have no pain in my chest ; am not short of breath. Have a pain in my right side sometimes three or four times a week, and lasting a good while, as much as an hour, especially if I have been in a hurry. Think I have had it before I was here.

Was at school before I came to work. Can read (fairly), write small hand, was at long division when I left school, and can do some of it now.

[Is without colour and thin.]

454. *Joseph Fulford*, age 15. — Draw wire, lay lengths in even coils so that it will run well, sharpen the point to pass it through the gauge, and watch it as it is drawn through by the machinery. Have been in this mill under father nearly 4½ years, but now that I draw, *i.e.*, for two months past, am under the master. The hours are from 6½ till 6½, with half an hour for breakfast at 8½, and an hour for dinner at 1 ; have that in the mill. Have not had it yet (1.20 p.m.) because it is not come, so I am laying lengths. Could clean some of that grease off my hands (which are covered and stained with grease) without water by wiping it, and do so.

[It took this witness so long to understand questions, and then so long to answer them, that I was obliged to give them up.

455. *Lewis Brown*, age 12.—Dress wire in the warehouse by winding on a wheel from small coils into large ; one other boy does the same. Same hours as last witness, all leaving at 1 on Saturday. Dine in the mill with father. The warehouse is locked during the dinner hour, so that I could not work in it. Used to have 4*s.* a week at day work, but now get more by piece work, sometimes 6*s.*

Went at 11 years old to cob up at a book clasp stamper's, and was at school for the two years before. Have left the Sunday school since I came here because I have not things to go in. Know most of my letters, but not "h," "l," or "y."

456. *Elizabeth Buzley*, age 17.—Mind five heading and two pointing machines in the pin factory. Have minded machines more than five years, but began with only three. Clean the machines while going. Sweep out the dust with a broom from inside, and where it lies thick, and clean the wheel and shaft with cotton-waste and oil, which takes me about 20 minutes once a week. Can do it best when the machine is going, because the machine does the rubbing then. The others clean their machines in the same way. Began to clean my machines after I had been here six months. Never hurt myself, or saw anyone else hurt at it. Have an apron to keep the dust off. There is no washing place here, but I wash at home. Have my meals in the shop, and so do most of them. Have not a cough except when I have a cold. Have a good appetite.

[A boy of 12 minds machines in like manner.]

457. *Mary Ann Garratt*, age 11.—Mind two pin machines. Pick up the pins when they jump out, or if they stick anywhere rap them down by tapping the machine with a small roller. If necessary, as when the wire gets curled, stop the machine with my hand. Have done this three months, and am the youngest girl in the shop. Shall begin to clean my machines on Friday ; an elder girl who now does it for me shows me how. Have not hurt my finger ; a gathering came of itself. Hours are from 6 a.m. till 6½ p.m., but we come on Monday at 7 and leave on Saturday at 1 ; no overtime. Meals same as in the mill. Have them in the shop ; most do. Have to work while at tea. Get 3*s.* 3*d.* a week ; paid by the master.

Was never at school in the week, but have been on Sunday and to church ever since a little one, and one night in the week for a short time. Can read (slowly), write small writing, and do money sums. Do not know how many pennies there are in half-a-crown. Never learned those sums.

458. *Amelia Creechley*, age 12.—Here two years. "Brush rows," *i.e.*, sweep pins into the sticking machine for the woman, who gives me 2*s.* 3*d.* a week. Stand on the stool all day to do it. Do not get tired. My hours are from 8 till 6½, with dinner hour, but no tea. Home to dinner ; come back early on Friday sometimes. The woman does piecework.

Was at week-day school four years, at Sunday school one year, and night school twice a week now. Can read (easily); can write nearly anything; and do money sums — pounds, shillings, and pence, and addition. There are 24 half-pennies in 1*s.*

459. *Louisa Belt*, age 17.—"Wrap up ounces" of pins in paper ; was at day school, go on Sunday and three nights a week now. Can read a newspaper. Have written a many letters, and done long division.

460. *Charles Davis*, age 14.—Have been a machinist in the engineering shop for a year and half. Was at a screw place for six years before. Am now turning a bar of metal on a lathe. Never have a cough.

At school on week days till at work, on Sunday and three nights a week now. Can read and write.

[Sharp fragments fly from the metal.]

MESSRS. HARRISON AND COOKE'S, PIN AND RIVET MANUFACTURERS, HOSPITAL STREET.

461. Probably a specimen of the smallest kind of pin manufactory. It employs usually under half a dozen boys and girls, and about eight men and women, but uses steam power.

462. *Mr. William Cooke.*—We make pins, rivets, tacks, &c. We reckon 60 hours a week, and work from 7 till 7 in summer and till 4 on Saturday, with half an hour for breakfast, an hour for dinner, and half an hour for tea ; in winter, from 8 till 7 and till 5 on Saturday. But three months in the year the machines work till 9, at least of late years ; but the two young girls go early. Hand work in pin making is completely done away with ; it could not possibly stand against machines. One man here sometimes points a little odd work by hand, that is by holding it on wheels turned by machinery, very rapidly. (The pointer says, 16,000 times in a minute.) There are no pin factories here smaller than ours. There may be one or two rivet and panel pin places smaller, but they work in just the same way.

There are three or four pin factories in Dublin, and some in Gloucestershire, near Stroud and Nailsworth, in Warrington, Bristol, and Redditch.

We always play two or three days at Christmas, and on Easter Monday, but not on Good Friday, and we work these holidays out by running till 9 ; otherwise the people would not have the full money.

We never had but one accident. A girl of 14 got her forefinger into the machine and had to have it amputated. After that we would not have any so little at a machine, and I should be very sorry to put one.

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b.

For eight years I have attended the Severn-street Sunday school, got up by the Friends, which has near 700 scholars, most of them men, some grey-headed. In the top school they are not taken under 20 years of age, but there is another for youths from about 14 or 15 upwards. There is a very large branch of it for women and big girls, to which my wife goes. The schools are open to all creeds, and meant for all who cannot read or write, and those only, though they stay on after. The best in the upper class take it in turn to teach a class set apart for those who cannot read at all. People who wish to come are sent back at first to see if they are in earnest. The school hours are from $7\frac{1}{2}$ to $9\frac{1}{2}$ in the morning. But the schools are valued so that I have no doubt, if there were room, they could have as many scholars again. Some came who were men settled in business, but unable to sign their name. I dare say that out of the 66 who form the highest class there are 20 men who have saved money and got on gradually, and are now doing well in business, and there are plenty more in the school of the same kind. Several who were drinking men have been reformed by these schools.

463. *Ann Milward*, age (12 ?).—Don't know how old I am.; think I'm 12. Sort pins. Used to brush pins in some time ago, and had to stand on a stool to do it; but mother sent for me home to mind my sister, who was run over the head in the street and nearly killed; if it had been a little bit more, they said, it would have cut her head right in two. She was but a little un, a baby that could just walk. She is still very bad in the eyes, and will never be any better. Mother was out all day from 8 to 7, French polishing at gentlemen's houses, and my little sister of 7 nurses a little baby out from 8 till 8.

464. *Alfred Smith*, age 11.—Mind a shaking barrel, *i.e.*, in which the pins are shaken. Work from 7 till 7, sometimes till 9. Have worked till 9 for a good while; don't know how long. The dust on my face now is metal dust from the pins and saw dust and altogether. Don't wash me here very often. It gets down my throat so, it nearly poisons me. Have been bad with it two or three times since here, *i.e.*, six months. Sometimes feel sick, and have a cough every week. The cough hurts my throat. Have not taken medicine for it. The lad what minds the machine there did.

Go to Sunday school and was at day school above a year. Do not know "g" or "M." A ship is a thing that swims on the water; there is a vessel on it; the waves make it go. Don't know what a "violet" is. "Lilac" is a bird. A whale is a thing as swallows you in the sea. It swallowed teacher once (Mr. H—— at the church school at K——) and he come out again. He told all on us in the school so; didn't say whether it swallowed anyone else or a prophet. Don't think he said how he got back safe.

[Face grimy black; shirt torn all across behind.]

MESSRS. NETTLEFOLD AND CHAMBERLAIN'S, PATENT SCREW WORKS, SMETHWICK.

Screws.

465. This factory stands in an open space at some distance from Birmingham, and was built about 10 years back for making screws by new patent machinery, which greatly diminishes the proportion of hands required. The buildings are all on the ground floor, and the main workshop, in which nearly all the females are employed, is 200 feet square and 16 feet to the spring of the rough glass roof, supported on iron pillars, and with canvas beneath to keep out the glare. It is well ventilated and clean, and has much the appearance of a large railway station. A better work place could not well be imagined. The old factory in Birmingham is still carried on on a small scale. The need for a considerable amount of overwork and, of late, of regular night work by relays, seems to have led to a determination to considerably enlarge the buildings, as I was told would shortly be done.

466. There is a nuisance highly objectionable where several hundred young women and girls are employed, which the police have been applied to, but say that they have no power, to stop. It consists in men and boys bathing in the canal which runs along the side of the yard, which the females pass through to their work or may spend their spare time in. My attention was called to this by seeing men bathing there at mid-day when I visited the works.

467. The greater part of the persons employed, between 500 and 600 in all, are women and girls, who mind machines of a highly ingenious kind, enabling one person to attend to a large number of machines; one girl whom I asked attends 15. The bands and shafts, however, are exposed and have led to frequent accidents to females—three in one day; but, happily, none of them hitherto serious. Barriers seem desirable to protect some machines in another part, at which boys work.

468. The sieves in which two girls riddle waste metal are supported on two parallel bars, over which they slide, thus relieving the workers of much of the labour remarked on elsewhere as too straining for the young (b. 729). As an irregular motion may still be given by the hand, it seems that the plan need not in any way impair the efficiency of the work.

469. *Mr. George Boyce.*—Manager. In the Birmingham factory the hours are from 8 to 7, but here it was the wish of the people themselves to work from 6 to 6, and have a half day on Saturday, making 60 hours a week work, besides the meals. Some of them come three or four miles here, some from Oldbury. In Birmingham they could not be got to come earlier. Sometimes we have occasion to make 7 days a week, working till 8 and having tea. Just lately we have been obliged to have two sets, night and day, but not long enough to form any opinion as to how it works. I am surprised to find that there is no difficulty in getting the two sets. A week ago, *i.e.*, before it was tried, I should have said that there would be. When only a few extra are wanted, the men are more particular as to whom they will take. Girls of 15 or 16 get at first 5*s.* a week, and when they get to be piece workers will get towards 10*s.*, a very few to 15*s.* or 16*s.* It takes some time to get used to the work.

We have not had any fatal or serious accidents here, nothing beyond the loss of a finger or so. But there have been several losses of crinolines and dresses from being caught in the shafts, which run along just in front of the knees. Indeed this is very frequent; but the shafts are driven very lightly, partly for this reason and partly so as not to hurt the machines in case of stoppages, so that no great hurt is done. Still it is a very awkward thing, for the girl sets up a great screaming, and all the rest do the same. I have known three caught in one day and then perhaps a month without any. Finding that some check was necessary, I put on a fine for it, and no one was caught for three months afterwards. It might be thought, as indeed was said to me, that the fright and the loss of the dress were punishment enough, but it is clear that the fine was wanted.

I think that the workpeople here are quite up to others in Birmingham in education and manners alike. Indeed I think that more would be found here who could read and write. A good many belong to schools, for I find that they are asked to school tea parties, and I get notes from clergymen asking for them to be allowed to come.

Most of the works about here are for various kinds

of iron manufacture, working it from the pigs. There is one blast furnace, and large copper sheeting works. The hours of work, I am told, are about the same as here.

470. *Mr. John Thompson.*—Time-keeper. In the greater part of the works there are now two sets of hands for day and night, in the remainder the hands are working over till 8 p.m. and perhaps till 10. There has been no difficulty whatever in getting more hands. Not only women and girls, but men, fitters and labourers, crowd the gates. The night workers are paid at the same rate as the day workers. Suppose labour must be plentiful about here.

471. *John Allen*, age 11.—Mind three forging machines. Worked from 6 a.m. till 10 p.m. all last week, am doing the same this week, and think we shall next week too. Have no tea time even when stopping till 10, but my brother brings me a bit. All this lot of boys, nine besides me, but all older I think, who do the same work, stay the same time. Do not feel very tired, but more so than when working only till 6. On Saturdays the proper time to leave is 2, but now we work then till 6, and stay till 7 to clean the machines. We wipe them every morning also, while they are going. Get 4*s.* a week, and 1*s.* 6*d.* for full overtime. Mother gives me 2*d.* Can read short words.

472. *Mary Ann Stanley*, age 14.—Riddle screws in a sieve. Have worked over 'most all the time I have been here, six months, till the last fortnight, but now a girl comes at 6 and works through the night and I leave.

Was at Turner's steel pen factory in Birmingham. There were towards 200 girls, and the regular hours from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. with two hours for meals; never made any overtime.

473. *Ann Barnes*, age 16.—Mind 15 machines. My thumb nail is black from pinching it in the machine. Was at day school for two months just before coming here in Birmingham, where I still live coming out here daily to work. Father, a fitter, paid 3*d.* a week for me, and I learned English history, grammar, geography, and compound addition. Do not know of King William, King George, or Queen Elizabeth. 11 times 11 is 22,—is 122.

474. *Eliza Tyler*, age 16.—Grind tools on a stone. Have worked from 6 a.m. till 8 p.m. the three weeks that I have been here, *i.e.*, two hours overtime. Have half an hour for breakfast, an hour for dinner, quarter of an hour for tea; the engine stops. Stay in here to eat. Some go; some eat in the place where they put their bonnets on; some sit on this floor here (brick). Several girls grind here in the same way. The dust is flying off from that stone there because the girl has got too much "cut" on.

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475. *Mr. Walker.*—Acting in the temporary absence of the house surgeon at the General Hospital. Matilda Davis, a strong young woman of 28, was admitted about a fortnight ago with a compound fracture of the left leg, and a fracture of her right leg, and died in three days. At the inquest, at which I was present, it appeared that she was reaching over the shaft to get a tool to alter the span of the machine, which was properly the work of a foreman, when she was caught in the lower part of the machinery, which was protected only down to a certain height. Her dress from her waist downwards had been pulled off at the same machine before.

Another girl, of about 18, came in lately, whose arm had been caught in a machine and had to be amputated at the shoulder. She is doing well.

476. *Louisa Leake.*—12 Court, Bread Street. Matilda Davis lived with us as a lodger, her husband having long left her. She had worked at two screw factories here before that, Parkes', in which she lost her life, and had been caught several times in the machinery in the same way before, once at the same place. I know of three times since she lived in this yard, and one of the times the skirt of her dress was ripped right off, and she said she had been caught once before besides, but I believe she had not been much hurt. She was a very strong but not a careful young woman, and wore a very large crinoline, which I think was a great deal the cause of her accident.

MR. J. HAWKINS', SCREW MANUFACTURER, PRINCIP STREET.

477. The works include a mill for drawing the wire from which the screws are formed, a shop with several large forging machines which cut off the wire in lengths and form the heads, causing a deafening noise, and other shops in which the screws are completed by notching, turning, &c., on steam lathes. Some of these machines are attended by young boys. Several parts of the machinery, near which women or girls work, are not at all or insufficiently protected, especially the shafts running along under the lathe benches, which have caused accidents. Attempts to protect these shafts, and to induce the females to discontinue the use of wide dresses, which expose them to risk, though made for some time, had been given up. I noticed the dresses of some actually touching the dangerous parts, and most but a few inches off. I saw a little girl of apparently about 6 or 7, not engaged in the works, but who seemed to have brought her father's tea, passing out close by a large revolving band, in which she narrowly missed catching her umbrella.

478. *Mr. Thomas Dutton.*—Manager. The screw trade of the kingdom is almost entirely confined to Birmingham; for, though it has been tried in a few other places, as Manchester and Sheffield, it has never succeeded to any extent. In Birmingham, owing to the effects of competition, which renders it difficult for persons with small capital to succeed, and to the increase of machinery, it has been gradually passing into fewer hands, and instead of fourteen or fifteen manufactories, as formerly, there are now only about half a dozen, and owing to the same causes the number will probably be still further diminished. The improved machinery allows of the same amount of work being produced with a much small number of hands, the machines being self-acting, and one person being thus able to attend to several machines instead of to only one. But as it requires considerable outlay of capital, it is as yet only partially adopted, though in time it will no doubt be adopted for general work, and where it is so the old method cannot stand against it. It does not, however, affect the proportions of the sexes and ages employed. The only difference is that a greater amount of work is produced. The buildings for new machinery would probably be all on the ground floor, the nature of the work requiring it.

In this factory, which, till the introduction of this machinery, was the largest in the trade, and is still the second, and employs probably as many persons as the first, the greater number, viz., as nearly as possible three-fourths, are females over the age of 18, about a sixth are men, and the remainder boys and girls in about equal proportions. The work of these is principally minding lathes or machines, and though not laborious, requires attention and a standing position.

We do not work overtime. It is not only unprofitable but wasteful to the employer, and also is injurious to the workpeople. It is of no use to try to get more out of them than they are physically capable of, and I should say that where people really work as they usually do at piece work, which we adopt almost entirely, ten hours actual work is as much as is desirable, even for men, though of course it would never do to limit men's work by law. I believe that if the working classes in the town were canvassed, though

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they are industrious and anxious to earn what they can, not one in twenty would be willing to add an hour to this, which is the amount in this factory and about the usual amount elsewhere, simply because they are conscious that their present work is about as much as their strength is equal to, and they have also their homes and other things to attend to, besides their work in the shops. It is out-of-the-way to keep women and young people at work late. It prevents women from attending to their families, getting their husband's meal, seeing to their children, left perhaps in the charge of a small girl, &c. It also prevents the young who are disposed to improve themselves from profiting by evening instruction, as it is a decided advantage for them to be able to do. I am decidedly of opinion that they should not be kept after 7. Exceeding the regular hours is a mistake, and does not bring an advantage in proportion to the increase of expense. In the regular hours the employer has had the prime and the best energies of his people, and he pays dearly for what he gets beyond. The workpeople's expression would be: "Well, if I work more now, I "cannot work so much to-morrow." Besides, finishing orders by a push does not increase the amount of work to be done, and the effect is that a slack time follows, and the tendency of this is to cause a depreciation of prices as a means of encouraging custom. If a trade cannot be carried on profitably in the regular hours it probably is not worth carrying on otherwise, and if the hours are lengthened the same difficulties may recur, so that no limit can be placed to the extension. But though it may be right to prevent excessive work, I consider that it is beyond the province of Government to specify the hours in which a manufacturer may work further than may be necessary as a means of preventing excess and of preventing employment late in the evening as already referred to. We could not get the people to come earlier than 8, which is the usual hour, and it would clash with the hours of other members of a family in different factories. If all had the same earlier hours this difficulty would not be so much felt, and would right itself in time, though it would cause inconvenience at first, being contrary to the habits of the people. Our present hours, viz., 8 to 7, have only one break, and it is a great point to have as few breaks as possible. Tea is taken here, but without any stoppage of the work, each person taking perhaps on the average about ten minutes. In all large places using steam machinery and many hands there will of necessity be a certain regularity, though this may not be the case in smaller places, dependent merely upon hand labour. In these a man who has idled on Monday may yet make up his six days work by Saturday, and be consequently so exhausted on Sunday as to be able to do nothing, and as not even to rally by Monday, in which case he feels that he must rest and enjoy himself, which means that he must drink.

As a rule, I should say that work is likely to be more irregular where persons are employed, not directly by the principal, but by foremen or others, who engage to get a given quantity of work done in a given time. He may be regular, but he is less likely to be so than the principal, and in all cases the more direct hold the principal has the better. No one then gets any authority beyond what he has by his individual exertions, and the master is the sole authority. All here are employed by the principal.

We have had some accidents, but in 30 years only one person has been mutilated, a boy, who was putting on a band for a man. The accidents are from dresses getting caught. The shafts and bands cannot be boarded off. It was tried, and given up. I made a great fight against the crinoline, and warned the people against wearing it, but they would not attend. Some who applied for work refused to come if they were not allowed to wear it. I believe that if one were killed, or half a dozen, they would not alter their dresses till the higher classes did.

Our workplaces are airy, and the people fairly healthy, and their attendance good. I believe that the most prevalent complaint throughout the town is diarrhœa and bowel complaints, especially in July and August; but I attribute this, not to any employments or local influences, but to injudicious diet, *e.g.*, raw cucumbers, cheap fish, &c. In large workplaces there is usually steam, and our people can get water, and wash, and make themselves tidy before they go out, so that they need not go home for it. I find that they keep themselves pretty clean. If one comes slovenly I notice it, and tell her of it; but I find much less of this now, and what I do find is chiefly amongst the Irish. As a rule, however, they keep as good an appearance as their means will allow, and are proud of it. This pride is good. The earnings are fair. Four sisters here, the eldest grown up, the youngest 12, take home 24*s.* or 25*s.* a week between them, to their mother, a widow.

They have determined industry, and in intervals of work, as when their tools are being set, &c., the young women, and young married women, will pull out their crochet or needlework. It is, however, chiefly the English and the younger who do this; the elder seem to want rest. In the population generally, there has been a very great improvement in the last 25 years in external condition and general deportment, chiefly self-improvement, though we have strived to help it here. The old rudeness is dropped, and they answer with propriety. I cannot say what has been chiefly instrumental in bringing this about; not preaching, for, as a rule, few attend places of worship, and not lectures, for not many go there either. It is probably from general social influences.

I fear, however, that the improvement in the females is in external, not in moral condition. With regard to vice I feel sure that it has gone back, and believe this to be the opinion of men of experience. I am satisfied that this arises from the love of dress and show, which cannot be gratified out of the mere earnings, though the vice is not of a low or promiscuous kind. With all this, they have very nice distinctions and feelings of right and wrong. The liberty enjoyed is what makes them like to come to a factory, and many leave service for one for this reason. I should say that, as a rule, they are industrious, and have a taste for books. There are some who go to schools to improve themselves, but I fear that generally they do not, unless the taste has been imparted to them when they were young.

I should say that decidedly the largest employment in Birmingham is brass foundry, in its many branches. Jewellery is one of the first in commercial value, owing to the nature of the material, and employs some thousands, but few single establishments are of any size. It received an extraordinary development within the last 10 years, or a little more, and is the most successful trade of modern Birmingham. Gun making is another of the most important. It is carried on in an endless number of small places, as well as in some large. After these the chief are probably metallic bedsteads, metal rolling, tubes, and wire drawing, buttons of all kinds, and steel pens; but it is impossible to state at all accurately what are the trades of Birmingham. The tendency of all of them, in which machinery can be used, is to come into larger workplaces; but this will never be the case with those which depend on technical skill of the hand and tools, and allow of good profit with industry and only a small amount of capital.

479. *George Row.*—Toolmaker. Have 24 women and girls under me. There are four other tool makers in this shop, some with more, some with less. Seldom have girls under 14, unless it be for small screws, and then seldom any younger than 12. Sometimes they get their fingers cut in turning. One lost a finger. Three or four have been catched in this shop in four or five years with their crinoline. We pulled them out. Their skirts were pulled right away, but all they were hurt was in squeaking at the others pulling them. They ought to do without their crinolines in factories, and then we should have more room to work.

480. *Mary Regan*, age 13.—Mother will tell you how old I am. Feed a pointing machine. Work from 8 till 7. The engine stops at dinner time. Have dinner in here with mother. Work not for her, but for another woman.

Have been in button factories since going 7, till half a year ago. Suppose I was not 6 when I first began to work; that was with a young woman in a house in the yard, who took in tin buttons, and shanked them at a vice with a hammer and chisel. I used to stick them in for her, and used the chisel if she was away. The place was like a kitchen. There were six or seven girls; some was less than me; some was older. We worked from 8 till 7, sometimes till 8. She used not to hit us unless we wouldn't mind our work, or were rude. Then she would only hit us a bit over the back with a cane.

Don't know any of the letters. Go to the Catholic church every Sunday morning, and to instructions on Friday and Tuesday nights. They tell us about confessions.

[Was obliged to go to work so young, the mother said, because there was no one to take care of her.]

481. *Alice Arren*, age 15.—I worm screws. Was at home till 4 months ago nursing mother's baby. Was at day school from 4 years old to 12. Can read the Bible without spelling, and the newspaper, and write a little. Can do sums if they ain't very hard. Know one; that's addition. 12 and 12 is 24. Don't know what sort of sum that is, or what multiplication is. Only know one song, "Beautiful Star."

482. *Charles Sidwell*, age 11 y. 11 m.—Mind a machine. If anything is wrong I lift the feeder, so (*Showing—Looks dangerous*) or sometimes father does it. Have worked at this 2½ years. Birmingham District. Screws. Mr. J.E.White. b.

Was at the day school. Can read (only monosyllables). Sailors go with ships to the Isle of Man and Liverpool. Have not heard of Ireland, France, or London. Don't know what this picture is, (bird's nest and eggs). Know that (a cow being milked); he's a lion.

483. *Henry Donovan*, age 13.—Father says I am turned 13. (He had given me his age before as 12, J.E.W.,) Mind a forging machine. Have done so 2 years or more. If the work goes wrong father sees to it. The noise of the machines made my head ache at first, but not after about a week. Used to ache at night in bed. Father said it was from the noise.

Can read and write a little, and think I did compound addition, but cannot remember now.

484. *Thomas Mitchell*, age 16.—Feed a heading machine. Clean it every night and more on Saturday; never when it is going.

Can read a little, not much,—not all words of one syllable. Can read better than I can write. Could not read at all when I came here, but master (man whom he works under) sent me to school three nights a week, and paid 1*d.* for me. Left it because I got "the sack" from here, and mother could not afford to pay for me. Was at Sunday school 3 years, but never could learn anything. They never used to teach us anything, only about going to the Catholic church and learning us the catechism.

MESSRS. JAMES AND SONS', SCREW MANUFACTURERS, KING'S NORTON.

485. A large new factory, lately built in the country, consisting of a large building on the ground floor open to the roof, which is lofty. The old works, in Birmingham, are still carried on.

MR. J. REYNOLDS', CUT NAIL MANUFACTURER, NEW TOWN ROW.

486. The new, which are the principal, parts of these works are spacious and airy, but the noise of the machines entirely drowns the voice. Cut Nails.

487. *Mr. J. Reynolds.*—There are several distinct branches of the nail manufacture, giving occasion each to distinct kinds of employment. Birmingham was the original, and is still the principal, seat of the patent cut nail branch, which was introduced here in the year 1813 at the Britannia works. After the expiration of the first patent in 1827, many small firms arose, some of which grew into large ones, while others were broken up or merged in larger works. I am now the largest employer here in this branch of the trade.

The manufacture is carried on, as the name indicates, by the aid of machinery. The machines are placed under the care of workmen, called minders, who are paid a certain price per cwt. for the larger kinds, and per thousand for the smaller. The men are aided in their work by fitters, to keep the machinery in repair, and smiths to make their tools: also by shearers, to prepare the iron from sheets to strips, of the required breadth and thickness to suit the various kinds of nails made: and lastly by young people of both sexes of from 10 to 20 years, called feeders, from supplying the machines with the metal to make the nails. These feeders are under the care of the minders, and are paid by them weekly wages, varying from 4*s.* to 12*s.* or 14*s.*, according to age and ability, and the kind of work required. The work of the latter is not hard, but requires skilful practice and careful attention to make work of the proper quality.

The hours required to be worked, are, in well regulated establishments, 55 per week; but the feeders are liberated from the machines some hours per week during the stoppages for necessary repairs to the tools.

Apprenticeship is very little known in the trade, as the good male feeders usually put themselves forward, or get forwarded by the more steady of the minders.

Education is in an indifferent condition with these young people. About two-thirds of the boys and girls, from 10 to 14, can read moderately well; some few can write; most of those above 14 can read; and about two-thirds write; but few only can write a good hand. This amount of education is mostly obtained in infant and Sunday schools. Very few attend night schools, and compulsory measures would be needed to ensure a good attendance, and would have to be accompanied by a reduction in the hours of labour.

There is nothing in the trade necessarily of an injurious tendency as regards health; and in well regulated works much less than an average amount of time is lost purely from illness. The greatest danger lies in the neglect of sanitary provision on the part of the employers, and an equal amount of neglecting sanitary precautions on the part of the employees.

The moral condition of the hands compares favourably with other trades where an equal number of the sexes work under the same roof, and side by side, with but little care exercised over them by the men who engage and pay for their service.

Wages are paid weekly, and early on Saturday as a rule. First class firms commence paying at 1 o'clock.

Accidents very seldom occur, the dangerous parts of the machinery being out of reach or boxed off. Instances have occurred where the more daring of the boys have played at danger, and have had a finger taken off as the penalty.

Some of the men, though in receipt of good wages, bring their wives and young children to work, the

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former preferring work to staying at home, and the latter to going to school.

Notwithstanding the introduction of the cut and the other kinds of nails, the wrought nail manufacture, carried on not in factories, but in the homes of the mechanics by the families, is still an important trade, as wrought nails are in many cases preferred, and the number of persons engaged in it is probably little diminished from what they were 20 years ago. Their earnings are so low, and the system of payment at "tommy shops," &c., by small local factors—in whose hands a great number of them are—so bad that they are in a miserable condition.

488. *George Bird*, age 11.—Have worked from 8 to 7, no more, all the time I have been here, *i.e.*, half a year. The machines stop for the dinner time. I go home, but some stay. Get 2*s.* 6*d.* a week.

Was not at day school since 5 years old; went to at night two or three weeks ago.

489. *Sarah Bird*, age 19, sister.—I took him (George) first when he was 9, to a gun polisher, to be under me and my master. He was the only boy.

Can read, but have to spell almost all the words. Left school when 10.

[A girl of 12, who went to card buttons when going 7, could read a little.]

MR. A. PARKES', CUT NAIL MANUFACTURERS, BROAD STREET.

490. The yard at the bottom of which these works are is dirty, and has heaps of rubbish lying in it. The annealing oven is in a workshop, for which there seems no occasion.

491. *Mr. A. Parkes.*—If the boys and girls were limited to fixed hours we should employ more and have more machines. In the last 6 months we have worked over more than half the time, generally going till 9 p.m., but not beginning before the regular hour, viz., 8 a.m. On the average we work over about three months in a year, and last year for a fortnight we worked two nights a week. This, however, did not answer very well, for when people work at night they are sleepy by day; it was only done just for a special purpose. The hands change very fast from one place of work to another, but generally keep pretty much to the same kind of employment, unless some other kinds happen to be very brisk. We have lost a good many when the gun trade has been so pushing.

Birmingham is the principal place for cut nail making; there are none in London, but there are some in other places, *e.g.*, Salford, Staleybridge, Gateshead, Leeds, Swansea, &c., but only one or two in each. Many of the big youths that we get have worked about in the different parts of the country, tramping from one to another.

492. *Thomas Stanley.*—"Bagger up" of nails. Have worked in nail factories in several parts of the country. There are three at Woolverhampton, with from 50 to 100 persons each. The place near Staleybridge has quite 200, mostly all little boys; should say some wouldn't be 7 years old; and there is a small place at Huddersfield. At all these the hours are from 6 to 6, with an hour and a half for meals. There are also large cut nail factories at Smethwick, Salford, and a very large one at Swansea, and one at Leeds.

493. *Ann Elizabeth Yates*, age 11.—Feed a machine. Work from 8 to 7 properly, but this week till 9. Home to dinner from 1 to 2. When we stop late the engine don't stop for tea, but I throw my band off and eat my tea here for about a quarter of an hour. Have cut my thumb with the strips of iron, and it is gathering.

Father cut nails at Leeds before we were here, in a place about as large as this. He went to work at 8 and left at 6.

Can read (slowly). Left day school when I left Leeds, six months ago.

494. *Susannah Herbert*, age 15.—Feed a machine. Did the same at Parkes', at Smethwick, a very large place. The proper hours there were from 7 till 7, sometimes till 8½; breakfast from 8½ till 9, dinner from 1 till 2; no tea time allowed, even when we stayed till 8½, but we took some there, and used to stop and have it.

Cannot read very much (can scarcely spell).

495. *Thomas Airbut*, age 8.—Am working from 8 in the morning till 9 at night. Get 1*s.* 6*d.* a week. Have us dinner at home.

Don't know the letters.

496. *James Kelly*, age 18.—At nails six years. Can't read very well; can't spell "n-o-t." Know the letters, at least partly all on 'em. Go to school every Sunday. Ireland is a place where all these 'ere Irishmen come from. Can't tell the Queen's name; can the Prince of Wales'—"Edward Prince "of Wales," but only heard the schoolmaster mention a few words about it when the wedding was; had not heard it before. Heard the parson in the pulpit speak of slewing—I forget what they call the man. It was the son of David slewing the Philistine with a sling. David was the son of God.

MESSRS. CHAS. AND J. SHAWE'S, CUT NAIL MANUFACTURERS, MORVILLE STREET.

497. This is one of three factories of the same kind belonging to the same owners, who have also a brass foundry, and works where kettles, screws, &c. are made, all in different streets. Men, women, and children of rough appearance, all work together in a large building open to the roof. Seven or eight men employ all the other workers, men and women, boys and girls, in all about 50. Many of the young are ill-clothed, and dirty, and in a state of extreme ignorance. The noise of the machines is very great, so as to make it almost impossible to hear the voice.

498. *Mr. John M'Dermott.*—The hours and kind of work at the two other nail works in Berkeley Street and Aston Road are the same as here, viz., from 8 till 7, and the numbers, ages, and sexes of the persons employed also about the same. Believe the hours in the two other works are the same, but do not know much of them.

499. *Frederick Tregan*, age 12.—Feed a machine; sorted nails at first; work from 8 till 7, and have an hour for dinner at 1; go or stay as I please. The man gives me 4*s.*, and said he should rise me this week. Am the biggest of nine brothers and sisters, and have no father.

Was at day school, and go on Sunday now. Said my A, B, C, and was put in another class; cannot spell. They told us about God's angel. Have heard of the Queen; she's got married. Him and her got married. She keeps us well.

[Very ragged. Followed me away to beg that I would get him some boots.]

500. *Thomas Birch*, age 14.—Have fed a machine two years; get 7*s.* a week.

At day school 12 months; can't tell the letters. They tell us about coming to school and chapel, stealing apples from a tree, and breaking into a garden. Have not heard of Adam and Eve, or whether they stole an apple. (Asked if he has heard of Jesus?)—No! I ha'nt heard that said.

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501. *John Biddons*, age 14.—Wheel and carry iron. Get 2*s.* a week.

Never at day school; go every Sunday. Don't know many of the letters; M is H. Cannot tell you anything about God or Jesus, or Jesus Christ. Have heard speak of them at school. (*After some time, knows that*) God is good; lives up in heaven, and made all us children. He made our Saviour first; that was the first person that was made in the world. (Adam mentioned) "I don't know whether Joseph "was made afore Adam." Know nothing else about Joseph, or Daniel and the lions. Have not heard of the flood; Noah *was* drowned.

502. *Sarah Ann Steven*, age 14.— At buttons before with many other girls. The proper time in summer was to go at 7 a.m. and leave at 8 p.m., and in winter to go at 8. Think, never stayed after 8½.

Before that was at screw work, me and another girl, a woman and six men. There was glass work and blacksmith's work all in the same building. The hours were from 7 till 7, and Friday till 8.

A young woman got the end of her finger off here not long ago; she was not looking at her work and the machine catched it. Get 3*s.* 6*d.* a week here.

Can read, not write. Have only heard of London "being in the Great Exhibition." Teacher at Sunday school told us about it.

503. *Mary Ann Latham*, age 13.—Went to learn to read a little at a Sunday school. Did not go much because I never had nothing to go anywhere in. Never was at a day school. Know some of the letters, not all. Went to chapel from the Sunday school; people go to hear how to be good. A river is a brook. Never heard of an apostle, Scotland, Ireland, or Manchester.

504. *William Richardson*, age 10.—Carry iron; about two hundred (weight) at a time when in the truck, and half a hundred when on my shoulders; do it all day, it don't tire me. Get 2*s.* 6*d.* a week. Father and mother buy me victuals with it. Wash at home every morning and night.

Can read (two or three little words). Learned at Sunday school. Never was in a chapel or a church, but heard a man preach out of doors; it's been a good while ago, though. God made the world. Have not heard of the Testament, Gospel, or Bible. I think you (J. E. W.) are a Christian; everybody in the world is; it is good; they are called Christians after God. Think it is said so in the Testament; had forgotten that name just now. Never was at school or work before coming here this week, but played about. Father and mother work at shoemaking. Have no brothers or sisters.

MESSRS. CAMPBELL AND CO'S., PATENT WROUGHT NAIL WORKS, SELLY OAK.

505. These works are in a rural district, in which are two or three other factories, viz., iron works, rolling mills, and a factory, formerly soap works, but now closed. There is ample space and air. The nails are cut by a machine out of red-hot plates of iron.

506. *Henry Yotsall*, age 16.—Put iron plates into a furnace, take out those that are hot, and feed the machine with them. The hours are from 7 till 7, with half an hour for breakfast and an hour for dinner. Clean the machine every Saturday for half an hour after it has stopped. Am lodging out here for my work. Was at cold steel rolling mills in Birmingham before, and took out the steel from the rollers, and sometimes put it into the rollers myself.

Was at day-school for a year. Can read pretty well, *e.g.*, a newspaper, but cannot write.

MR. T. P. HAWKINS, WIRE-WORKER AND WEAVER, DALE END.

Wire-working.

507. These works appear new, but are built in the middle of the town, and several of the workrooms are confined and dark. The work is weaving wire with hand looms or plaiting it with the hand, and making up articles, as chairs, sieves, &c. At a mill in the hands of the same employer in another part of the town wire is woven by steam machinery attended by boys.

508. *Mr. J. B. Hawkins* (a son).—There are great inconveniences in having children to work at all, but we must employ them or should not be able to compete with those who did. But I think that there ought to be a law preventing children from working at all, under 12 at least. If children had to work half time only there would be the trouble and expense of teaching two sets, but I do not see that there would be any real difficulty if any legal enactment were applied to all employers. If others could do with it, we could. There must however be some security against children being worked long and irregular hours in the small shops, of which there are so many in this town, and which it would be difficult to reach by law. The small employers work very hard, and it is very hard to compete with them as it is. In some articles a profit can be made only by employing children, and if they can be had they must be. The gain to be got from the children's better education in their increased capacity for work would not probably be great where simple manual practice and skill is required. In higher kinds of work it would. In almost all branches of work the most intelligent are the best workmen. For instance, if I were to explain a new pattern to a dull uneducated man he would not be able to understand it so as to carry it out; the other would take it directly. If a man had been taught drawing he would at once make the lines of wire straight instead of unevenly as one who had not learned would be likely to do.

The weavers employ and pay boys to wind for them and help them. The boys depend entirely upon them, but still we look out as far as we can that they are not abused. They have been badly treated once or twice. Wire workers generally are of the roughest and most ignorant class, probably next to the nail workers. The language of some of the females is disgraceful. The men come in at any time up to 9 in the morning, and work but little in the early part of the week, not coming till Wednesday, perhaps, unless there is work which they must do, and Thursday and Friday they work to death.

I have sometimes tried to get intelligent boys, in whom I took an interest, to go to night-schools, but they would not. They might leave in time if they asked, though work was going on later. I have told them that they make a great mistake. One intelligent boy will now have to leave because he is growing too big for boy's work and will not fit himself for a higher kind. There is no doubt that many, if they could read and write, having natural ability such as many have, could in time take clerks' places and raise themselves in life.

509. *Sarah Pearson*, age 17.—Am making dog chains. Have been at wire work ever since 7 years old.

Was never at day-school, not much at night; not on Sunday for a long time. Can read (breaks down in monosyllables). Do not remember any of the names in the Bible; have not heard of Australia; do not know if London is a town; have heard it is a large place, not like Birmingham at all. Cannot tell the Queen's name.

510. *Caroline Morris*, age 15 (?). Am 15 or 16 next month, don't know which. Have been at wire work four years.

Never was at school to speak of; used to go and nurse the neighbours children. Ar'n't a very good scholar

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b.

at reading, but can write small writing. Haven't tried at sums very much, but dare say I could do them if I were to try.

511. *Sarah Ann Cleaver*, age 12.—Plait wire with my hand. Was at buttons and nursing before.

Never was at school of days as I know of. Can read, (but little). Used to go out to nurse at 1*s.*6*d.* a week from 8 o'clock till 7 or 8. Left night-school because I had to be so late at work,—sometimes till 9 or 10, or 11, if work was wanted very bad and mistress was on working at the shoes.

[Room so dark that though it is summer daylight she works by a candle.]

512. *George Dutton*, age 10.—Wind wire for the man, either with a wheel or from a "swift" on to a bobbin. Work from 8½ till 7, sometimes till 7½, 8, or 8½.

When at school, could read the Bible and Testament, a verse through without spelling a word, but cannot read an easy book now. (Does read, however). Used to could write small hand, and can write a bit of large hand on a slate now. Go to night-school twice a week. Do not know what a mine is, or where iron comes from; coal comes from a coal-pit. God made Adam and Eve. Germany is the German Ocean. Steamers go to Southampton Bay. Do not know of America, or if the people are fighting there now, or whether there is any other country out of England.

513. *William Roberts*, age 10 (?).—Wind. Don't know I'm sure how old I am. Get 2*s.* 6*d.* a week.

Can tell the letters, not read. School on Sundays.

[Of four other boys, one of 12 could "read tidy," one of 12 and two of 11 could not tell the letters and laughed at being asked.]

514. *John Woolscrop*, age 17.—Have been a weaver two years. 12*s.* a week is generally my money.

Left day school at 13, having been for 18 months. (Can just spell monosyllables.) Can reckon. 11 times 11 is — 121, isn't it? Reckoned 11 tens and then 11 ones. Was never at night-school, and not on Sunday for many years. Don't like to go, because I couldn't read, and they put me in a low class. That is the reason I stop away.

[Said to be an excellent worker. Is clever.]

MESSRS. G. BAKER AND CO'S., WIRE-WORKERS, CECIL STREET.

515. Large new works at the edge of the town, and the work rooms spacious accordingly, one of them being, as stated to me, over 160 feet long and 20 feet wide, all roomy, and from 14 to 18 feet high. A few young boys and girls work amongst machines.

516. *Mr. George Baker, Jun.*—There are two departments of work here: wire-drawing, in which power is used, and done by men with two or three boys helping; and wire-working, which is chiefly hand work. The kinds of things made are endless. There are perhaps 5000 or 6000 in our catalogue, and I dare say we make 10,000 altogether, *e.g.* chairs, cots, fenders, springs, mouse-traps, carriages, guards, lamps, safes, garden work, sieves, chandelier chains, &c. In the former the hours are from 6 to 6, in the latter from 8 to 7, with an hour and a half for meals, during which the engine stops. In this we have several times tried to get the hands to come at 7 and work till 6. They came, indeed, but loitered about, and would not work. Then we tried half an hour earlier, *i.e.* 7½, but it was just the same. We cannot get them even at 8. Every morning a lot are locked out, the gates being shut at 8¼, and lose a quarter of a day,—ten out of twenty, I should say. Even the clerks will not come punctually. Our object was to let them get away earlier at night. The weavers pay their own boys. The girls and women twist by hand. Some under 18 may stay an hour later at times.

Regulations of the factory kind would make but little difference to us. There might sometimes be an inconvenience in not being able to get the goods packed after they are finished. I should think nearly every one would agree to the children working half time if they could be made to attend school in the other half, but they are better at work than idling about.

517. *James Christie*, age 14.—Make riddles. Work from 8 till 7½, and till 2 on Saturday. Am boring holes in the wood with a bit. Just come here, but have done the same work two years elsewhere, and have always worked with the brace against my stomach in the same way. For about three months have been so that I can hardly get my breath after walking about. Sometimes can "welly" get to the door; am very badly situated. It hurts me low down in the stomach sometimes. Had to wheel heavy weights on a barrow, a great many riddles, and mother thinks it was that that hurt me. Was in a very little shop. Have had this cough as long as my breath has been bad. Can eat well.

Went to a rope-walk when 7, and worked from 8 to 6 turning a wheel; also was at guns, going errands, and worked from 8 till 7, and if busy till 8 or 9.

Cannot write, but have done sums a little at the night-school. Am in the Bible class at the Sunday school, and can read then without stopping, and also the newspaper. Have a Bible that the superintendent gave me. Sing in the choir. Left the night-school six months ago, because there were prayer meetings three or four nights a week, from 8 to 9, and I liked them best. Go with mother whenever I have an opportunity.

[Consumptive-looking; weak voice; frequent short cough; large pupils; very pleasing mannered.]

518. *William Spaniel*, age 10.—Make endless chains at a machine, pulling part with my hand. If anything goes wrong I stop it, and the man sets it right. Clean the machine myself, but never when it is going. The man pays me 2*s.* a week. We get knocked about by the master (man) when we do wrong deeds, *i.e.* if the chain twists, &c. He knocks us on the head with his hand.

Know B. A is O. Go to church every Sunday morning. A Christian is an angel. I am a Christian, but not an angel. Don't know whether I shall be. Them as loves God is.

[Three other young boys, all ragged, do the same kind of work.]

519. *John Murphy*, age 9.—Wind bobbins for a weaver for 2*s.* a week. Mother gives me 1*d.* of it.

Don't know all the letters. Was at school a week once, go every Sunday, and in the morning to the Catholic church. The priest speaks, but I don't know what about. Have not heard of the Queen.

520. *Henry Collin*, age 13.—Thread wire, file, &c. Was at a gun place before, where there were three boys. 8½ to 7 was the proper time, but when we had overtime we could work what time we liked, and did till 10 usually, not later. If we took only a quarter of an hour for dinner we could make an hour overtime. Had a quarter of an hour for tea.

521. *Emily Pitman*, age 11.—Work staples for the machiners. Get 2*s.* a week.

Can read the letters, but not spell what they make.

MR. H. TOY'S, STAMPER AND PIERCER, REGENT PARADE.

Stamping and Piercing.

522. In addition to stamping and cutting out thin metal by means of stamps and presses, the work here includes brass casting, dipping in *aqua fortis*, and lacquering. The lacquering room is small and low and extremely hot, containing three lacquering stoves or hot plates, one of them very large.

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The women and girls work, as the process requires, close beside these, in fact, in contact with them, most of the work being done on the heated surface. According to measurements furnished to me the room is only 7 feet high, and allows but 119 cubic feet for each person, without allowing for the spaces occupied by the large stoves, &c. There is no ventilation beyond that of the windows and a hole broken in the ceiling and in great part blocked up again, possibly to prevent draught over the heads of the workers. Large sheets of paper were fastened across two of the windows looking westward to keep out the additional heat of the sun. I had no means of ascertaining the exact temperature, but to judge by the feeling, it probably could not, near the stoves at least, be under 100°; it was guessed by the person who conducted me over the works at 120°. The appearance and statements of those whom I questioned seemed to show that they suffer from the heat, and it is plain that the evil might be much alleviated by greater space and ventilation, though it could not probably be entirely removed, the process requiring heat.

523. *Mr. David Farnall*, in the office.—It would take years to get into the half-time system. There are so many small masters who have no regular method. There would, as far as I see, be no difficulty in limiting young persons to a day of 12 hours. We never like long hours, and do not think that more than a certain amount can be got out of people. It does not pay. But occasionally we have busy times, but the people are not driven the same as a cart horse.

I wonder that the lacquering girls can stand the lacquering so long. They are often in the room, which is very hot, from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. for weeks, many without going out of it all day. It could be much improved by ventilation; a hole has been broken in the ceiling for this. In the stamping shop the best worker puts the metal under the stamp and the other pulls. If the stamp is very light, one does both. Boys from 14 upwards may do it. No doubt it is dangerous. It is a common saying that you can't be a good stamper till you have lost two or three fingers. The chief danger arises from the breaking of the rope; but all depends upon personal cleverness and care.

Dipping is very unhealthy to the stomach. Sometimes the dippers go home very bad; they say that "the acky has catched them." It is the men who stand over the acid.

524. *Fanny Boyne*, age 14.—Wait upon the lacquerers and see to the fires. Come at 8 and stay till 7½ three nights in the week and till 8 two others, with an hour for dinner and half an hour for tea. When busy we come at 7 a.m. and stay till 9 p.m., and have a quarter or half an hour for breakfast then. Did so last month for three weeks together. Get 6*d.* for myself then for overtime; my set wages are 3*s.* a week. Am very very tired then. It's very hot work, particularly in the middle of the day. It generally makes me very sweaty and wets my things through. Always change everything when I get home of an evening. Go a bit of a walk when I leave at 7½ or 8, but cannot when I leave at 9. Have very often colds; am never hardly without one. The other girls have as many as I have. It's sweating in the room and going out in the cold air as gives it them. I cough very little; the rest do a great deal, the big ones most, and sometimes have to stay at home with it. They say it hurts their throats. I put on a cloak and hat when I go away now (summer) and in winter a thick cloak. Am subject to sore throats, and can't speak very well. Am rather phlegmy at the throat, and have been ever since a little girl, but have felt it coming on more lately in the six months since last winter. Ellen Bond has sore throats the same as I have, and stays away from work for them. Have the headache, more in the morning, and the others have it very bad too then. When the gas is lighted it makes it hotter; there are six lights. 18 months ago I had to be away for palpitation of the heart. The doctor asked me what I worked at, and when I told him it was in a lacquering room and very hot, he said it was too hot for me and overpowered me too much. Have kept on taking cod-liver oil ever since.

(Reads "may dread," &c.) Cannot tell what "dread" means.

[Husky voice. Face flushed and with perspiration on it, though called to another room.]

525. *Ellen Bond.*—Age 13. Lacquer photographic frames, sitting close beside the stove. Have done this three months, and have worked in the lacquering room altogether three years, making the fires, going errands, &c. Am well. Have not the headache so much as I used when I had to see to the fires. Had to stand close to them, stoop, and throw in the coal. Can eat well. Have had pains from my hip up my left side for two years, most in the morning. Am pretty well of breath; but not when coming up stairs. It goes away from me then and makes me pant. Walk up, not run. There are four girls besides the young women in the lacquering room; I am the youngest.

Can read and write a bit, but not to say much. (Can scarcely read monosyllables.) Learned on Sundays. Was never at a day-school.

526. *Emma Argly*, lacquering woman. — Have been at it six years. It is very hot now. We put that paper up to keep the sun out. Find winter the worst time for colds. Have a very great hoarseness then and lose my voice.

527. *John Wormleighton*, age 16.—Cut out links with a press. My hand is tied up because I cut it with the rough edge of the metal. Have pretty tidy health. Have a cough only when I have a cold. Have had the headache very much some time ago.

Can read and write a little, and do multiplication.

[Pale. The room is said to be very hot with gas.]

528. *Edward Hall*, age 15.—Wire frames for the dipper to dip in phizz and acky. Wear the green baize to keep the stuff from my clothes.

Cannot read over well, cannot write or sum. Go to evening school in winter for nothing, because I go on Sundays.

529. *Charles Matthews*, brass-caster.—A boy of 15 works in here, and does all sorts of jobs. Have been at the work ever since I can remember, since 9. Boys get more sense now, and won't go so young. Am never away from work unless from having too much beer.

530. *John Roe*, age 11.—Cob and brush up, and hold strips of metal under the stamp. Work from 6 a.m to 7½ p.m., and Thursday and Friday till 8; Saturday till 1. Breakfast from 8 to 8½, dinner from 1 to 2, tea from 5 to 5½.

Cannot read at all. Was at day school six months.

531. *Arthur Hillage*, age 8. — Cob, brush, and clean off scale, &c. Come at 8 and leave at same time as last boy. The black on my face and the splashes about are all from the stamp.

Was at day-school a bit, two months, and go on Sunday. They tell me little tales. Can't read much, because I have only gone two Sundays. Mother told me to go. God is "the man in heaven;" is an angel. He keeps all of us.

MESSRS. JAMES HEELEY AND SON'S, FINE STEEL WORKERS, MOUNT STREET.

Steel Toys.

532. *Mr. N. S. Heeley.*—We make what are called light steel toys, which include numberless small things, *i.e.* cork-screws, watch-chains, key-rings, brooches, screw hammers, buckles, court dress swords, and all kinds of fancy work. There are not more than two or three other manufacturers in the town in a

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general line like ours, and not more than a dozen light steel toy makers perhaps altogether, though there are some small makers of separate things, such as corkscrews, &c., in a small shop and forge, and there are some out-workers, but no young are so employed. These get their finishing, *i.e.* grinding, polishing, &c., taken to be done at power mills, as trimmers, polishers, &c. in some other trades do.

There are many makers of heavy steel toys, such as hammers, chisels, carpenters tools, &c., some employing from 50 to 100 people or more, some half a dozen or so.

533. *John Bickerstaff*, young person. Went to gun barrels when going 7, and laded suds (used to cool the work). There were a tidy few there as young as I was, who used to run errands for the gun finishers. Worked from 8 till 7.

Work here from 8 till 7 now, sometimes a bit over, till 8 or 9. Have not hurt myself at the machinery. A boy about 13 lost a bit of his finger by getting it under.

Do not know the letters, not the large ones. (Shown capitals.) At day-school when little.

534. *George Docker*, age 11.—Hand hot metal with pinchers from the stove and help the men.

At day-school two months ; learned to read, write, and sum. Did £ s. d. (Can scarcely spell.) 7 times 7 is (*after many seconds counting*)—Wait a bit, sir, (*more counting, but in vain.*) London is a big place. Do not know what the ocean is.

535. *Josiah Longman*, age 15.—Turn at a steam lathe.

At day-school till 13. Go Sundays, but not nights. Can read the newspaper and write a little. (Cannot read more than one word in three in a child's book right.)

536. *Lewis Barnett*, age 16.—Polish steel on a tin and lead wheel.

Worked for father at watch-keys before. He kept two girls but no boys. They worked from 8 to 8.

Cannot read at all.

JOSEPH ADDIS', THIMBLE MAKER, ST. GEORGE'S STREET.

Thimbles.

537. A shop in a court, in which a man, a woman, and a youth only are employed pressing the metal into the cup-shape, turning, &c. The thimbles are taken to a mill to be roughened or indented outside by steam power. For description of the court, see *sup.*, b. 516.

538. *Henry Webb*, age 17.—Work at the press and lathe from 8 till 7. Have an hour for dinner. Sometimes stay till 9. Have come at 6 a.m. and worked till 10 p.m., but not more than once a week, and not lately.

Went to "put in" for men at buttons when jus turned 7. Iron was cut out by steam by women.

Was very little at school. Father, a bootmaker, could not afford to pay for school for me. Used to go pretty regularly on Sunday ; never to a night-school. Can read pretty tidy, but not write at all. Can pick up a newspaper and read down a column. Read a bit of a Sunday, perhaps. (*Names some Scripture names.*)

MRS. BIDDLE'S, BOOKCLASP AND MOUNTING MANUFACTURER, VITTORIA STREET.

Book clasps.

539. The greater part of the work here is press-work ; dipping metal and electro-plating are included, the former done by a youth of 18, the latter by a woman. One of the fireplaces used for water-gilding, which was done by women, still remains, though unused. A glass sash is placed in front to enable the worker to watch the work without being exposed to the fumes. The work, however, as I have seen it done elsewhere, requires frequent handling and turning, so that such an arrangement can be but a partial protection.

540. *Joseph Francis Hart*, age 12.—Bevil metal with a cutting machine worked by the engine. Hours are from 8 till 7, and dinner from 1 till 2.

Went to a silversmith's when 10. The hours were from 8 till 8; Friday nights till 9; and Saturday mornings we went at 7 and 6. Have gone at 6 in the morning and stayed till 9 at night. Have for three days together. Used to reckon for a quarter of an hour at tea. Got 3*s.* 6*d.* a week. Was the only boy there. When I first went there were towards 100 workpeople, and when I left only nine, as the partners separated. Have worked at seven jewellers. The hours were from 8 till 7, and three days till 7½, and till 4 on Saturday.

Can read (very slowly), write a bit, and sum a little. Forget what my sums are called.

MR. B. GOODE'S, GOLD CHAIN MAKER, ST. PAUL'S SQUARE.

Jewellery.

541. Gold chain making is said to have increased as a business almost more than any other within the last 20 years. At that date "only 60 persons," and these "employed by a couple of masters," were engaged in it. Now "400 workers make gold chains in one (this) manufactory alone." This growth is attributed partly to the increased importation of gold, and partly to the great saving of manual labour and waste of metal effected by improved machinery and methods of manufacture.

542. The work in this manufactory includes several very unlike branches, from casting, rolling, and drawing the metal, which involve the use of furnaces and powerful steam machinery, to finishing the most delicate gold chains by the hands of females, many of them young girls. The different branches are carried on in distinct parts. The rooms are large, lofty, and well ventilated. The value of the materials used involves the use of iron floors and tables as a safeguard against fire and loss of metal in dust, &c. This conduces to the general cleanliness ; and all the girls before leaving work are obliged to wash in conduits placed in each room, as a means of saving the precious metal which sticks to the hands. The overalls of the polishers are said to be also carefully washed, the sweepings of the factory collected, and the material thus collected refined afresh. The amount of gold thus recovered is said to be very considerable.

543. A few boys work in the rolling and drawing mills, but the greater number of those employed are girls and women, who form and fasten together the links. Wire is wound closely round a "spit" of the shape which the links are wished to take, and cut into separate pieces by slitting the coil. These pieces are fitted into one another by young girls, closed, and soldered. Where the links are very small the labour is, of course, much greater. An account of the manufacture, more than once referred to, states : "It is said that the difficulty of making the smallest chains is so great that the women who "make it cannot work above two hours at home."

544. Notwithstanding the large amount of space, the girls and women sit closely together in groups of five at a semicircular table, each in a deep indentation in the arc, the regular form of a "jeweller's

" table;" and by each is a jet of gas for their work, and a central large jet for light when needed. At one table two girls were sitting at the angles, as well as others in the indentations. The posture is very stooping, and the amount of gas consumed very considerable, though less in summer. A large number of the girls looked pale and delicate. The girls work for the women, one or more for each.

545. *Susan Ruddal.*—Make chains. Have worked here 20 years. All don't sit quite as close as we do. The soldering wants a great deal of gas, and when it is lit for light also it is very hot. It is very unhealthy work. I never lost much time myself, but am never very well. The girls are away as much in summer as winter. In winter they get colds from going into the cold air out of doors, and in summer it is so hot in here that they catch colds just as much.

Each woman has a girl or two to work under her, and usually pays 1*s.* a week to begin with, which afterwards rises. My girl there came at 9 years old. That is younger than usual.

[Has a perfectly colourless face.]

546. *Sarah Ann Bone*, age 15.—Make chains with pliers and links at a gas pipe, sometimes using the blow pipe. Have done so for three years and a half. Have a sore throat. Have it most in summer.

Was at a week-day school, go on Sunday, and at night once a week. Can read the newspaper, write, and do simple addition.

[Has flannel round her throat and is hoarse. Perspiration is on her face.]

547. *Jane Adderly*, age 14.—Press links at a hand press. Have been here three years. The hours are from 8 a.m. till 7 p.m., or, if we are busy, till 9. Have a sore throat. Often have. Went to work at buttons at about 6 years old; cannot say whether above 6. My work hours there were from 8 a.m. till 7 p.m. After I had been at work a while, father and mother took me away and sent me to school for a year, and in that I learned reading, writing, and " simple " 'straction;" nine times seven are 26.

548. *Clara Tudor*, age 14.—Make chains. Am not near sighted, but my work wants looking at close and my stool is rather too high, so I have to stoop a good deal. My chest hurts me sometimes, and I am not strong. Have been away from work a week within the last few months.

[Seems to have overgrown her strength, and looks very delicate.]

549. *Elizabeth Whateland*, age 12.—Went to buttons when going in 8.

Can't spell all things, can easy words (can). A " lion " is a rough thing.

[Untidy, and hair neglected.]

550. *Edwin Austin*, age 13.—Finish chains, and use solder and the blow pipe. Have done so here and at another place for nearly two years. Have an hour for dinner and a quarter of an hour for tea. All the boys in this room go away to dinner. The jewellery place I was at before was a tidy sized place, *i.e.* had four or five boys, and I had the same work hours as here.

Was at a week-day school before going to work. Can read a bit, but not very much, *i.e.* can just tell my letters. Go to school on Sunday and three nights a week, paying 1*d.*, but the night-school is shut now.

551. *John Kimbley*, age 17.—Draw wire in the mill. Know some of the letters, not all. Was at the week-day school for a year, and left at 9 years old to go to work. Was at Sunday school till a year ago, and at night-school for three months. Left because I had no clothes. Father gets such low wages, 10*s.*, or 12*s.*, or 14*s.* a week, and there are nine of us. I get 9*s.* a week, one of my brothers 19*s.*, another 15*s.*, and another 6*s.*

552. *William Britton*, age 14.—Slip metal into the rollers in the rolling mill. From 8 a.m. till 7 p.m. is the regular time, but sometimes I come at 7 and stay till 8. This is the first week that we have done so for a good while. When we come at 7 we have a quarter of an hour for breakfast in the mill here. The engine keeps on working then, but it stops for an hour at dinner and a quarter of an hour at tea. I have both in the mill. There are two other boys in this mill.

Can write in a copy book, but never did sums. Can read. (Has to spell such words as " water " and " drink.")

MR. JAMES GRIFFIN'S, JEWELLER, GREAT HAMPTON STREET.

553. *Mr. James Griffin.*—I manufacture brooches, &c., and employ a boy of 9, one of 16, a girl of 17 or 18, and a man, and have had as many as 30 persons at once. The hours are from 8 till 7, with an hour for dinner. Sometimes there is overtime till 8 or even 9, but ever since the American war trade has been so bad that there is no need for any over hours or many hands. There are, I should say, very few jewellers with more than 50 pairs of hands; from 10 to 15 or 20 is a common number; some have only two or three. A few are out-workers who work at home, but these rarely employ young ones, and I think that there are not so many working in attics as there used to be. The jewellers, except the chain-makers, employ chiefly men and boys, but one with 30 or 40 pairs of hands would want three or four women or big girls as polishers.

I have had a girl as a three years apprentice. I regret, however, that girls should ever be employed in a factory at all. Being in a shop with men, as they are in this town, is very bad for their morals. The girl whom I have now I keep at work near me, and when I have more I keep them separate or under some trustworthy man, and never allow any improper language. I am sorry that this is not so in all places.

There is, I fear, less obedience to employers and parents and less shame in doing wrong amongst the young now than formerly. All seem set on getting money in any way, and youths and even boys smoke short pipes and give themselves all the airs of men. The liquor shops are a great source of evil. Though a temperate man, I am not a teetotaller, but I have often gone round to the shops to observe, and found, especially on Saturday night, many quite young women drinking, as well as the men, some with their husbands and with infants at their breast. I have seen with my own eyes a young woman drinking gin and water in this way, and giving it to her infant. Men get drunk as much when trade is bad as when it is good. Many who would work steadily if they had work are dispirited, and want something to comfort them, and if they cannot pay for it themselves are often treated to a glass by their companions, who would not think of giving them 1*s.* to buy bread. In this way, and being perhaps without much food, a man gets drunk more easily.

I do not know, however, if there is so much drinking as there was. The cheap trains and opening the the parks, &c. have undoubtedly a tendency to diminish it. These go partly to supply what is a great want in the town, viz., a place where people can play and amuse themselves instead of being in liquor shops or the streets, which are very bad for the children in particular. If the children go to the parks they are probably taken by their parents and are under their control and kept orderly. People, too, who go to parks and such places, try to appear in as good and neat a dress as they can, which is good for themselves by increasing their self-respect, and also has a good influence on their neighbours in the yards in which many of them live, by shaming them into making themselves respectable too. Many have been re-

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claimed in this way from spending their money in drink.

Sunday and other schools have done a good deal for many, but in the low trades, in which the children are put to work very young, they have very little chance of learning anything. Their parents, too, being often in the liquor shops, you may guess what sort of homes they have. If not at work they are in the streets, where they mix with bad company, or if they are very young, the mother being away at work, are left in charge of a child. They are clever, however, when taught, and have an idea and wish to be taught. The want is more schools and proper play places, and fewer liquor shops.

In some of the works, as stamping, the children lose their fingers. Three have applied here from the same place, a stamper and piercer's, who had lost fingers, one all the fingers of one hand. A boy having lost a finger in this way will hold his hand behind him, being 'cute enough to think that it will diminish his value, and his chance of being engaged, as it would. One or two have lost fingers here, but from putting them where they had no business. I have seen women pulling heavy stamps with their foot all day in a way which is downright slavery.

Another great evil of the liquor shops, though the masters may not be accountable for it, is, that they are the places in which the ill-disposed make their arrangements and corrupt others. It is here that "fence masters"—a name well known here for the people who buy stolen property—lie in wait for jewellers' journeymen, boys, and others, and get from them metals which they have stolen from their masters. There are men, some of them well dressed, who make it a business to skulk about and tempt others to get metal in this way, not only jewellers' metals, but brass, &c. This and some of the men who practise it are well known to the detectives, but they can seldom touch a man, as it is so difficult to trace the metal into their possession and swear to it, on account of the ease with which it is melted down, which may be done over gas, and has been done in a blacksmith's shop. There are many cases which never come before a magistrate on account of this difficulty in the evidence. Out of 50 ounces of gold which I entrusted to one man to work, he made away with more than six, but I could not bring it home to him for a year. I do not like to discharge a person merely because you suspect him, as I have been advised, if you cannot actually find him out.

I think that the Government ought to know that the gold coin of the realm is melted down in this town for the purpose of using it as a metal. According to the present standard of the coin and the system of coinage it is worth while to do so. If some such plan were adopted of increasing the proportion of alloy and further diminishing the actual weight of the coin, as in the case of the copper coinage lately, with a substantial charge for coining, it would no longer pay to melt down the coin.

MR. W. F. RILEY'S, JEWELLER, ICKNIELD STREET.

554. The workplace here is a cellar, with damp brick floor and parts of the walls mouldy, described to me before I saw it as a nice kitchen, but afterwards as "not so dry as we could wish it. It would "be better if we could have a place at the back, but it wants money to put into it." The only window rises only a foot above the roadway, the lower part being under a grating, with a space of only about 11 inches in front. The panes are semiopaque from dirt, and a broken one stopped up with paper. Close to the window, however, on a bright day, it is not too dark to read, but gas must be required for a large portion of time. No one was at work here at the time of my visit, but one or two boys are employed, when there is work, from 8 a.m. till 7 p.m., and sometimes till 9 p.m.

MESSRS. T. AND J. BRAGG'S, JEWELLERS, VITTORIA STREET.

555. *Mr. Thos. Bragg.*—We manufacture best jewellery of most kinds with gold and silver, and other metals, and precious stones, chiefly brooches, bracelets, earrings, studs, pins, links, &c., and most for London use, so that our business depends, to a considerable extent, on the London season, and at times our regular hours must be exceeded. For three months lately we worked till 9 p.m., never later. If we don't do so some one else will. But if I had my will I would never have a single hour of overtime. It is no profit to the manufacturer whatever, but we are obliged to give way to the convenience of customers, and to prevent loss of custom. Of the two evils, overtime is the best alternative, when we are flush of work. We have a great objection to taking new hands on, and never do without some trial of them. There is nothing but custom to prevent the work from beginning earlier.

We employ as far as possible only skilled adult labour, and have very few children, perhaps half a dozen as errand boys, &c. The other boys are from 14 upwards. We do not take them as bound apprentices, but on an understanding which is equivalent to it. Great difficulties often arise from legal apprenticeships. It is much better for both to be able to part, if either master or apprentice finds out that they really do not suit. No youth will leave a respectable place without filling up his time, with the brand of this upon him; so the master is secure, though the bond is moral, not legal. We have never appealed to a magistrate, and hope never to have occasion. The boys that we employ are generally chosen from those having a good character at a good day-school under government inspection, of which a brother of mine is secretary, and we also take no one whose parents will not enter into a written engagement to keep him at a night-school of art till he is 21. In this way we get intelligent and educated workers, and I think that they have a considerable effect upon the body of the workpeople. Such schools are within the reach of all here, or, if not, the means are found for them. A proof of the good results of this is given by the fact that in the South Kensington Museum there are specimens of work designed and carried out entirely by some of our young men, whose entire education has been received with us on the plan which we have adopted, the specimens having attracted this notice by their own merit. Besides this, several have gained medallions in national competitions. We have spent large sums in encouraging such efforts.

In the jewellery trade in general, especially in chain-making, and where machinery is used, a large number of young people are employed when they ought to be at school, not, however, much before 12. We, however, find that it answers best to have older and more intelligent persons.

Jewellery is generally rendered an unhealthy occupation by crowding and want of ventilation. Our buildings are only 10 years old, and more airy and lofty than many, but if we were to build again we should build considerably larger, as the workpeople are still very close. We have found that it answers in every way to have all possible improvements, and consult, as far as can be, the comfort of the workpeople. They then have better health, can do their work better, and are steady, regular, and contented. We have tried several plans of ventilation, and have returned to the old up and down shaft of Watson, which ventilates our rooms well.

Most of the jewellery shops are in buildings not much older than ours, and in this neighbourhood. Since the first Exhibition such an impetus has been given to the trade that the garret work is very much

diminished. This is the case with the work in other trades in Birmingham generally, and larger work-places are more in use. House rent is low, and a man can take a house with a shop attached. Much money is made in such shops with a few hands.

We are most anxious in every way to forward the wishes of the Government to obtain an accurate account of the condition of the young engaged in manufactures, with a vew to their improvement.

MR. S. GARSIDE'S, SILVER CHAIN MAKER, &c., ST. PAUL'S SQUARE.

556. The chains are completed on the premises, including the earlier stages of melting the metal in a furnace and making the wire by means of steam power, in which a boy or two help, as well as the forming and finishing the links, done by girls and women. The girls sit along the sides of the rooms facing the windows, and consequently gas and breath are less concentrated than where girls sit in groups round a "jeweller's table." Still the first room which I entered felt hot, probably from the gas. Far greater numbers have been employed here formerly, and a girl very lately here, and now at another factory, speaks of having suffered from the closeness. What seems to be a large cesspool closely covered with planks, and which receives an open gutter of dirty water, forms part of the passage to some of the shops on the ground floor.

557. *Mr. S. Garside.*—This used to be the principal, and, with three or four exceptions, the only silver chain manufactory in the town, and I have had as many as 300 persons on the premises. But now there are a great number of manufacturers, with establishments of all sizes, large and small, and trade is slack. Though I could employ here a great many more than are here now, I give out a good deal of work to be done at home to people who have worked here, *e.g.*, women who have married, some of whom are obliged to work hard, from their husbands taking to drinking, as many do, and say that they would be so grateful if it were but for 3*s.* or 4*s.* worth of work a week. Some work can be done at home by one person alone with merely a blow pipe.

Chain making is done in the same way as here in other work places generally. Young girls link the chains together for the finishers, elder girls or women, who solder the chains together and finish them. They are afterwards dipped and brightened by a man. It is a trade that wants a good deal of care, and to become a good chain maker a girl must begin young; about 7 or 8 is the best, as they take to it better then. A girl could not learn well later than 15 or 16, and it is this want of training which makes it difficult to supply hands when trade is busy. It is nice work for them, as they sit at the board all day, and it is not like running about in the wet. The girls work under the finishers, and get at first from 1*s.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* a week. One finisher may employ half a dozen or a dozen persons: a good worker may get 10*s.* a week, and some a good deal more. A girl may become a finisher by about 16.

558. *Emma Hewitt*, age 17.—Make chains. Here ten years. Go to a night-school sometimes, and have been on Sundays. Can read. (Cannot read any of the two-syllable words in a child's book.)

[A small tradesman's daughter, and very respectable-looking.]

MR. J. PERKS', JEWELLER, NORTHAMPTON STREET.

559. Here are eight boys between 13 and 17, rather more men, and five women and one girl, polishers.

560. *Richard Wright*, age 15.—Am "charging," *i.e.*, putting small pieces of metal together as supports inside a larger, to form an earring. The hours are from 8 till 7, and Friday till 9, and till 5 on Saturday. When we work overtime it is till 9, which counts a quarter of a day. Have done so for a fortnight together, most in winter.

Worked at pearl buttons before, drilling at a foot-lathe. Went when I was 12. There were a man, a woman, and a girl in the shop, and the hours were from 8 till 7½ or 8. Dined at home. It was very dusty work. The dust fell on my feet, and used to get in my mouth. Know it got in, because I have washed it out, and also could feel it in my chest.

Have been very bad last week with pain in my chest. Had a very bad cough for a fortnight before the pain came on. Never had the pain before, but have had coughs of late, and very much at night. My body aches, and my shoulders. Can eat when I am well. The doctor gave me cod liver oil, and some stuff to rub on my chest.

[Pale and puny: height (measuring against myself) about 4ft. 3in.]

MESSRS. J. ASTON AND SON'S, JEWELLERS AND SILVERSMITHS, REGENT PLACE.

561. The manufactory is one of the highest standing for best jewellery, but some of the shops are small and narrow, and one or two on entering struck warm from the gas used for soldering, one particularly so, with a strong smell. But few young boys, however, are employed, and only two girls under 18, polishers, the rest being men and women. With scarcely any exceptions the boys had been at no previous place of work, but come here straight from school, some at 12, 13, or 14,—a very rare case indeed as far as my inquiries have reached. The general account given of themselves by most, coupled with their appearance and manner of answering, though I did not test them further, seemed to show better results from this fact than in the case of the youth named below. One boy had worked at home under his father as "dipper," *i.e.* of metals in *aqua fortis*, a noxious employment. All here are employed directly by the firm, and go home for their dinner.

562. *Samuel Gilbert*, age 17.—Make ornaments, rub, put backs on, &c. Never work overtime. Was at day-school from 8 years old till 12, when I went to jewellery. Cannot write, or sum, or read without spelling. (Cannot even spell). "If" is "of."

MR. G. PALMER'S, JEWELLER, HOWARD STREET.

563. Only a man and a boy, sometimes two boys, are employed here.

564. *John Parkes*, age 14.—Solder with a blow-pipe, and turn a lathe to polish &c. Have been at jewellery in four different places since 9 years old. None of the places had more than three boys. At all the hours were from 8 till 7 or 8. Have not often a cough in summer. Ache across the back and shoulders sometimes from sitting long at work. Had rheumatic fever 3 years ago.

Can read a bit, (cannot spell words of two letters,) Cannot name any other foreign country but America. Don't know if France is a country, I'm sure.

Birmingham District.

Electro-plate.

Mr. J.E.White.

b.

MESSRS. ELKINGTON AND CO.'S, ELECTRO-PLATE MANUFACTURERS, NEWHALL STREET.

565. This manufactory is spoken of as by far the largest in the trade, employing as stated (b. 879) about 1,000 persons, though my return does not give the number of adults, male and female, of whom they mainly consist. The buildings are well arranged, spacious, and airy, and washing conduits are placed on each landing. The library books, especially those of an amusing kind, are said to be much used. I noticed one on "Home Influence," especially worn, and was told that the people show great quickness in appreciating books of real merit as distinguished from those of a flimsy character. The library supports itself by the subscription, which now allows of an increase of about 100 volumes yearly. A room formerly set apart as a reading room has been discontinued, as apparently little cared for since the cheap newspapers, &c. have been so easily obtainable at the people's own homes.

566. There are a number of casting shops, in several of which youths are or have been employed as helpers to the men, but the time employed in actual casting appears to be comparatively very small. Many of the articles are formed from flat metal by stamping and hammering, &c., by hand or steam power. But a great part of the work consists in ornamenting by chasing, &c., which, as well as some other operatons, requires labour of a highly skilled kind. The females are chiefly engaged in polishing. The manufacture includes that of solid as well as of plated metal.

567. The only persons employed in contact with the actual plating, the only peculiar part of the work, are men and three boys. The solution in which the articles are dipped in vats to be plated, gives off prussic acid, but I did not learn that injury to health had arisen from it, as this work is here carried on.

568. *Mr. William Ryland*, manager of the manufacturing department of the business, which is ornamental and artistic electro-plating of all kinds. The electro-plated spoon and fork business of the firm forms an entirely distinct branch and is carried on in another part of the town.

Out of the whole number of persons employed here only three are under the age of 13. The great value of the materials and the skill required in working them make it desirable to have as few young as possible, and boys are not taken under 14. The usual hours are from 8 a.m. till 7½ p.m. all the year round, with an hour for dinner, and half an hour for tea. There is no fluctuation of season in the business, and these hours are seldom exceeded, scarcely ever beyond 9 p.m., and that only by a few adults and on very rare occasions. No good is done after that, and if the people do work late they come listlessly in the morning.

The manufacture embraces the making of the body of the article as well as the plating of it. In the plating branch, in which men and boys and a few girls are employed, the hours are shorter, viz., from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., on account of the nature of the work, in which strong fumes are given out. The whole number however engaged in this is very small, and others are not allowed to enter these work rooms, and the men frequently change. Some of the men have been at this work 18 or 20 years.

Steam power is used throughout the manufactory. Steam is now being applied generally to so many new purposes that the amount of work done in houses and small shops in the town is much less than formerly, and probably this change will increase still further. Larger manufactories are now being built, both on this account and also because manufacturers find that it answers their purpose better to have large and healthy work-places.

I have formed no opinion how we should meet any difficulties which might be caused by any regulations of the factory kind if applied to our young here. But as this business is conducted it could not be affected by such regulations to any great extent.

Two or three years ago or more a Saturday half-holiday was proposed to the people employed here, and they were canvassed on the subject. Many were opposed to it, and only a bare majority in favour of it. They feared a loss of work time, but that was made up by adding half an hour's work to each of the earlier evenings and an hour's on Friday. At that time also, the practice being new, there were few amusements or occupations for them on the Saturday afternoon. Now there are more, several other establishments in the town having adopted the half-holiday, and the practice is still increasing. Now all here like the change very much, and would not go back. It was chiefly the upper classes engaged, clerks, &c., who wished for it in the first instance. There was an impression that if people were paid early and had the half-holiday they would not come to work well on Monday. I have not found that the case here, but on the contrary the people are very regular and industrious. My belief and experience is that the workpeople will fall in with whatever system the employer determines on, if firmly carried out.

Some time since it was intended to start an evening school on the premises, but no desire for it was shown by the people, and the idea was given up. Some other large manufacturers in the town have tried schools but have given them up. I believe that it is impossible for them to answer unless attendance is enforced, as is the case in one large establishment here. The boys wish to go off to play. I should suppose that there are very few indeed employed on these premises who cannot read, and these probably amongst the older persons. Orders are given in writing and figures, and I should say that the youngest can read them. The persons employed in the higher branches of work, as chasing, embossing, modelling, &c., are of quite a high class, but of the others I should say that the majority are of the ordinary abilities and characters of persons employed in other manufactures; they are often taken from amongst them.

There is a general library on the premises containing over 1000 volumes of novels, history, travels, &c., from which any person employed here may take books, or read them there, on payment of 1*s.* a quarter. The subscribers average about 100, including a few young women and boys and the rest men.

569. *John Adderly*, age 12.—In the dipping room; here for two years. Draw out, *i.e.* rub plate in sawdust. Work from 8 to 5. Have dinner in another room. Never have anything the matter with me but bowel complaint. Two boys do the same work with me in here, one under 12.

Can write, not very well. (Can scarcely read.) Do not know what 9 times 9 is.

570. *Mary Ann Riddel*, age 12.—Put things on wires (ready for dipping) in the wiring room. Work from 8 till 6.

School on Sunday and two nights a week in winter; at day-school when very little. Can read (scarcely read monosyllables). Do not know what France is. London is a country.

571. *Joseph Groves*, age 17.—Stamped here at first, and now am going to learn the trade. Work from 8 till 7½ and Saturday till 1.

Can read (makes mistakes); cannot write. Left school when between 9 and 10; was never at night-school.

572. *William Price*, age 18.—Caster. Began at 13. Cast two or three times a day. There are 14 or 15 casting shops, and a lad in several.

Can read the newspaper, and write. Went to King Edward's Free School, to a night-school a bit, and on Sundays till lately.

MESSRS. ELKINGTON AND CO.'S, ELECTRO-PLATERS, BREARLEY STREET.

Birmingham District.

Electro-plate.

Mr. J. E. White.

b.

573. Electro-plated goods of the plain and useful kind, as spoons, forks, &c., are manufactured here on a large scale, but are taken to the Newhall Street manufactory to be electro-plated, and brought back here to be finished.

574. The articles are first cut roughly out from flat bars of metal by powerful steam machinery, in such a shape as to leave but very little scrap or waste metal. These rough pieces are afterwards passed through rollers and stamps till they gradually take roughly the shape required. The spoon and fork rolling machinery is attended by a foreman and 15 or 16 young women, one to put into each machine and one to take out. These, it is said, are generally, though perhaps not always, over 18. Most had just left work as I entered. Drums are put over the four large exposed cog-wheels of each machine when at work, and a shaft running along the floor covered over. The large fly-wheel is also securely fenced, as well as the machinery and bands in other parts of the works. What would otherwise be sources of great danger, especially to women, are entirely removed. The rollers are ingeniously contrived to supply the too close use of hands, by means of springs, &c. Instances which happened here were mentioned to me as showing how ingeniously careless even grown people frequently are, and how necessary in consequence thorough fencing is.

575. After the articles have been thus roughly formed they need filing out, smoothing, and preparing to receive the electro plate, operations which employ a large number of men and boys in many shops. The electro-plate, when on, is "finished," *i.e.* smoothed and polished by "buffing," done either with a stick padded with leather or on a "bobbin" or wheel turned by steam, and also by colouring, by rubbing with a mop turned by steam, and finally polishing with the hand. The processes are not the same for each article. In the finishing processes powders are used, as prepared lime and oil for the buffing, and rouge in the colouring. These, especially where a bobbin or mop is used, cause a great deal of dust, which settles plentifully on the heads and dresses of the workpeople and other places.

576. To guard against this, many of the elder engaged at the most dusty work tie handkerchiefs over their heads, and all wear tight-fitting brown dresses, which they put on and take off before and after work in a dressing room provided for the purpose. But the younger girls who go to the bobbins occasionally do not appear to wear handkerchiefs. I noticed the head of one girl, who had only a net, very dusty. A covering for the head seems very desirable for cleanliness in the case of all persons engaged in dusty work of this kind, and that the separate dresses are necessary is shown by the collection of dirt, oil, &c., on several. The work makes a great noise.

577. *Mr. George Ireland.*—Manager. I have been engaged in the business of this firm for 20 years, *i.e.* from about the commencement of the trade, and I was brought up in Birmingham.

For our work it does not answer to take either boys or girls under about 14, and I do so only in exceptional cases, as where they have friends already in the works, or are in want.

For other works children may be suitable at an earlier age, but I do not think that they ought to go to work of any kind under the age of 12, and should be very glad of a law to enforce this. Before that age they are of very little real use in any of the employments of this district, and certainly are not necessary.

It is a pity that females should work in factories at all, as it interferes so much with their proper life, the domestic. They are, however, very useful, and it may not be possible to do without them. Indeed we have employed them upon a branch of work which was formerly done by men, because the latter were so much more difficult to keep steady to their work. But it is bad for girls under 14 to work in a factory, especially with elder females, as there are sure to be one or two at least whose conversation in not fit for children to hear. I take all the pains that I can to secure proper behaviour, by ascertaining, as far as possible, the previous character, and discharging in plain cases of immorality, as if an unmarried woman gives birth to a child. This may be thought hard upon herself at a time when she is, probably for that very reason, in greater need of employment; but if discharge were the natural consequence of such misconduct with all employers, a great support and security for good conduct would be given to those who need it.

I consider that Sunday schools have great influence for good, and that persons who attend them are likely to be more respectful and orderly than those who do not; and accordingly in my inquiries I take such attendance as one test of character. This is a poor and very indifferent neighbourhood, and I should think it probable that the greater part in it do not attend Sunday school.

There is every facility for education in Birmingham, most of the Sunday schools, dissenting as well as church, having week-day schools attached to them. But there is also great so a demand for young labour,—greater I should say than for that of adults,—that children are taken from school by their parents as soon as any employment can be got for them, and this, in some kinds of work, is very early indeed, as young as 6. In most cases this removal of children from school to work cannot be necessary, because the earnings of adults are liberal, and, owing to the great variety of employments, a man who can do any simple work, such as filing or turning, when thrown out at one kind of place can always find work at another. Consequently, as a rule, they might well afford to keep their children at school, better probably, on the whole, than in almost any other part of England. If they were not allowed by law to send their children to work before a certain age, say 12, they would of their own accord in most cases keep them at school up till that age, if it were only as a means of getting them out of the way while they themselves are at work. Children are sent to school in great part on this account at present. But so long as parents can both get their children out of the way and make money by it too, instead of paying, of course they will do it.

I should also be very glad of a law limiting the hours of labour of young people in all employments to a reasonable amount. The hours in this establishment are already within the factory limit, and scarcely ever vary. It is true that the articles made here are of the plain kind, as forks, spoons, and small miscellaneous solid-ware articles, as snuffers, &c., in which there is but little change of pattern, and which can be safely made to stock, as the goods are sure to be wanted some day. The ornamental articles are made in the Newhall Street department. But the hardware manufactures generally are of a kind which depends more upon use than upon season or fashion, and which does not require more than the amount of labour allowed in the factories, an amount which is quite as much as is desirable for young people.

It is no doubt true that working to make stock instead of for orders or immediate sale, is a loss to the extent of the capital sunk for the time in material and wages, but this is more than compensated in other ways. Firstly, by the advantage from keeping the workpeople together and in regular employment, which, owing to the regular payment, enables

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them to live better and maintain better health and spirits, and consequently to do their work better than if they work irregularly and are thrown out when orders are slack. The very fact of putting people out of work dispirits them. These remarks, I should say, must hold good of all workpeople. In addition to this the possession of stock is in itself a great advantage to a manufacturer, especially if he be known to keep it, and enables him to meet without inconvenience a sudden order which he could not perhaps undertake to execute within the time required, as in case of a ship sailing or any like case.

We give out a small amount of men's work, but much prefer to have all that we can done on the premises, as we thus get the full benefit of the skill of the hands whom we have trained, and keep our own patterns and mode of work private. These advantages cannot be equally secured where work is done out, the same man being sure to work for others also. Most of our hands have stayed a long time, the men on an average many years.

There is, however, a large amount of work of different kinds in Birmingham done in places employing small numbers of persons, perhaps down to three or two, but these are very seldom, if ever, the dwelling-houses themselves, but usually small shops near. In many of these steam power is used, being hired.

Four or five years ago we adopted a Saturday half-holiday, adding an hour's work, viz., from 7 to 8, on three other evenings in the week, thus giving up two hours' work only. We have found it a great advantage, without the least inconvenience. Some other houses practise it, and I feel sure that all would who once gave it a fair and willing trial. I believe that we get at least as much work done as we did before with the two additional hours, if not more work.

I think it important to notice the want in Birmingham of places of wholesome and moral recreation for the females employed, who, I should say, seem a larger class even than the males, as may be the case from females coming in from the neighbourhood. The men have reading rooms, lecture rooms, &c. ; the females have nothing. They naturally do not care after working all day to go straight home, with no interval of change or amusement, and their only resource is to walk about the town or its outskirts. This, in the way in which it is usually practised, is plainly not desirable. It is of great importance that provisions of some kind should be made to meet this want.

It is also strange that in so important and populous a place as Birmingham there should be only one institution where unemployed and friendless young females can be received, viz., the Roman Catholic institution adjoining the convent, where they are supported and taught useful employments until they can get situations. Young women, while temporarily out of work, are exposed to great hardship and temptation, in which only unusual firmness or good fortune may preserve some, from the want of such a place. I have known many such cases. There is of course the workhouse, but no young woman of spirit will go there, or is it desirable. Many would sooner fall into vice. I know no young female employed here who would enter a workhouse. Such institutions might well be made in some measure to support themselves, by making a person who has been received in them pay back a certain portion of her earnings when she has found employment.

578. *William Ennis*, age 17.—File forks, &c. Have the same hours and meals as the girls (*see below*). Work for the foreman of this (a small shop), and am paid by him. Here nine months, and was three years at a brass foundry, where I used to smooth, float, and burnish, working in much the same way as here. But I used not to have so good health at the brass trade, as brass is so poisonous. It used to get on my stomach and make me sick at my meals, and gave me headache, but not a cough. Used generally to drink tea and have dinner in the shop there. About a dozen boys not quite so old as myself did "similar work" there.

Was at day school from 5 years old to 13. Can read anything. Get a book from the Sunday school library, and read about the lives of people—kings and queens. Sums up to subtraction ; can write small hand.

[Face pinched and body stunted: looks three years beneath his age.]

579. *Thomas Smith*, age 13. — Go errands and help as I am wanted. Here three or four years. Went to a button manuactory at 7 years old. Am sure I was not the youngest. There were some not so high as that (about his elbow) who used to cob up for a shilling a week. Each boy was under a man, some under two men, each man paying so much towards the boy.

Was at day school till I went to work ; never at night school ; but have gone on Sundays, except when ill. Can read (but spells "very"). Never did any figures.

580. *Samuel Bull*, age 12.—Smooth forks, rubbing the prongs with borax, for a man who heats the tips with a blow pipe. Work under this man.

Here four months. Was at gun locks before for nine or ten months. There were 60 boys, some older and some younger than myself. The proper hours were from 7 a.m. till 6 p.m., but we worked till 8 p.m. for eight or nine weeks together, sometimes till 9 p.m.; that was the latest.

581. *Elizabeth Underwood*, age 14.—Buffer. My hours are from 8 till 7 the first two days in the week, and till 8 the three next (with half day Saturday). An hour for dinner at 1, and half an hour for tea at 5: have both in the shop here. A good many stay for their meals with me. Blacked buttons before.

Left school at 13. Can read, and write a copy, but not a letter. Did multiplication, but no other sums ; not addition.

582. *Ann Newton*.—Have buffed at this bobbin for eight years. Am now 22. It wanted carefulness at first. Have been troubled with very bad health ever since I can remember. Have not a cough except when I have a cold.

583. *Mary Ann Taylor*. — Colour plate with a mop and rouge, and have done so for five years. The flock, which flies off a good deal, gets in my nose, but I have no cough, and have a good appetite, and as good health here as I had before at service. Wear the handkerchief over my head to keep the dust off. The flock is cleaned away from the bench, &c. once a week. All here now has come since Monday (four days).

[The flock thrown off by the mop covers the bench, window, and everything near, in some parts to an inch or two in depth. It is very downy and soft, coloured with rouge.]

584. *Eliza Smith*, age 13.—Came here just before we all went to the gipsy party at Malvern, and have been to another since at Sutton (yearly holidays given by the employers). Buff with a stick, and when I have spoons "bob bowls" at the bobbin, and so do all the girls. We get more dust then than we do at buffing. Hardly ever well. Get bowel complaint. My eyes have been very weak for six months. They hurt only when I look at anything, but then they go all no how, and I can't see anything.

Never went to school on days.

585. *Henry Field*.—Foreman of a finishing room, in which females work as just described. Have generally about 20. Take them from 12 years old upwards. At first they run errands to the warehouse ; then buff at the vice ; afterwards go to the bobbins. They are not fit for that till about 17.

586. *Priscilla Tanley*, age 15.—Polish with the hand. We pull our frocks off in a dressing room, and put on our working dress. Wash in here.

Go to school on Sunday ; was never at any other school.

Birmingham District.

Electro-plate.

Mr. J. E. White.

b.

Buttons.

Japan.

587. *Catherine Green*, age 15.—Buff. Went to work at buttons when just turned 6, under my sister, who paid me 1*s.* 6*d.* a week. Dare say I was nearly the youngest there, but there were others as young. The hours there were from 9 till 7, sometimes from 7 a.m. till 8 p.m.

588. *Sarah Jane Burkett*, age 18.—Colour with mop and rouge, and have done so for two years. At work here six years altogether.

Before that used to put pearl in at a japan place. Had not so good health there, feeling sick and having the sick headache. Had to be away from work three times, for a week at a time, in the nine months that I was there. Think it was through being so warm, as I had to sit over a stove to have the work handed up to me.

589. *Harriet Rowe*, age 15.—"Plate," to cover any parts left imperfectly covered. Do this by rubbing the spoons, &c., with a baize pad joined by a wire to the jar (battery). Another girl does the same beside me.

590. *Joseph Fletcher*, age 17.—Engrave plate. Began three years ago, practising at first on waste metal. Go to a drawing school two nights a week to fit myself for the work. Get 18*s.* a week. Left school at 14, and went into an office for a short time.

MR. W. CORNFORTH'S, ELECTRO-PLATER, NORTHAMPTON STREET.

591. A long shop in which only one boy, an apprentice, is employed. There are several small boilers or vessels, suitable to the small size of the things plated and heated by gas, in which the plating solution is put for use, and which give out steam.

592. *Mr. W. Cornforth.*—Have read in books that the fumes of the cyanide of potassium are injurious unless they are let off. They are said to cause pains in different parts of the body, but I have never found anything of it. This shop is large; but it would be better if it were more ventilated, though I keep the windows open. Water gilding is still, I believe, carried on in a few places, and is very unhealthy. People are apt to get salivated at that.

593. *George Hardcastle*, age 15.—Here three years and a half. I electro-gild by putting the things into this stuff. Don't find any harm from it or feel any pains anywhere. My hours are from 8 till 7, with an hour for dinner.

Can read pretty well and did sums, but cannot write.

MR. JEFFRIES', MILITARY ORNAMENT GILDER, NEW HALL STREET.

Water gilding.

594. One of two or three shops up an untidy yard. Gold mixed in quicksilver is spread over the surface of the pieces of metal to be plated, giving them the appearance of silver, and the pieces are then placed in a sort of fryingpan over an open fire, something like a blacksmith's forge let into a projecting fireplace. As the mercury is gradually driven off by the heat, the gold remaining, a yellow colour gradually comes out over the metal in place of the white. The pieces are constantly shifted and turned with a pair of small tongs to keep them from burning, which brings the face close in front of the fire, enough so to cause visible perspiration on it. The pieces are also shaken over the fire in an open hat-shaped piece of felt. There are, I was told, several stages to be gone through before the article is finished, which I did not see, but which seem to be of a like kind. A second fire or small furnace is used for some of these.

595. The only three persons engaged wore green baize aprons, that of the boy completely covering him from top to toe, and the master wore gloves. A quantity of quicksilver was kept in a hole roughly sunk in the wooden work-bench, over which a number of loose globules were scattered. There was also a small open wash-leather bag with the amalgam, said to contain 3*l.* worth of gold, though looking quite white.

596. Dinner is sometimes eaten in the shop, by the youth at least, and there is no place for the boy but the open yard. What looked like dinner, covered with a plate, was keeping hot at one of the fires. Though I remained till some time past 1 the boy had not begun. The shop is immediately under one of another kind.

597. *Mr. Jeffries.*—Have worked at water gilding 20 years (looks between 30 and 40), and have had pretty good health. It affects the nerves, however, and you are obliged to be very clean in everything. Must keep turning the pieces in the pan like this to keep them from burning, also shake them in the hat over the fire. Always wear gloves. I think that washing mouths is gone clean out now, as there is so little of the work done. Should think that there are not a dozen places in Birmingham where any is done, but more in London than anywhere. It is for military work.

598. *Charles Sketchley*, age 13.—Am an apprentice, but have been here only two months. Come at 7½, and leave according to what time I have done; not ever late. Have dinner on the steps outside, not in the shop. Am well. Used to help father. Can read and write.

599. *George Anderson*, age 20.—Here seven and a half years, but not as apprentice. Help master; in no particular part; pickle also; can do anything. He mixes, but I know how to do it. Spread the quicksilver on the things with a brush; take one day with another do this for about an hour in a day, sometimes an hour and a half, and have done it for a couple of hours. Come at 7, or 8, or 9; seldom stay as late as 7. Also hold the things over the fire in the pan; the time is according to what they are. They want a certain heat, but I can always tell, because they grow a certain colour. They have to be put on the fire again several times, and brushed. Just give me a wash in one of the pots to wash the mercury off my hands in plain water before dinner; that's all. Don't reckon to have any dinner time; eat dinner in the shop or in the yard. Always keep my nails pretty short, like they are now, on purpose to prevent the metal sticking. If it sticks I use a brush, and also the pickle (*i.e.*, dipping acid), which is very good for getting it out. Always wear this green baize all over me. Never wash my mouth out. Very seldom feel anything of my mouth.

If I am ever ill it is with the sore throat (coughs). (Q. "Do you ever have any trouble with your teeth?") My teeth are all quite firm. Can't say what made me speak of "firm" particularly. It came into my head. Master never told me anything about it. It is not everyone's teeth that's firm. Sometimes have a loosened tooth or two. My arm and hand are quite firm; they never tremble.

Can read a little. (Cannot spell two syllable words. Reads "father as "after.") Have left Sunday school two years, but gone three nights a week for the last six months, but don't get on very well. Could not read at all before, but could tell the letters. Can count pretty tidy. Take 17 from 30 leaves—(Does not know). Manchester "is a seaport town, isn't it?" Cannot say whether people go most towards the sun-rising or the sun-setting for London. The sun rises "in the east, "don't it?" It is in the north in the middle of the day. No! it sets in the north. Should think

Birmingham District.

Water gilding.

Mr. J.E.White.

b.

that in the middle of the day it was "in the middle "of all of them." Don't understand a map at all. (*Map is explained by showing in book.*) If the sun rises here (*east*) he would go round that road (*north*) I should say. There is believed to be sea all round England. One country does join on. Am not sure whether it is a little bit of Ireland or a little bit of France. There is sea between England and Scotland.

600. I visited the very few other places in which I was informed that water gilding was probably still carried on, but these were not more than three or four, and on a very small scale, *i.e.* without any hired assistants, and only adults working. I was informed that the process was retained chiefly for military ornaments, electro gilding not suiting that purpose so well. Also the importance of cleanliness was stated.

MESSRS. J. SCHLESINGER AND CO.'S, GLASS AND EMERY PAPER MANUFACTURERS, GEORGE STREET.

Glass paper, &c.

601. The glass and emery is pounded in a mill worked by an engine, and sifted by girls and young women in hand sieves, during which process dust is constantly flying off in a light cloud; to guard against which the head and hair are covered with a handkerchief and the dress turned up to the throat, or something worn over the dress to protect it. So fine and light, however, is the powder, that it penetrates under the handkerchief, though closely twisted round the head, and whitens the eyebrows and even the fine down at the side of a young woman's cheek. In other rooms younger girls spread the powder on cloth or paper, first brushed over with glue by men. Dust flies off in this spreading process also, but in a far less degree. The mills in which the sifting is done are dark hovel-like buidings, and neither in them nor in the other rooms are there any means of guarding against exposure to the dust. Improvements, however, are contemplated, the present buildings being very old. Sanitary appliances seem greatly needed in this manufacture. The dust even penetrates from the mill into the office, though the latter has no window or communication in that direction. The bad effects on the health of the workers seem unmistakeable, the persons questioned, and whose statements are given, including nearly all the females engaged in the dusty parts of the work. A striking account of the injurious and fatal effects of this employment upon young boys engaged in it in London, as observed by an eminent London physician, is given in the medical evidence. (b. 751.)

602. *Mr. Joseph Nattan.*—The head of this firm, my cousin, a few years since, had 3,000 people besides in his employment elsewhere for some government work of another kind. The proper hours here were from 7 till 7; but the people agree to come at 6, so as to get a half-day on Saturday. In winter they are from 8 till 7. The women and girls who sift, &c. in the mill, are paid by the mill-man, who is paid so much a hundredweight for the material which he supplies, and the girls who spread the powder are paid by men in the same way. Emery is usually spread on cloth, because it is used for harder rubbing, and glass on paper. It is only part of the time that they are making glass paper.

I do not think that the employment is injurious. If it were I should suffer, being exposed to the same influence, viz., the dust, not only when I go amongst the work, but even as I sit here in my office, my own chest being also very delicate. If the wind sets from the mill the dust finds its way into my office, though entirely cut off, so much so that it has constantly to be wiped off. The windows, too, of the work places are open to carry off the dust as much as possible. We have however made arrangements for pulling down the factory and rebuilding it, and intend having several improvements both in ventilation and other ways. Instead of the present stoves in the rooms for drying the paper, which I think are not healthy, we shall have pipes, and the sifting will probably be done by machinery, but girls will still be wanted to guide the sieves.

It is very difficult to get the people to come punctually. We can get the lads on Monday, but not the women and girls, who are more giddy. However we are getting better of this now, and say, "If you will not come on Monday, you shall not on Tuesday." They are very unpunctual too at meals, taking perhaps an hour and a half for dinner.

We should have no objection whatever to any rules for the benefit of the young, if they were general. We shall be too happy to have any regulations which are for the general welfare. If it were not convenient to have young girls part of the time only, girls over 13 would do as well, and another girl or two could easily be taken on if wanted to get through the work.

As far as I know and judge from the competitors that we come across in supplying different parts of the country, we are the only manufacturers of the kind of any note in the kingdom, except in London, where I know of say three of importance, and there are also, I believe, two or three small. There were one or two small places in Birmingham, but their business is probably passing to us. It is carried on largely in Paris and Rouen, and in Germany and several places on the Continent. The foreign goods are sold cheaper, labour being cheaper there, but they are not equal in quality to the English.

When I came to England three years ago, being a foreigner, I was very much surprised at the ignorance and rough manners of the working classes here. This is a great pity, and I should be only too glad to have some establishment for instructing them. I attribute the great amount of dishonesty amongst them to want of education and moral principle. When this factory was in danger from an explosion and fire near it a short time back, I was struck with the want of courage, and indeed the panic shown by our workpeople, which they never could have shown had they been better educated. When I first came a woman who came to be paid surprised me by not writing her name. I said, "What does she mean? "Is not the money right?" Again, I had an intelligent lad of 18 in the office who could not write. I tried to induce him to go to Sunday school, and even offered him 1*s.* every time he went, but he scarcely ever would. He said that his father could not read or write, and yet was earning from 2*l.* to 3*l.* a week here, so he did not see why he need learn, if he could do as well as that without. I promised the lad a very nice place when he would bring me a letter written with his own hands, but without effect. This is not at all a singular instance, and many other manufacturers will tell you that they have had the same kind of answer.

603. *Eliza Talbot*, age 21.—Sieve glass. Have been here only two months, was at a button press before. Do not think this is healthy work; but do not know any who have worked here before; get 9*s.* or 10*s.* a week at it. Was at home last week with a very bad pain in my chest and the front of the head; had it before I was here sometimes, and went to the doctor, but have had it more since; indeed, have it here nearly every day. The pain in my head and chest begins as soon as ever I come here at 7 in the morning, and stays till dinner, and begins again as soon as I come back from dinner, and keeps on till 7 when I leave. Sometimes I can eat hearty, sometimes not a bit.

Always wash me at home before meals. The dust gets into my mouth and nose a great deal; can't keep it away, it flies so; a little gets under the handkerchief on my head. Pin my dress up to my neck in this way to keep it off me. Sometimes I can breath fair; sometimes not at all hardly, and am very bad. Sometimes feel as if I could go and sit down, as if I was a-dying, and am regular mythered in my head; at others feel as well as can be.

[Languid voice. Covered with dust.]

604. *Ann Gandley*, age 18.—Sieve glass and emery and slack. Have no pain. Have coughed a good deal since I came to this work; did not cough before. Cough most in the morning, very near every morning here; a very bad cough, two or three times running. It hurts me on my chest then. If I don't have breakfast before I come, I am very bad. Generally have my dinner here,—an hour.

Can tell my letters; I suppose not quite all. Was at school six months. Cannot tell what "fed" or "has" spells, or what London is. Do not know of the gospel: no, Sir. The Testament is a book they read prayers out of, I believe, but I never heard it read. Have been to a Catholic church very often, and heard them tell about the saints, and how to do in this world. Do not know about the Queen. Can't understand them things. Don't know her name. (*Asked further about the Queen.*) Yes! That one getting married; the Prince of Wales and the Princess of Alexandra. Believe I would know a primrose. It's a red rose like. (*Told it is a yellow flower.*) Oh! my! I thought it was a red rose.

605. *Ellen Gandley*, age 15. — Have sieved here for 12 months. Was at japan work before. Have good health; can breathe well. Have coughs very bad; have had for some time, 12 months I dare say, but not so very bad, not every time I am here; it doesn't hurt me. The dust goes into mouth. Could keep it out if I were to wear a handkerchief over it, but I could not do with that, and don't know any as do. Some gets under the handkerchief on my head into my hair. We knock it out as much as we can. Have my meals in here. There is a bucket, but I don't wash before dinner. The engine stops all dinner time. Have another sister here older than Ann, who sieves.

Can tell some letters.

[Works close beside the engine which pounds the glass in an open tray.]

606. *Catherine Noon*, age 19.—Sieve. Here three years. Have no pain, only in the side of the temple. Have not had cough; don't very easy catch cold. Am not often without appetite, but once or twice a week don't seem to care for anything. My throat is rather rough now, and was so all last week.

[Hoarse.]

Birmingham District.

Glass paper, &c.

Mr. J. E. White.

b.

607. *Harriet Haines*, age 15.—Here three months. Cover paper with glass and emery. Work from 6½ a.m. till 7 p.m. Am always well. Have no cough. Had a very bad cold in my chest last week; it did not hurt me very much; I was like hoarse. We three girls sit in here and have our dinner. Get 3*s.* a week.

Worked at a press for paraffin lamps before, and have smashed my thumb.

Can tell some of the letters. Was never at day school, and not much on Sundays.

608. *Mary Ann Norris*, age 13.—Here seven weeks. Draw sheets of glass paper. Have had a pain in my right side three weeks; only when I am carrying loads. Carry six buckets of coal up stairs here every morning from the bottom to fill the box. Had the pain sometimes when I was at a press cutting out spoons. There was a big ball at the end of the handle, and I had to hold my hand up high, this road (*shows*), to work it. It was hard work, and tired me me at times. Had not ever the pain before.

Clean the glue off my hands with hot water down stairs before dinner. ("Tell the truth now. You "don't," said another girl.) Don't always.

[Hands covered with glue.]

609. *Catherine Noland*, age 12.—Here a month. Same work. Get 2*s.* a week. Had pain in my back yesterday.

610. *Ann Smith*, age 17.—Cover glass paper. Hours are from 6 a.m. till 7 p.m. Meals in here. Am not strong in health, and have headaches very bad, but do not get colds or coughs. Here seven weeks.

Worked at blacking umbrellas before with seven or eight girls. The hours were from 8 till 7, sometimes till 9. In winter worked till 9 for three months.

[Sickly and weak looking. A girl of 10 does the same work.]

611. *Sarah Craig*, age 9.—Work from 6½ in the morning till 7 at night. Half an hour for breakfast, an hour for dinner, and have tea. At buttons till a week ago.

612. *Nathan Appletree*.—Brush glue on the paper. The dust is bad for the chest, but not dangerous. Have a cough, not much. Have been at this work nine years.

[The men at this work are comparatively little exposed to the dust.]

MR. THOMAS LANDER'S, GLASS PAPER MANUFACTURER AND JEWELLER, BARR STREET WEST.

613. *Mr. Thomas Lander*.—I do not employ any persons, but my sons, aged 19 and 16, help me in parts of the emery and glass paper making when they come home at night. Sand paper was my father's trade, and I began to work at it at 7 years old, but I do not think that it hurt either of us. If there is anything injurious in the work it must be in the glass which we consume, for it is consuming it. When I was a boy, to speak the truth, I must have swallowed pounds. Powdered glass is used to kill mice, but I do no not think that it is destructive to health. The dust is greatest in sieving the powder, which has been ground at mill, so as to separate it into different kinds according to the fineness. Most is inhaled in sieving out the first set, or the "flour," which is the finest; but in all parts of the work, including the shaking the powder over the paper, you are constantly inhaling dust, and cannot avoid it. The shaking the dust over the paper is a work which, even if I had a large place, I could never depend on a boy to do properly. Though I am now in bad health, being subject to general hoarseness and weakness of chest; which causes a sort of rattling, and in damp weather an almost entire loss of voice, I do not attribute this in any way to my employment, but to a weakness of constitution and inflammatory illness some years ago, which also seriously injured my eyesight. My main employment, however, is not glass-paper making, but jewellery. Sand or glass paper making was formerly carried on extensively here; but now the business is very small here, and its principal seat is London.

I am gilt-toy and plated jewellery maker, and have been engaged in this towards 40 years. Gilt-toy making includes brooches, ear-rings, pins, and cheap imitation jewellery of all kinds. The articles which I make and fit together of aluminium and other metal of inferior kinds, by means of tools, solder, and gas jets, &c., are sent to an electro-plater to be plated. I believe that the old method of gilding by means of mercury and heat is still carried on here to a small extent, though the greater part is done by electro-platers and gilders.

Jewellery is now a very extensive trade here. There are several large factories; I should say as many as 20; and in one part of the town, spoken of as the

Birmingham District.

Glasspaper, &c.

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"jewellers' city," nearly every door has the name of a master jeweller over it; and, in addition to this, there is an endless number of men who work for themselves as I do, or as "hard solderers," with one, two, three, or more helpers, in houses and small shops. I can form no guess of the total number in the trade. The regular hours in all branches are from 8 a.m. till 7 p.m., though in busy times work is carried on till 8 or 9, but, I should say, not later.

The health of jewellery workers depends very much upon the state of the place in which they work. A great deal of gas is used, and that is known to be injurious, and it is also very close work; but if a place is well ventilated, I do not think that that is very detrimental to health. The gas is the only part of the work which can injure the eyes. As a rule, however, the work is very hot. Each man has a gas jet and blow-pipe, and there may be 30 or 40 in one shop. The common jewellers and gilt-toy makers making larger things require greater heat, which is got by a large gas jet called a lamp, blown not with the mouth, but with bellows worked by the foot, which will give a flame a foot long, or more. I have stood over one of these for hours together. The work is thus very hot in summer, and even in winter when much gas is used. I think, however, that the people get into a habit of going in and out, between heat and cold, without risk from colds or injury to health.

A great number of trades in Birmingham are carried on in houses,—I should say, however, the jewellery and gilt-toy trade more than any, as much of the work is of a kind that may be done in a bed-room.

Women called "carders" take out buttons, hooks and eyes, steel pens, and, I have no doubt, many other small articles, from factories, and sew them on cards, and some have girls to help them. I knew one woman who kept as many as 11 girls, some as young as 6, and worked them very long hours. The regular time was from 8 till 7; but I have known them work from 6 in the morning till 9 at night, which is very long for little things. I do not know any women now who employ girls in this way, but I understand and have no doubt that there are women who do.

As far as I can judge, the trades in which children are most employed here are buttons, hooks and eyes, and common jewellery. Electro-plate work is a heavier branch, and does not take many young. But, as a rule, I believe that the young do not work excessive hours.

I have understood that the hours in the brush-making trade are from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., which prevents the young from attending evening schools. It seems to me that one of the chief benefits to be got by an inquiry like this would be fixing an early hour for leaving work, so as to enable those who wish to be in time for evening schools. One of my sons had an offer of a place in one of the best branches of brush making, but gave it up, as we wished him to carry on his education, which that employment would have prevented his doing, though it would probably have been more advantageous in point of profit than what he is now engaged in.

One of my sons, now 16, has been with a spectacle maker, and been working lately of his own choice from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. The proper hours are from 7 to 7, but an hour has been added to the evenings to make up for a half day on Saturday. Machinists, engineers, &c., work from 6 to 6.

MR. M'CANN'S, EMERY, ROUGE, &c. MANUFACTURER, LIONEL STREET.

614. These premises are at the back of a small court, on one side of which is a dunghill, on the other privies with the cesspools open to the air, and smelling offensively. The work consists principally of pounding the emery stone in a mortar, and sieving it after it has been broken into small pieces. The stone being very hard, the pestle is raised by a pulley, which seemed hard work for a youth of 19, the master's son, and guided by a boy, who, for this purpose, sits with his head immediately over the mortar and inhaling the dust, which settles on his forehead and in his hair. The only other person employed, the master's son, a boy of 12, who sieves, looked healthy.

615. *Mr. J. M'Cann.*—I sometimes employ a hand or two more, but never any under 12 years old. The hours are from 7 to 7, with two hours for meals, and are sometimes a little longer, not much. I do not make glass paper now. I make the rouge myself alone. Raising the pestle is very heavy work, and I think of getting it done by power. The stone, which is brought from the Turkish mountains as ballast, consists principally of iron with a little silver, and is, I believe, the hardest known except the precious stones.

616. *Moses Lancaster*, age 15.—Guide the pestle which pounds the emery. Have only come a fortnight. Before that I worked at blowing the bellows for father, who is a scale beam forger; and I also worked as a striker at the same factory. Before that I had worked in a casting shop. Am hoarse and have a cold, not in my nose or head but in my chest. It pains me there every time I cough. Cough most at night. Used to catch colds at striking and working late at night, and when I had done sweating, going out in the cold. Have left work there at 10 four nights together. The regular hours were from 7 till 7, but I more often left at 10. Had 2*s.* a week, and 2*d.* for two hours overtime.

Know the letters, but cannot spell. Go to Sunday school.

MR. T. SIMONS', EMERY AND GLASS PAPER AND CASTING POT MANUFACTURER, &c., JAMES STREET, AND NORTH WOOD STREET.

617. The materials for the emery and glass paper are ground by steam power at a mill at the casting-pot manufactory in Northwood Street, in which only adults are employed, except a girl who sieves the powder in a dark, cramped place, with no escape for the dust. The work is extremely dusty, covering the girl's face, arms, and dress. Her head, like those of the women engaged, is closely covered with a handkerchief. In consequence of some change in the arrangement of the premises, no glass paper was being made at the time of my visit, and the two boys usually engaged in it were absent.

618. The proprietor has also adjoining premises for ornamental painting on lamps and vases, but the youngest person engaged here was a youth of apparently about 18.

619. *Mr. Edward Lawson*, manager.—Two boys of about 14 are usually at work here with a man making glass, &c., paper and cloth. The man spreads on glue with a brush, one of the boys throws on the powder broadcast with his hand, and tips up the paper to spread it evenly over the surface, and the other carries it away and hangs it up. The two boys have been at it about a couple of years. No injury arises from the dust either in this or in the grinding or sieving.

The hours in all the three work-places are the same, viz., from 8 till 7, with a quarter of an hour for lunch, an hour for dinner, and a quarter of an hour for tea. The people very seldom stay overtime. If we are busy we generally get a few extra hands.

620. *Maria Welch*, age 15.—Sieve; am sieving

emery now. Have worked at this 3 years. Am not well. Have had a weakness in my stomach (*points to lower part of chest*) for the last three months, and sometimes a cough that hurts me. It is most in the morning. The dust gets into my mouth and I spit it out. My throat is getting better now. Get a wash at home, not here.

Can read, write, and do addition. Was at school till I came here.

Birmingham District.

Glass paper, &c.

Mr. J. E. White.

b.

[Her voice was hoarse. She was said to be probably a more favourable specimen, as regards education, than the women would be.]

GEORGE STREET MILL.

621. This is a nest of small shops on different floors, in which steam power is let off from an adjoining gun and sword factory, and used for various purposes. It is probably a specimen of many places of the kind in Birmingham, used, as I am told, for grinding, polishing, &c. of different sorts. I have seen one or two others, but less confined. There are here altogether seven separate shops and tenants: viz., three silver and electro-plate polishers, a pearl shell grinder, a glass cutter, a razor grinder, and a tube drawer; the latter two being men who work alone, the others employing a boy or two, and one a girl, or not, as it happens to suit. One, however, who, as I am told by one of his fellow tenants, has a boy "when he will stay," said that he never had a boy, as one was not suitable for the work. But another shop here of the same kind has a boy. Most of the shops are just boarded off, two or three of the smaller being the size of mere pantries; the approaches to all dark and confined, and the shops themselves excessively dirty. In one passage the shoulders almost touched the two sides. A very strong and disagreeable smell from the pearl grinding reached over the partition of that shop to other parts.

622. The hours of work are peculiar, and the same in all the shops, being dependent on the hours for which the engine in the adjoining works runs, viz. from 7 a.m. daily till 6 p.m. Monday, 7 p.m. Tuesday and Friday, 8 p.m. Wednesday, 9 p.m. Thursday, and 2 p.m. Saturday. When, however, the engine runs longer, or through the night, in the adjoining works, as it has done for long periods, any of these shops can avail themselves of it, as indeed has been done.

623. *George Cadby, jun.* Silver and electro-plate polisher.—We run very irregular hours here (*as above*). Sometimes longer than these hours, till 12 and 1 a.m., but if the engine in the factory runs beyond the time at all it generally runs all night. This happens when they are busy rolling gun barrels, and if we are busy we embrace the opportunity. Last Christmas they were very busy. At one time, about then I think, they were running night and day, at least five nights in the week, for I should say three months. Have worked myself here from 7 on Thursday morning till 2 on Saturday, and from Monday morning till Tuesday night, or like that. We keep a boy, but not for work, only for errands; his proper hours are from 8 till 7, with an hour for dinner. He is in here about 4 hours in the day, and has four miles to walk home. There are our two selves, a man, and a woman, but our business ebbs and flows very much.

Plate polishing.

624. In the next shop (Mr. J. Newey's, Pearl Grinder,) are employed by the master two or three men (one of 20), a woman, and a girl of 14. Across the only gangway up the shop is a horizontal band at the height of the chest, but the girl is not tall enough yet to strike it. Clouds of dust fly off as the shell is sawn by the master, who always wears a handkerchief over his mouth, &c., coughed and spat frequently, and finds the work very injurious. The others grind, &c., the grindstones, however, being wet, and not causing visible dust or spray. A great amount of refuse shell, litter, and dirt lies about.

Pearl grinding.

625. *Mr. John Newey.*—My work is sawing and grinding pearl shells into flat smooth pieces for japanners, veneered cases, &c. Always wear a handkerchief over my mouth, but cannot stand it over my nose. Even so however it gets in. It is very injurious. Have great difficulty in breathing, and sometimes can't get my breath at all. The fact is, when the dust chokes up the pipes of our lungs it is sure to cause that. For about two years, not longer (he is elderly) I have had this cough, and can't get the better of it. Have no chance when I have swallowed so much dust.

626. *Robert Ashforth*, age 20.—Grind pearl on a stone, and finish it. Have been at it, in mills in different parts of the town, five in all, since I was 8 years old; 9 years in this mill. Used to stay at work till 10 sometimes, and at others till 11. I'd got to stay. Once worked from 7 one morning right on till 5 on the afternoon of the next day. Am middling for health. Outgrew my strength, and my hip was growed out, and the joint was stiff. Have got a bit of a cough now.

[Coughs. Tall, fair, and delicate looking.]

627. *Anna Ashforth*, age 14.—"Robert (brother), "do you know my age?" Grind on a grindstone, and leave when the mill stops; on Thursdays 9 p.m. Have stayed till 9½ and till 10, but not very often. Home to dinner. Have my tea, half an hour, very often my breakfast, in here. Did not notice any smell when I first came here a year ago. Am never away poorly. Ground my fingers on the stone at first, and made them bleed.

[Graceful in look and manner; fair and delicate. Looks altogether out of place at such work in such a shop.]

628. In the next shop (Gold's, Glasscutter) I was told that no boys worked. A boy of 12, however (*Richard Vickers*), was there, "come to help his brother." He was standing over a wheel, not then at work, dabbling in the putty mixture which he had been putting on the revolving brush for a man. His left shirt sleeve was turned up and his arm plastered entirely over up to the shoulder with the putty mud, which was splashed also all round. The position in which he must have stood to get so much putty, though convenient for the use of the right hand in feeding the brush with putty, must have been the worst that could be found, *i.e.*, as near behind the brush as the board placed there allowed him to get, and therefore greatly exposed to the spray, as shown by the state of his arm. He had worked at a small flint-glass house, in which were four lads in one turn and one in the other; and also at guns. He could not spell.

Glass cutting.

629. In the next shop (Hannan's, Silver and Electro-plate Polisher) I stumbled against a step, falling forward nearly into an unguarded band.

630. *James Cord*, age 13.—Just come. Polish on a wheel. Was at jewellery before, with six or seven other boys, and worked from 8 till 7. Was at day school only a fortnight. Cannot tell the letters.

Birmingham District.

Pencils, &c.

Mr. J. E. White.

b.

MR. W. E. WILEY'S, PENCIL AND PENHOLDER MANUFACTURER, GRAHAM STREET.

631. The greater part of this manufactory consists of a large room on the ground-floor, capable of holding 300 workpeople, open to the glass roof, well ventilated, clean, light, and cheerful. A curious complaint was made of cocoa wood, as bringing out a rash; not, however, in any part of the work of the younger.

632. *Mr. W. E. Wiley.*—The work is so regular that a limitation of hours would not interfere with it at all. If there was more than the hands could do in the time I should put on more. There is no gain whatever in overwork; but the men themselves prefer it to having fresh hands in to share the earnings. I should prefer earlier hours than the present, which are from 8 till 7, and have tried to get them, but the people will not come regularly. One way in which I tried to enforce regularity was by making any one who came an hour late leave an hour earlier, and so on in proportion; but it had no effect. The hours which I should like myself would be from 6 to 5 in summer, and from 7 to 6 in winter. I wish that children up to a certain age, say 13 or 14, should be at school. Parents should be forced to send them. The plan works well in Prussia, and it is nothing to say, that people would not like this in England. It is the duty of parents to regard the welfare of their children, and, if they neglect it, their objections to compulsion are no more entitled to be regarded than those of persons who commit wrongs of other kinds, or than the objection of a thief to punishment. They cannot expect to find their children grow up to respect them if they do not educate them. If this were carried out it would be better than any supervision of factories, though it is true that it would not provide for the case of boys and girls over that age till they are grown up, and perhaps some additional law might be necessary for them; but it must be universal, or the manufacturers who were restricted could not compete with those who were not.

But what is of much more importance than the question of the length of work is the state of the work-places. Greater injury is done by want of ventilation than by overwork. A girl could work 15 hours in a well ventilated better than 10 in a badly ventilated place. Some Turkish baths of mine adjoining, which in the six months in which they have been open have been used by over 5,000 persons, have given me great opportunities of observing the injury done by close hot work-places. A number of young fellows have come in consumption; and from inquiries which I generally make before they take their baths, as to how they have come into their bad state of health, I have found in very many cases indeed that they have worked in fancy trades, principally jewellery and gilt toy work, and in many cases in crowded shops, in which large quantities of gas are in constant use for the work. Some of these shops I have understood to be about 30 feet by 9, and 8 feet high, with as many as 30 people. When people have worked in a hot, close place, they become very susceptible of cold, and are afraid of any air, and will not have windows open. The warmer they make it, the warmer still they want it. Here we prop the ventilators up, so that they cannot shut them. Those who have worked in cool places have no objection to windows and air. Often girls coming here to ask for work, seeing the room so large and open, have said that they were sure they should never like such a cold place, but they have come to like it very much.

These works have been built only two years, and are roomy and ventilated; but if I were to build afresh I should bestow still greater care on these points, and especially on the proper introduction of fresh cold air from the ground. It is of no use having a number of outlets unless there are enough inlets also in other parts. The sitting space allowed here is 24 inches for each female, and 26 for each man. The room will hold 300, but there is never that number in it, as in many cases it is convenient for the same person to have two places in different parts of the work, sometimes working at a bench, sometimes going to a lathe.

A knowledge and opportunity of the proper use of hot and cold water would be of as great use to the working classes as anything could be, and it is very desirable that facilities for bathing and washing should be given to all employers of large numbers, which would allow of their availing themselves of them for their workpeople at the lowest cost price.

633. *Mary Ann Hewitt*, age 12.—Scrape penholders and screwed pencils. Work from 8 till 7, never later, and have an hour for dinner. Some girls stay here for it. Am never poorly hardly. (Looks so).

Can read and write, and do multiplication and subtraction.

634. *Mary Jane Dowling*, age 12.—Solder with gas and a blow-pipe.

Can spell a little. Have only been at day school six weeks, except when I was quite little. Go on Sunday sometimes.

635. *Elizabeth Swain*, age 18.—Only come to-day. Soldered small rings for four years in a hot shop and very close; they used a great deal of gas, much more than here. Did not suffer much till lately, but have been having very bad headaches, most at my work, and also in the morning.

636. *Ann Keightley*, age 14.—Polish bone pencil-holders on a steam lathe.

Worked at a paper factory in New Hall Street, from 8.10 a.m., till 7 p.m., never a minute later. Should think there were 100 girls there. Left because they wanted me to go out to their paper mills at King's Norton, and father said it was too far for me. It was five miles. Some of the girls went.

Left school at 12, paid 3*d.* or 4*d.* per week. Can write and do sums.

637. *Frederick Beesley*, age 13.—Solder pencil cases. Cannot write. Can do sums. One is "mortification." That is the name, or something of the kind. You make two rows of sums and reckon them up.

[A boy of 12 could read and write; a boy of 11 could read a little.]

MR. J. MORRIS'S, ELECTRO-METALLURGIST, MARKET STREET, COLESHILL STREET.

Miscellaneous.

638. *Mr. Timothy Morris.*—I have two distinct branches of manufacture carried on upon the same premises, in shops made out of the rooms of two dwelling houses, viz., that of philosophical instruments and that of carriage furniture. I employ six men, one woman, and seven boys, one under 13 years of age, the remainder under 18. The work is chiefly filing, turning, and fitting. The casting I give out to different small employers, and the polishing of boxes to women who work at French polishing. The hours of work are from 8 a.m. till 7 p.m., with an hour for dinner and half an hour for tea, and about a quarter of an hour for the "eleven o'clock," which is taken by the people like boat horses, as they go along, *i.e.*, they eat and work. Taking the year through we make overtime, but are fairly regular, unless on exceptional occasions. Lately we made half the time over for a month together. In the three weeks before the Prince of Wales' wedding I had work for that and also for some Australian

and shipping orders, and we worked from 5 in the morning till 11 and 1 at night. When the work was done I gave the people a holiday and a dinner, but they said that they did not want such another week. They like overwork for a short time because of the money, but they do not like to continue it long. At another time lately I had to work from 4 a.m. till 9 p.m., to get some railway carriage work ready for the Queen's journey. There have been plenty of times in which there has been work from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. ; indeed I have worked the night through. At the busiest time I left the work merely just to lie down, leaving some one to superintend, as long as the people could stand it. At such times however I contrive, if possible, to let the lads go home by 10. It is not possible in all cases to do this, as part of the work consists in blowing a fire. But in such a case I let a boy give up when I see that he wants to drop off, and try to make a change. If I were to keep them beyond a certain time the parents would cry out, and besides, the boys could not do it. The young ones have never stayed all night, but one or two a little under 18 may. In times of pressure I could not obviate the need for overwork by employing more hands, as they would be new ; or by giving work out, as my work is of a peculiar kind, and requires my own superintendence. Some of it is concerned with electric wires. Besides, workpeople have a great objection to taking new men in, and a foreman that I had would much prefer to work longer himself. On the occasion of the Prince's wedding, if I had been restricted from working at night, I should have had to give up either the wedding or the shipping orders. Either would have been a great loss. Such cases are however exceptional. If any restrictions were imposed there would be a little inconvenience at first, but arrangements could easily be made to meet it ; people must give longer notice for orders.

I am well acquainted with Birmingham and its trades, having lived or been engaged in these premises 33 years. The principal trades in which females are employed are buttons, pins, hooks and eyes, eyelets, steel pens, paper boxes and cards, &c., spoons, French polishing, &c. In other metal wares men and boys are chiefly employed.

The usual hours of work are different in the different trades. In most of the heavier metal trades, as iron founding, machine making, engine, lathe, and press tool fitting, carpentry, joining, and all building trades, coach building, curriery, and some others, the usual hours are from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. In the majority, however, they are from 7 or 8 a.m. till 7 p.m., till 8 on Friday, and till 6 on Saturday. Where there is a half day on Saturday, as is the case in many of the large places, but in few of the smaller, it is usually made up during the fore part of the week. In most cases there is an hour and a half for meals, *i. e.*, breakfast and dinner, or dinner and tea, as the case may be. These are considered the legal hours at most places, large and small alike, which people expect to have to work wherever they are, and beyond which they expect the time to be counted as overtime. At small places, however, the hours are less strictly observed, and workpeople are allowed to suit their own convenience more, coming in late if they please, and making it up by staying later. This is much the case among out-workers.

A great amount of work is carried on indirectly by factors and so-called manufacturers, who do not employ any persons directly on their own premises, but give out orders to small employers, and in many cases supply them with the materials. The articles, wherever made, must be brought in finished by a certain time, either the end of the week or the time needed by an order. As they have to pass through many different stages, each conducted by a different person, the labour being subdivided into nnmberless branches, they often do not reach one who performs the later processes till some way on in the week, even if the person who does the first beg'ns work at the beginning of the week. But if, as often happens, this man keeps "St. Monday," and goes off on some amusement, the work of the others is thrown still more on the end of the week, not reaching the second perhaps till Wednesday. This was very much the case formerly, the business being, as it was said, "very hand to mouth," and fell fearfully hard upon the lads. It was as common as possible to work all night on Fridays. In one branch of carriage furniture work I have done so many a time. I remember well when I was about 15 or 16 what a glorious thing lucifer matches were for me, when they first came out, and could only be got at one place, and that for 8*d.* a box. I used them to get up by, at 3 or 4 in the morning, to make overwork, instead of striking with flint and steel till I could not see.

At the time that I was working so I was going to the Mechanics' Institute at night from 7 till 9, every night in the week except Saturday, and I continued this, so that during the whole of five years my name was never among the absentees. I had not at first meant to attend more than two nights a week, but I became attached to the master, and was also ambitious to win a silver medal, as one of my friends had done ; and I succeeded.

The practice, however, of such late and irregular work has now very much diminished, in consequence of people becoming more enlightened and the work more systematized. I believe that it does not occur unless for pressing orders. Still it does exist to some extent, especially in small places. It arises, however, merely from a defect of system, and is quite unnecessary, and ought never to be allowed to take place. I see no difficulty in preventing it, by improved arrangements and giving longer notice. Of course if I were not to think till Monday what I should want on Tuesday, that would make a press ; but I always keep some stock of what is likely to be wanted on hand. The long work is no real gain even to the workpeople, as there is less for them afterwards ; and even the money which they get is not as advantageously spent.

There is scarcely any metal work in the town, as far as I am aware, except steel-pen making, which is not carried on in whole or part in small work-places and shops as well as in large, especially such work as filing, &c. My premises were first this house only, then I took on the next, and now live away to make more room. In many of the small places there are only a dozen or half a dozen or still fewer boys. As a rule, the youngest workers are in the smaller places, as it is by the cheapness of their labour that the small masters are able to compete with the larger. These small masters are men who work themselves, but for some reason do not wish to work under any one else. My belief, however, is, that the number of very small masters of this kind, employing from one to half a dozen persons in a small shop, is giving way, and that work is done more in larger places, employing 20 or more, the men who were small masters taking more to working out themselves for larger employers. In this neighbourhood a very large proportion of the houses had a small shop attached, indeed there were few without, and it was very common to see notices put up "House and shop to "let." In a street close by here there were five such houses together. Now such notices are seldom seen, and as old premises of the kind are pulled down, they are not replaced in the same way, but larger houses are built, *i.e.*, three-quarter houses, or houses with two extra rooms, instead of single houses. Of two such shops close by here, one is now empty, the other has only one man in it.

This change is like what has happened in Coventry, where watchmaking and weaving was done in houses. Now there are factories for watchmaking, and I have dealings with several ; and steam power is used in the houses or ranges of house shops. Houses are built in what are called "steam squares," with an engine in the middle from which power is let off. A man takes a house with power for so many looms,

Birmingham District.

Miscellaneous.

Mr. J. E. White.

b.

say three, and pays 2*s.* 6*d.* a week for each loom. This is what has ruined the trade more than anything else, as people without means are tempted to go into it, merely paying for the use of a shaft ; and as they must pay the rent whether the loom is working or at play. Much work, such as polishing silver, plate, steel, &c., what is called "polishing for the trade," is done in the same way in Birmingham in shopping in which steam shafting is rented, and three or four persons work in a place so small as only to have standing room, and without any ventilation.

The lowest class of the young are probably employed in mills for rolling, &c., nail cutting, and places where steam power is let. Pearl button making is one of the lowest of girls' employments. But the general character and education of the working classes here has much improved of late years, and a good many now can read. I am quite satisfied that even in the mills more could now be found able to read and write than amongst the more respectable classes of workpeople 20 years ago. Many go to Sunday schools, but these do not carry them far enough, and, at any rate, not beyond reading. The Unitarian Sunday schools are the only ones that I am aware of in which writing is taught ; it was given up by the Wesleyans 20 or 30 years ago. I have, however, known rare cases of persons, of course of considerable energy, who got their start in education in Sunday schools and completed it in the Mechanics' Institute without any other means of instruction, and could name two who have done so sufficiently to fit themselves for good positions, which they now hold.

My men wished to work from 6 to 6 and leave at 4 on Saturday, giving up the half hour for tea, instead of working their present hours ; but they were very irregular in coming early, as they had consequently to stay later than the others to make up their time, it in effect lengthened the hours for which the place had to be kept open, and I had to return to the old plan.

639. *Thomas Cooper*, age 11.—Blow bellows, "pun" dust in a mortar, &c.

Was at day school two years, but left when 9. Could read better then than now, (only knows the the letters). Can write my own name, but nothing else. Cannot tell what 3 times 3 is. Went to Sunday school a long time ago. At chapel they told us all manner of things, *i.e.* about God, and said that "them as is wicked shall be worshipped," that means, shall all go to hell. Adam was a good man, Isaac ditto ; Christ was a very good man and said He would give the people all sorts of things. They said He made pears and all fruit, and also that He was crucified, only I forgot that now when asked ; I could not understand or hear very well what they said.

640. *James Grey*, age 15.—Do woodwork. Can read a little, cannot write a letter to any one ; can do division. Did not do so high as "How many 2's are there in 8 ?"

THE METROPOLITAN RAILWAY CARRIAGE AND WAGGON COMPANY'S WORKS, SALTLEY.

Railway carriages.

641. Very large works, covering 13 or 14 acres of ground, and five acres under roof, and employing between 1,200 and 1,300 men and boys. The work is chiefly carpentry and smiths' work ; with painting, in which boys are not engaged. Owing to the great amount of space, pure air, and muscular exercise, free from exposure to weather, with great regularity of work, it is probably as healthy an employment as could be found. So punctual are the hours that the porter who received me broke off suddenly to ring the dinner bell at 1 o'clock, and within a minute boys were rushing out. The appearance of the mechanics, who passed by in an unbroken stream for five minutes, was very favourable. Some boys in a foundry had ungrimed faces.

642. *Mr. Henry Brown*, manager.—There is a rule against boys being employed here at all under 13, because it is thought that until that age they should be at school. About a tenth of the whole number are between that age and 18. I should be glad if there were no boys : they are very troublesome. The hours are from 6 to 6, and till 2 on Saturday, with half an hour for breakfast and an hour for dinner ; and all the times are very punctually kept. Monday probably does not make a difference of 30 out of the whole number. We set our faces strongly against any irregularity, and any one persisting in it would be discharged, not perhaps on that particular account, but on the first occasion, as a person whom we do not care to employ. Being a mile or so out of Birmingham we are more free from the force of custom in this respect. It is very rarely that there is any work after 6 : if there is, whether boys stay or not depends on whom they work for. Our people are a sober and respectable class. The piece-workers engage boys subject to our approval. The youngest are mostly brought in by parents or relations, or as sons of some of the other men at work, as it is considered a privilege to the boys, affording them the opportunity of becoming regular workmen.

The machinery consists chiefly of saw mills, lathes, and drilling machines. Some of the latter are attended by lads, none however, I should say, under 16, and a few assist in the saw mills at handing and carrying off wood. The machinery of the lathes and drills is overhead, that of the saws under the floor.

The shops are all large, lofty, and airy, and the ground drained ; and the work altogether, with the exercise, is, I should say, as healthy as possible. There is a mess-room, with cooking apparatus, for such as choose to take their meals in the place, and their breakfast and dinner are warmed, or whatever is wanted is done.

A library was established on the works six or eight years ago by Messrs. Wright, the late proprietors, from which books could be taken away ; but it was found not to be much used, and could not be made self-supporting, though the subscription was, I believe, only $\frac{1}{2}d.$ a week, to pay for the rent. The same was the case with the Adderley Park Library, close by here, of the committee of which I was a member, and which had a good museum and reading-room, and good lectures also, and the subscription to which was, I think, 4*s.* a year. The result was very discouraging, and the place or lectures were scarcely used at all by the class for whom they were intended. Now both libraries are made over to the Corporation. At the time, however, that these libraries were started, the penny newspapers were not in general use. We take in newspapers for the men, and they read them out to one another in the mess-room at dinner or get them perhaps at home, and that is about as much as they seem to care for.

The carriage-works of the London and North-western Railway Company, employing probably 400 or 500, adjoin ours. Some other works of the same kind near (Brown and Marshall's), employ probably rather more, and there are some waggon-works smaller. At all the hours are necessarily uniform, as the men would insist on the same number of hours for the same pay. In addition to these there are some works near Manchester, and a waggon company at Gloucester, and one or two scattered about the country ; but no others in the kingdom, except the works of the principal railways, chiefly near London. It is only the larger companies who have such works ; *e. g.*, only one of the Irish companies has works of its own.

643. *Thomas Rhodes*, age 15.—Wheel coal, get ashes out, &c. Was at Brown and Marshall's works of the same kind before. There were plenty there younger than I was then (13) ; some at about 11.

Get 6*s.* a week here. If I want 1*d.* of it, mother gives it me.

Was at a village school till I was 12 years old, when I went to farm work. Read the newspaper at home at night, and can write a bit. Have written letters so that any one could understand them. Did two or three sums, but left school soon after I began. Go to Sunday school every morning and afternoon, but not to a night school.

[Fresh complexioned, strong looking, and intelligent.]

644. *George William Wallace*, age 14.—Fetch iron, &c. Am paid by the pieceman 5*s.* a week. Was at a rope-walk before. (*Account given separately*, b. 656.) Know some letters, not all. Ain't been at school so much; about a month altogether. Father used to take me on and off. Don't know what he used to pay. He works here and gets 18*s.* a week. Go on Sunday sometimes; don't miss more than three or four Sundays together.

[Ragged. Said to be, as he looked, one of the least favourable specimens in the works.]

Birmingham District.

Railway carriages.

Mr. J. E. White.

b.

MESSRS. M'CALLUM AND HODGSON'S, PAPIER MACHÉ MANUFACTURERS, SUMMER ROW.

Papier maché.

645. The greater part of the persons employed here are adults, and, as well as the boys, seem of a superior class. Part of the work, that of cutting and shaping the rough material, which is made for the best goods by pasting together sheets of paper, and for other qualities by compressing pulp,—a distinct work done elsewhere,—seems to resemble that of cabinet makers, and presents no peculiar feature. The remainder of the work consists in japanning, painting, and ornamenting in various ways, as by cutting and putting on mother-of-pearl, gold leaf, &c., and polishing, chiefly with rotten-stone or the hand. The rooms in which some of the females work as japanners and painters are hot and close from the stoves in which the articles are placed to dry, and which open by large doors a few feet behind the workers. The heat and vapour make it difficult for one unused to them to stand close to the stoves when opened, but they are said not to be injurious. The ornamental painting, in which two or three boys (one of 11) were occupied with the men, is of the same character as ordinary painting; but, as it is of a delicate kind, the paint is used in but small quantities.

646. *Mr. Edward Henry Hodgson.*—There are about half-a-dozen papier maché manufacturers in the town, of whom we are the largest, and I know of none in the kingdom out of it. Our trade is mainly foreign, but the seasons for different countries, as Canada, America, Northern and Southern, Russia, Spain, &c., and our own, follow one another in such a way that the work does not vary much, and we can keep pretty well to the hours. We have not a half day on Saturday at present, but it would be very nice both for master and man, and I should be glad of it. The japanning is very healthy work, on account of the tar and varnish which is used. Painting is supposed to be injurious, but we have not traced any ill effects to it. One of the painters is consumptive, but naturally so. The effect of paints must depend upon the colours used. Some of the green has verdigris, but most of it is emerald green. The soft white is white lead.

647. *Mary Parkes.*—Have japanned here eight years, and 11 or 12 in other places. Began at 15, which is about the age at which girls often begin. In other places where I have been there have been stoves close behind, as there are here, and I have put the work into them and taken it out in the same way. The warmth has suited me, and I have always had good health.

648. *Kate Richards.* — Polisher here 11 years. Came when 10. Come at 9 or 8 in the morning, and have not stayed later than 7½ or 8. From 8 till 7 are the regular hours.

649. *Selina Coles*, age 15.—Not at school except on Sunday, since 8 years old. Can read, not write.

MRS. ———'S, JAPANNER, ——— STREET.

Japanning.

650. A small shop in a court or yard, in which the mistress, a grown-up daughter, a son 12 years old, another boy of 11, and two girls of 12 and 13, japan metal buttons. The two girls sit at the end of the shop, close to the stove or oven, which forms the end of the shop, and makes the wall against which one of the girls sits quite warm, and heats the shop. When the doors of the stove are opened to put in the buttons to dry, the shop is filled with a cloud of smoke and vapour from the stove, which smells strongly. The spirit used by the mistress to clean the japan from her hands was effective.

651. *Mrs.* ——. — We work no set times, but generally from about 9 till 6 or 7. It would not do to work too long at this; it would over hot us. The smoke does not injure any one, but is very healthy. The work is very light, like play. The girls get 2*s.* 6*d.* a week. We can clean our hands in a minute, as white as yours, by washing them in spirit (*shows*), which costs more than the best varnish.

652. *Charles* ——, age 11. — Live at home with mother. The parish have stopped her allowance now, and my eldest sister has a very bad foot. One Sunday her was drunk and kicking up a noise, and fell off the doorstep, and her ankle fell out. Her used to bring home men with her. My next sister is about 15. Her's awful. Her swears awful at mother, and mother don't like to hear it, and says that some night the devil will come in the house to fetch her. Her learns it off some of the bad girls. Her goes to clean the bad girls' houses every day but Sunday, and has gone for two or three years.

I have never been at Sunday school or any other except a long time ago. They put me right through my A, B, C. I could go on with 'em now if they would tell me the next (letters), not without. (Cannot.) I never was in a church or chapel or heard any one preach or pray. Mother don't say anything about it. We had a Bible, but it had to be sold. It's a great big thing, and aint got nothing in (*i.e.* no pictures). A reader, the "track" woman, came round once, and said that it was a Bible and good. I do not know who Christ was, or if He was a person or a man, or who made the world. After people die they go into heaven, everybody, the bad the same as the good. No one told me about heaven, except when father died long ago mother said that he was going into heaven. The place where the bad people are is heaven. The devil is a good person: I don't know where he lives. He puts 'em (the bad) in a great big fire.

653. *Mrs.* —— (*continued*).—The boy knows nothing. He was never taught nothing, and his mother never thinks of nothing. Her husband was a steady good man, and owned all that shopping, and a good few working in it, and when he died seven years ago left it to her as well as a lot of money in the bank. But she took to drinking and made away with it all, and now she looks the poorest creature, and has not a thing to stand up comfortable in. All has had to be sold. She says it is her daughters that made her drink by their behaviour. The two eldest are such that no one will have anything to do with them. Their brothers

Birmingham District.
Japanning.
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have families of their own to consider, and would not have such girls, but one of them has taken care of the third sister. I would take the boy, only I have so many children of my own to keep, and my husband earns so little, only 9*s.* or 10*s.* a week, that I cannot.

654. *Mary* ——, age 12. Keep this working dress here to keep my frock clean. Find the place hot, but do not get the headache or feel sickly. At school for a fortnight once, but never at a Sunday school. Can spell (words of two or three letters).

[Names purposely omitted.]

——, JAPAN BUTTON MANUFACTURER, —— STREET.

655. *Ellen* ——, age 12.—There are nine of us children at home. Father and mother sleep in one room, a strange woman and her three children in another, and we children in the attic. It is a house in a yard, with three rooms, a kitchen, a room, and the attic. My oldest brother at home is going 21, the next going 16; my oldest sister at home is 15, and till last Christmas my eldest sister, going 19, slept in the same room. Three sisters and a brother here take home, on the average, each 2*s.* 6*d.* a week; and my two brothers of 16 and 21, and my sister of 19 are all out at work, my sister at jewellery, my eldest brother at guns. Father is a labourer. We get flesh meat every day except Friday, but do not eat it then. We don't any of us go to school; we haven't no clothes. Mother tells us sometimes to go. Father never teaches any of us; he goes out about 9 in the evening.

[Name purposely omitted. The house was spoken of as having been even more crowded by additional lodgers.]

ROPE WALKS.

Rope walks.

656. *George William Wallace*, age 14.—(Now at the Metropolitan Railway Carriage Company's works). Worked at Wright's rope walk, close by here. There were, I should think, 300 (Qy. so many, J. E. W.,) lads, besides men, some of the younger 9 or 10 years old, and some on 'em 7 and 6, that high (*pointing low*). They all came the same times as the rest, *i.e.* from 7 till 7, never later. Breakfast was called any time, we just had it and began again, perhaps stopping 10 minutes; we hardly had it. Dinner was half an hour, and we took about that time. Turned a wheel and twisted. Knocked off if it was wet. Got 2*s.* or 2*s.* 6*d.* a week. The little uns got 1*s.* 2*d.*, some 1*s.* or 9*d.*, according to their work. A man paid me and all. Didn't get knocked about.

657. *Henry Gregory*, age 16. (Now at Nettlefold and Chamberlayne's Screw Works, Smethwick.)—Worked at a rope walk in Birmingham. Never stayed later than 6 p.m., because the master—the head, not a foreman—used to go off drinking, and his son as well.

Can read and write; can read music too, and play the cornet. Learned out of a book of my own head.

MISSES LYNDON'S, MILLINERS, &c., BATH ROW.

Dressmaking.

658. As I was informed here, five girls under 18, the youngest about 13, were employed here as apprentices at the time of my visit, but there are more at times, but not younger than 12 or 13. The usual hours are from 8 to 8, and in winter from 9 till 8, with an hour for dinner and half an hour for tea. Work was said to be very seldom carried on later, except perhaps on Saturday night. The terms and period of apprenticeship vary in different cases, according as premium is given or not. Finding, however, that my informant was only an assistant, and not, as I had supposed, one of the principals, who were absent, I made no further inquiry as to the apprentices or their work-places.

MR. HENRY WILMOT'S, PAPER BOX MAKER, NORTHWOOD STREET.

Paper boxes.

659. Two rooms, small, and smelling of paste, in a house up a clean open yard; but open gutters running down the street outside, and heaps of refuse raked up beside them. Thirteen girls, two boys, and four women work here pasting boxes.

660. *Mrs. Wilmot.*—We make paper boxes for goods of all sorts, buttons, drapery, jewellery, &c. It is jewellery in the summer that causes the greatest press of work, and we work late most nights then. The regular hours are from 8 till 7½, and till 4 on Saturdays. When we work overtime, which is for six months in a good year, it is till 8 or 9. The hands seldom come before 8, but if they do it is at 6, and then they stay till 9 for a week together, if possible, but not more than about two weeks in a year. When they come at 6 they take breakfast as they like, there is no fixed time for it. Sometimes they work over in meal-times, but not often. Most go home to dinner and stay tea. There are not, I believe, more than two or three paper box making places larger than this; many are quite small, the work being done by families.

661. *Alfred Miles*, age 11.—Here three years. Have the headache very often in summer, sometimes all the week. Feel very sickly, and very often don't eat. It goes off me sometimes and sometimes it does not. Am always better after I am sick. Have been in this way two years more or less, I dare say. It's the hot weather as makes me so. When I have got a cold I am short of breath, and it hurts me here (chest). Can speak louder than I am speaking now. Made boxes before at another place with some girls, others made brooches and did press-work.

Can read the Testament without spelling some words and can write a little bit. Can do some sums, but don't know the names of any.

[Pale and languid. Thin voice.]

662. *Emily Wilkinson*, age 15.—Here five years. Work from 8 till 7½, sometimes from 6 a.m. till 9 p.m. but not often. Get about 2*s.* a week.

Was at day school some months, and at night-school sometimes. Can read pretty tidy,—a newspaper. Never did any sums.

663. *Emily Rathbone*, age 13.—Linked up guard chains before. Worked from 8 till 7, sometimes till 8.

Can read, write a little, but not sum much. Got a prize at home for going regularly to the Church day school.

[Pale. Has a loose cough.]

MESSRS. BALDWIN AND SON'S, PAPER MILLS, KING'S NORTON.

Paper mills.

664. A spacious new factory standing amongst fields, and said to be the only paper mill in the neighbourhood, the nearest being at Tamworth. The paper is made by steam power. In this department men and boys are employed in day and night sets. A number of women and girls, said to be about 50, who however had just left at the time of my visit, are employed in a large airy room in making up paper bags, &c., by hand on blocks.

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665. A small house with a shop in a very objectionable yard behind. Close before the back door was a pool of stagnant gutter water, the sink being temporarily choked; other water streaming down from a wash-house. In the yard were other workshops in a dirty state; one with an ash-hole beneath it. A boy works with *aqua fortis*, and a hired girl nurses a baby, in the small living room of the house, chairs in course of finishing being piled round, and meals eaten in the middle. The *aqua fortis* has, after only a few weeks' work, almost destroyed the boy's clothes, as well as discoloured and caused sores on his hands.

666. *Michael Morgan*, age 11.—Rub "acky" on the chairs to make them brown, and dry them by the fire to burn it in. Sit close by the fire to do it, and take off my jacket and waistcoat, because it makes me sweat all the time. That sore on my finger is where I burned me. A red hot ember fell on me as I was holding a chair to the fire to burn it in, and the acky gets in and makes it smart. It is the acky too that burned the nail from my thumb end, and stained my hands so. My thumb pains me. Wash at the pump, but can't get this yellow off. These great stains on my clothes are also from the acky, and the large patch is where the cloth was burned away. Sometimes upset the acky, but it dries in. Come at 6 in the morning and sometimes at 7, and leave at 7 and 7½ at night; from 7 till 7 is my right time. Dine in the room here, and stop work an hour. Get 2*s.* 6*d.* a week. The two masters with a man make the chairs in a shop in the yard, and the two mistresses cane the chairs in the room where I work, and a strange girl minds the baby there too from 8 till 7.

HALES OWEN.

Hales Owen. — Nailers, &c.

667. Hales Owen is the only town on the direct road from Birmingham to Stourbridge, and lies about half way between them. It has a few small factories for buttons, gun barrels, spades, &c., employing but a small number of young people. The most important sources of employment for men and boys are the mines and iron works, lying mostly towards Dudley. There are also several brick works in the neighbourhood. The principal employment of the place however is the wrought nail manufacture, carried on in small forges adjoining the homes of the greater part of the cottagers, and to a great extent by women and children. These are dark, cheerless, untidy places, and sometimes unhealthy from the dampness of the ground; but the air is pure, though hot. The work seems not injurious to the young in itself, but often becomes so from the exhaustion produced by the length and irregularity of work in a hot place, with poor living.

668. While I was in a cottage where I found a boy with a bare foot bandaged up, lamed by a burn in a spade factory, a sound of many voices singing swelled gradually near, and the boy, limping on his stick to the door, cried, "Oh! mother, there's the nailers coming; many a thousand of 'em," and there passed by a crowd of several hundred men, women, and children, singing a hymn, of which two lines, contrasting strangely with their look and errand, were,—

> "And not a wave of trouble roll
> Across my peaceful breast."

They were coming from the villages near Dudley to hold a meeting in Hales Owen, to see if they could "get out" the nailers who were "working against" them there; their strike having already lasted 11 weeks. "It's heart-breaking work," said the woman. Amongst the many children in the crowd were two little boys, apparently 6 years old, or not much more, dragged along by the hand by a woman, probably their mother, foot-sore and lame from their march. To see such infants made to take part in a strike, and march miles to swell a meeting to spread it, was a sight which gave but a poor idea of the consideration which they are likely to meet with in their work at home.

669. *Ann Wood*, nailer, Hales Owen.—My husband was a nailer here, and very stout till two years after we were married, when he caught a very bad cold, and the inflammation settled on his lungs, and after being ill of consumption and asthmatical for 10 years, he died. He caught it from standing on the wet floor in the nail forge, which was new and not drained. Nailers' shops are generally on the ground, and not paved, but it's according to the ground they're put on whether they're very damp or not. Ours was very wet, being on a kind of "cat brain," *i. e.*, piece of wet sand, and it's always wet where that is. We had it "soughed" afterwards, when it was too late. We could not see the floor; it was all like a pool, and we had to cut a hole under the sill to let it run out, and dug a hole in the floor like a well to let it run into, out of which we have carried as much as 26 buckets one Sunday morning. My husband was very near at death then, and could work but very little afterwards. For the last four years he never did a week's work. It's dangerous to stand on the ground a many hours, and it's the regular way for nailers to get a "sloth," a block of wood sunk in a hole, to stand on. My husband put a sloth, but it rotted away.

Some nailers begin at 5 and 6 in the morning, and work till 10 or 11 at night. We, *i.e.*, my daughter, between 16 and 17, and I, are only two poor weakly creatures, and don't work longer than from 7 in the morning till 10 and 11 at night most of the week through. It's always nearer 11 than 10. I reckon to have about half an hour to breakfast, an hour or an hour and a half to dinner, and an hour to tea, because there's the children to be fettled; but her (the daughter) sometimes begins sooner. When our little boy worked with us, he always worked as long as I did. He began when he was about 11, and could work well by when he was 13. There's many a score put to work at 6 and 7 years old, if they have a father in the shop, and can "act pretty gain." He builds them up a "standing" with boards, so that they may be able to reach, but they waste as much as they make, and cannot make many hours a day at first. The large work is hot, but small nails are nicely, though anyhow it's close and hot in summer.

We send in the nails into Netherton by the carrier, who brings back the iron at 2*d.* a bundle. We get paid in money, but now the masters want to take off discount, and we have all been at play 11 weeks because they bated the nails the 10 per cent. After a nailer has paid for firing, wear of tools, &c., he does not get more than 16*s.* to the pound, even when the full 20*s.* to the pound is paid. There is about 2*d.* a week for the shop. My house and shop are 2*s.* a week; some are 2*s.* 2*d.* and 2*s.* 6*d.*

What hurts me most now, having been brought up to school myself, is that I cannot send my children to school, even on Sundays, as they have no clothes, and that I cannot go to worship myself. My husband left me with seven children, four too young to work.

The eldest boy, now 14, works in a spade factory near, and gets 6*s.* a week. The next, 12, began nailing at 10, but when father died we could do no

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good with him, and I was obliged to put him out to the same place, where he has got burned, and is now at home lame. It is a very bad place indeed, as large as half-a-crown, but the boy is that stupid he will not go to the doctor, for fear he should hurt him. I'm afraid he'll be obliged to go. There's no knowing how long the burn will last.

670. *Jonah Wood*, age 12.—Work at a spade factory near, at striking and filing, and doing other little jobs. The regular hours are from 6 to 6, but sometimes we go at 5 and 4½ a.m. Have gone at 4½ a.m. and stayed till 7½ or 8 p.m. Get 3*s.* in a full week, but no more for overtime. Have half an hour for breakfast and an hour for dinner, but no tea till I get home. There are about seven boys and four men, and moulders.

A week ago I was filing, but standing near the anvil, and a "gleed" fled on to my boot. The man hove me up and put me into the "bosh" (box of water), but the gleed burned me very badly under the ankle.

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671. *William Tether*, nailer, Hales Owen.—Began at 8 years old; am now 40. Some of my children work with me, but my "missis" hasn't made 5*s.* in the last 10 months. She can't stand it. It would be a very good thing if there was a law to do away with women's work. But those that are stout enough make nails; it is the most regular work for them about here, as there are scarcely any factories to take the women and children. The women with strong constitutions make big nails, and children little nails. The biggest bulk of all the people about make nails, but some men go to iron works and coal mines.

A nailer's usual day is from 5 or 6 a.m. till 9 or 10 p.m. That is many hours for a man to be stiving up in a hot shop, but some work till 11 or 12, or later if busy or the master wants the work quickly. We nailers work just the same hours in winter as in summer, working by the light of the fire, from which the screen is then taken off, and of the iron as it is worked. Some men buy their own iron to work, but some masters will not allow this, but make the men take iron from them, the value being reckoned off from the nails. This gives the masters more claim on the men as to the style of work, &c., than if a man works up his own stuff. My employer comes in three miles to his warehouse here on Saturday to weigh, and carries on from about 11 till 4 or 5. Others weigh from 9 till 6, or so, and some weigh twice a week. Many nailers are on the strike now against a further reduction in pay: 2*s.* have been taken from the 1*l.*, and now it is wished to take 2*s.* more. It is hard getting only 8*s.* instead of 10*s.* Some children begin at 8 years old, but I should say not many before 9, and most at about 10. I should not like my little boy there, now 5, to begin before 9, and he shan't if I can help it, but if I am anyways obligated he must. He is but a little mossel, and if I were to get that little creature to work, I should have to get a scæffold for him to stand on, to reach, and with that it would be like murder-work, as you may say. They don't like to put children to a full day's work at once, but at first a child will begin at breakfast time and knock off at 3 or 4 in the afternoon, for a few months, and then add an hour, and so on, till the second twelvemonth, when he works perhaps from about 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., and can then make perhaps 2*s.* a week, not a halfpenny more. But for the first twelvemonth a child is no profit, and spoils four bundles, *i. e.*, over 2 cwt., of iron, besides damaging the tools. It's a sight of trouble teaching a little one, and you have to keep looking off your own work; but they are very particular at a warehouse now, especially with children's work, and if it ain't done well they won't take it.

When children first begin work there is not one out of 20 but what knocks up, and has to stop and go out. It is like a fresh job, and don't agree with them. It is pretty healthy, but you can't stop in the shop long in the summer time, always being by the fireside, and the work being always hot, though not so hot as it is for the puddlers in iron works. But if it was not for the window, and the wind coming in, we could not stand half, or a quarter, what we do; and as it is we're all of a melt and sweat, and have to go out for half an hour. But in summer the little ones, being afore the fire all the time, sweat so till it runs down their faces like anything. Then they fret more with the learning, and sweat more,—fret wonderfully the little ones do. I did so myself when a little one, and even when a big one (grown person) frets he's bound to be warm and sweat. When the children get out in the evening they're as glad as can be to get out and wash their faces, and be down the street. But plenty of times they knock up quite, and don't come back for three weeks or a month, or it may run to two months. I've often said, "Well, you had better go out a bit;" and when the child comes back he will perhaps be worse than ever next time, and look as white —, and have to go to bed sick bad, and only be able, perhaps, to get a little water. It's not much nourishment that a nailer can get. After all it isn't the work that hurts them so much, if they had enough to put into their bellies. If I knock up, as I have done many a time, it's no use for me to go into the house to look for half a pint of beer, because it ain't there. My son there, 14 years old, knocked up for three weeks together. He is growing fast, and has had to work harder than many of them.

He comes in at 6 in the morning, and carries on till 8 at night, stopping half an hour for breakfast, about three-quarters of an hour for dinner, and half for tea. On Friday and Thursday we perhaps work half an hour later, but even on those days we are forced to stop at dinner, while we eat, but we don't hinder no time over it; a quarter of an hour, or perhaps 20 minutes, but that is as much as you do. Them as work later on Friday and Thursday, as till 11 or 12 at night, get up later, so that it brings it to a balance. A man may perhaps work on even into the morning, because the master wants the work two or three hours earlier. But they cannot work much longer, and the young ones knock off at 9 or 9½ p.m., though they (parents) carry them on as long as their strength lasts; but it's no use beyond, but as far as they can they are partly obligated to work. I have worked myself plenty of times till I have had hardly strength to reach up to the door, or to put one leg before the other to go down the yard home, and think it time then to give over, for that night however. My daughter, going 18, is supposed to be in here for about the same times as my son; but she has to go in and help mother at times, and has more to do on Monday, and on Saturday has to clean up after her work here, so that she has not done often till night; and I think she has more hours altogether than the boy, but they are more broken, and she earns less. It's a great many hours in a day (6 a.m. to 8 p.m.), and he has to work hard all that time to get 11*d.* or 1*s.*, and there is the wear of the tools, the cost of firing, and something for waste iron to go out of this, which takes off altogether 2½*d.* or 3*d.* When the nails are taken in and weighed an allowance is made for waste of 6 lbs. of iron in every bundle of 60 lbs. given out to be worked up, which is the regular weight of bundles; but there aren't many times as we can do with so little, and not one in 100 ever makes less, so we are always satisfied if we can make it even; this has been proved often by weighing the slack and waste. If the iron is not good, *e.g.*, if there is a crack like this, you cannot make a good nail without more welding, which causes more slack, and makes it necessary to put on fresh iron. This takes more labour and more material, and so costs us more. But I blame no master for requiring good work, and always try to make my own and my children's work as good as can be. I can "speak better" then, if there is occasion, but I get no chance if I know that I make bad work, and of course it is the same with the master and his customers.

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Besides knocking up from ill health, the young ones sometimes knock up from being lamed or burned, and more so when they begin, as they do not know so well how to go about the work. They may get a bit of red-hot iron in their shoe, and that of course will burn alarming. They often burn themselves one way or other, perhaps a time or two in a week, either so, or on the finger, or with a flash in the eye. A nailer can never be sure from one minute to another. Four years ago my boy, then betwixt 10 and 11, and not having begun long, got two pieces of the iron in at the top of his trowsers, and before they could be got out they dropped and catched his leg, burning two wounds, each as big as the face of my hammer (*size of a crown piece*), and the scars are there now, and always will be. He played nine weeks for that, and cost me a sovereign for doctoring, besides losing his work, about 2*s.* a week, so that it made it a 2*l.* job about. He has got a dreadful wound on his hand now, from a burn done three weeks ago. If it had been his hammer hand he could not have worked at all.

It is quite right that the young ones should not work so long as they do, and should have some teaching. I am certain I should like my children to have an easier time of it. My boy is not (*i.e.* properly) able to do what he does. Four of my five children go to the Church Sunday-school. At the "treat" next week, given to those who attend that school, there will be from 900 to 1000. The number is usually about 970. They do enjoy that day. Two of my children are in the churchyard, and I think they are perhaps as well off, for I don't know how they would live now, and perhaps they would run at a snag's end, like many others.

672. *William Tether*, age 14, son of last witness.—Went to the night school in winter, and was just put to writing. Can read (does).

[Delicate. The scars on his leg are very plain, and the burn on his hand still bad, and bound up. His sister Maria, aged 17, who works as a nailer, could read but little.]

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673. *James Price*, age 13, nailer, Hales Owen.—Make nails for father in this forge, and began two years ago. Work from 6 or 7 in the morning till 7 or 8 in the evening, sometimes not so long, but we don't work regular. Stop half an hour for breakfast at 9, and an hour for dinner. It is very hot work.

Didn't go to school long. (Can scarcely spell). Heard about Jesus Christ, at the Church school, but it's so long since that I've forgot about Him. Do not know whether He did miracles or wonderful things, or how He was killed, and have not heard of Noah and the flood. Jesus made the world in six days. The Queen has a name; it is "Prince."

[This boy, whose face is grimed with black and streams with perspiration, though he works near the open door, looks well, but his father is pale and wan.]

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674. *Mr. Edward Moore*, Hales Owen.—I am a magistrate here, and was for 20 years surgeon to the Stourbridge division of the Hales Owen union. In the whole of this division, which includes 10 townships or hamlets, nail making is the staple work, in fact is "endemic," as is the case over the greater part of a district of full 20 miles in length, and of from 5 to 10 broad, *i.e.*, from near Wolverhampton to Bromsgrove, and including Sedgeley, Dudley, Hales Owen, and the other intermediate places.

Some years ago, at Dr. Farr's request, I collected and supplied him with various statistics of the nail trade, and information as to the condition of the nailers in this district; but the scattered nature of the employment made it difficult or impossible to give a complete account.

There is another nail-making district of the same kind in Shropshire, in the neighbourhood of Wellington, of several miles in extent, but the employment is not so universal in that district as in this, and I have not been acquainted with it for some time past.

Nail making is carried on in precisely the same way throughout this district, *viz.*, in small forges adjoining or near to houses, and is done principally by families working together, the children beginning very young, it may fairly be said from 8 upwards. Indeed getting the children to work very early is the only possible means by which the nailers can live, and in a nail-making district a large family is thus an advantage, more so probably than is the case where there are other employments. I have often been told by the men that they must work very hard, from 12 to 15 hours a day, to make 12*s.* a week, and that a woman must work very hard to make 5*s.* I have not noticed any special effect of the employment upon the health, and should say that it is not injurious. Though the forges are hot the air is not vitiated, and the work gives muscular exertion; and I should say that the children do not work long enough to exhaust themselves. As a class, however, nailers do not look healthy, but thin and ill fed, and are not well developed. The misfortune of women working is that they cannot attend properly to their families, and their children suffer in consequence. The children become independent early, and marry young, very few working for their parents after 15 or 16, even girls then taking their own stall, and paying their parents so much for living.

The great evil of the trade is the "tommy," or truck system. Cases have come before me as a magistrate, but not many, and convictions have been still fewer. There is great difficulty in proving the facts. Some stringent law, *e. g.*, a provision that no buyer of nails should be allowed to keep or be interested in a shop for general goods or beer, is needed to check the practice. It is injurious to the working classes, who get much less return for their work, and it is also unfair to those masters who pay in money, some of whom may have invested large capital in the trade. Those who do not pay in money, are enabled, by their profits on their other goods, to sell the nails at a cheaper rate. It is not, however, easy to make the workpeople see how they suffer by the practice, so far at least as not to expose themselves to it. The real cause of their submitting to it arises from their own improvidence. Some will "weigh" two or three times a day, just to get food for their immediate wants, working a few hours, and then taking the nails to a shop and getting food for dinner in return, and work a few hours more and weigh again. Some of the shops buy nails, and retail provisions and also beer. Respectable nail buyers weigh only at fixed times, once or twice a week, and pay in money. The principal cases arising out of the nailing employment which are brought before me, are where men are summoned for not bringing back the proper amount of iron which has been given out to them to work up.

Within the last few years the nailers have begun making rivets and pins for railways, but in just the same manner as nails. There are also a few miscellaneous employments for boys and girls here or in the neighbourhood, *e. g.*, a few small factories, some brick yards, work outside coal-pits, &c. Mines and iron works are coming nearer. The opening up of new employments is a great advantage, but the nailers seem to prefer their own work with all its drawbacks, perhaps on account of the freedom from fixed hours of work and from other control of large work-places. Some large iron works near offered to take any number of men that could be sent with a good character. About 50 were sent, but though they made more money they soon gave the work up.

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675. *Rev. Henry Fisher*, curate of Hales Owen.—Our population is from 6,000 to 7,000, of which about 4,000 lies together in the town and the remainder in hamlets and scattered groups of houses. The staple manufacture of the whole is wrought nails and rivets, but there are a few small factories, &c. Speaking roughly, I should say that there are about three gun-barrel factories, employing together from 200 to 300 persons, men and boys; half-a-dozen spade factories, employing together 50 or 60 persons or more; three button factories, employing together about 150 persons, principally women and girls; two or three brick yards and a pot work, employing together 50 persons or more. There are large iron works just out of the parish, and several brick yards in the neighbourhood. Numbers of men living here are occupied in coal mines, iron works, &c., at a distance, and others in odd work, as sawing, bricklaying, &c., which those works give occasion for. This probably leaves a large proportion of nailers to consist of women and children.

The brick-yard work always strikes me as the most objectionable for the children, who go to it at about the age of 10 or 11, as it looks very heavy, and is also dirty. They carry lumps of clay on their heads, and I have seen girls with their hair with clay sticking in it, and one can hardly tell a girl from a boy by the general look.

The nails, rivets, &c., are made in small shops attached to or near the cottages. Nearly all the small houses are built with one, but the shop is sometimes used not by the family but is let to strangers. As a rule, however, the family only, or a portion of it, work in their own shop, though sometimes another girl may come and work in a man's shop on her own account, paying a small sum, perhaps 6*d.* a week, for her "stalling," *i.e.*, work standing, fire, &c. The rent of a whole shop is about 1*s.*, I believe.

The children begin nailing very young. I have seen some at work apparently of not above 7, others 8, and many at 10. There are no fixed hours of work. The work has to be finished to be taken in to the warehouses and fresh iron fetched on Saturday, sometimes on Wednesday also. Some have to walk one, two, three, or more miles for this, or else to pay for the carriage of the nails and iron. Little work is done on Monday, and in fact as a rule it is a holiday; and if work does not go in till Saturday the idler ones do not do much on Tuesday either. To make up for this work goes on late at the end of the week, it may be till towards midnight on Friday. There are however exceptions in the case of steady men. I do not think that as a rule the children work so late, because they could not stand it, and also their work is of little value, and is independent of their parents' work. There is little work done on Saturday. After the work is taken in, and at night, there is a great deal of drinking.

It is difficult to get at the nailers' earnings, but I believe that an indifferent man will get about 9*s.* or 10*s.* a week, a good one 15*s.*, and a horse nailer 20*s.* or over. Besides the regular nail masters, there are two other classes of buyers: the "molly trucks," who keep a gin ship, and pay in goods, but sell nails in market on their own account like nail masters; and "tommy trucks," who pay in goods in the same way, but sell not in market but only to the nail masters. The profit made by their paying in goods enables them, as I understand, to sell the nails at a cheaper rate than they can be sold by the nailers direct to the masters,—I have heard from nailers, as much as 10 per cent. It would be more advantageous of course to deal with the masters only direct, but the improvidence of some of them compels them to take the other plan. They are probably the irregular men or inferior workers whom the regular masters do not care to employ. The children get easily independent here, often by 13 or 14. I consider the great evil of the place to be this, and the practice of women working, which causes them to neglect their families, and loosens the bonds between parents and children.

As a class the nailers are more ignorant than the miners. They are not wanting in intelligence, but are rough and untaught. Large numbers of adults cannot read, and few can write. There is a good national school here, which has done a great good, and Sunday schools also. But the two hours a week at these, though better than nothing, will not allow of enough instruction to educate. An evening school was tried, but few could be got to come; after working all day they seemed to have no inclination for learning. Before Christmas there was an average of about 40, and after of about 20. At the mother's meeting here, which works well, out of 80 about 50 could read a verse of the Testament in their turn. These, however, were probably the younger, best disposed to improving themselves. On Monday afternoon there are classes for reading and writing for the girls and young women in button factories and at nailing, when off work, and these are well attended.

STOURBRIDGE.

Stourbridge.

676. Under this head are here placed not only the town itself, which is comparatively small, but also the immediate neighbourhood, chiefly to the northward, which is very populous, and almost exclusively mining or manufacturing. This district in fact forms the southern point of the larger mining and manufacturing district which includes, as some of its principal places, Birmingham, Dudley, Wolverhampton, &c. It is one of the principal seats of the glass manufacture in the kingdom, having as many as a dozen flint-glass works, besides a sheet glass and a bottle glass manufactory. This employment is described in the evidence on glass. There are several large iron works, chiefly in the direction of Dudley and Wolverhampton, the furthest southward being within a distance of four or five miles from the town of Stourbridge. The remaining staple manufacture of the district is fire-clay and brick work, distinguished as "white" and "red;" the former being of the kind used for furnaces, glass and casting pots, baths, &c.; the latter for common bricks, tiles, pipes, &c. Much of this work is carried on in buildings by means of stoves, engines, &c. Some of the clay is obtained from a great depth by means of shafts, in the same manner as coal, and worked by engines. Some of these shafts were said to be nearly 600 feet deep, and the horizontal passages to extend to a great distance. There are also some very large works, with extensive machinery, (those of Messrs. Watkin and Co.,) for manufacturing iron implements of various kinds, from which, however, the workpeople were absent on the day of my visit: but one of the principals, whom I saw, expressed himself as much interested in the objects of the inquiry. A parchment manufactory which I visited employs a few youths.

MESSRS. E. BAKER AND CO.'S FIRE BRICK WORKS, MOOR LANE, BRIERLY HILL.

Bricks, Fire-clay, &c.

677. Some girls and women were engaged in "drawing a kiln," *i.e.*, taking out the baked bricks. A kiln is sometimes too hot to be entered at all, and the people are obliged to wait. This was warm at the door-way, and like an oven inside, where some stood, the others forming a line to hand or rather toss on the bricks, two at a time, from one to the other, to a cart outside, where they were being packed.

Birmingham District.

Stourbridge.

Bricks, Fire-clay, &c.

Mr. J. E. White.

b.

A small girl of 12 (b. 805), forming one of the line, struck me by the earnest way in which she was doing her share of a work which certainly is heavy for a child, as a slight calculation shows. The kiln, containing 17,000 bricks, of 7¼ lbs. each when dry, was to be emptied by 10 persons in a day and a half; *i.e.*, this girl had to catch and toss on to her neighbour in a day of only the usual length a weight of more than 36 tons, and in so doing to make backwards and forwards 11,333 complete half turns of her body, while raised from the ground on a sloping plank. The plank is said not to be needed all the time. When called down by me she was panting.

678. This, however, was not her regular work; but the work which had been exacted from her at another place when 10 years old is astonishing, involving often 15 or 16 hours of heavy work daily for long periods continuously, with very scanty and few meal-times. Her energy of manner and evident love of work, and her utter absence of all tone of complaint, were remarkable; but the contrast between her hard bodily work and the pictures called up in her mind by the mention of "angel" was still more striking. She was small, but healthy looking, and though ignorant very intelligent.

679. *Mr. Thomas Wheat*, yard-master.—My duty is to give orders, see that the work is done, give any that need it "the sack," &c., and manage the work. The hours of work are from 6 a.m. till 6 p.m., and there is seldom any overtime for the girls, though the men who fire the kilns work at night. Some of the girls, most of about 15, carry off for the women who mould, one to each, and are paid by the 1,000, or about 10*d.* a day. Others of about 14, 8*d.* a day wenches, carry away bricks from the stoves, others, or young women, fill carts. I believe that the hours of work, quantities to be made, and wages paid, are the same at all the white-brick works, which lie over all the neighbourhood in a district of about seven miles across. In the red and blue brick works, which are much more numerous, and in which the work is rougher, they get "munched" (badly used or worked). They have to do more work, *i.e.*, 2,000 or 3,000 bricks in a day, and also temper the clay with the hands and feet. Here the material is ground in a mill and mixed also. This country would be no use if it were not for the children. The work could not be done for the price, and the trade would go somewhere else. Many of the little wenches do more than the big ones.

The "pages," girls, come for about an hour every Sunday morning to turn the bricks. They would stay ever so long if I did not send them off. The bricks would not be spoiled if they did not come then, but would be dried only on one side, so that the work would be hindered the next morning. So it is for their advantage that they come, as they would not be able to go on so well on Monday otherwise. In iron works they work Sundays and nights.

It is pretty healthy work. They are all under cover, which is the great thing, and are always running about. They are always singing. If there is anything new in the way of a song they are bound to have it. They are generally pretty steady, but in such works as this, where the wenches are all in rucks together, they are cheeky. If any, however, misbehaved in any way with the chaps they would be dismissed. Some are butty colliers' daughters, and have got money in the bank. Those who are at the carts can read the numbers of the bricks on the cards, or if all cannot, some of the youngest can for them. I think that all the young go to Sunday schools. The clergyman is often down here.

In addition to the brick yards, we have clay pits. Two are like mines, 190 yards deep, and running under ground half a mile. All who work in these are men, except two boys, who go down with them at about 8 a.m. and come up at about 4 p.m., and have an hour for dinner. They have a house down in the pit, and have hot dinner sent down every day. We are very strict with the men, to avoid accidents, especially in having careful engineers. If they were not steady, men would soon be drowned at the "sump," a kind of reservoir into which the water is drained, to be pumped out every morning before they can begin work. A man was nearly drowned so here last week, and one was drowned at a place near. A mine agent comes two or three times a week to survey. There are laws and bye-laws by Act of Parliament, I believe, to be observed, but not the same as in coal-pits, as there is not the same danger.

680. *Ann Elizabeth Powell*, age 12.—Carrying bricks is my regular work, but to-day I am "drawing" a kiln. Get 6*d.* a day. Have an hour for dinner, and eat it here. Am only just come.

Went to a red-brick yard near, at 10 years old. No girls worked there but me and their own daughter. From 6 to 6 was the regular time, but they used to make me go there by 5 a.m. and stay till 8 p.m, for a fortnight, sometimes for a month together. It used to be as the missis told us. Have worked there till 8 every night, going in the morning as early as 6, for four months together. Did not stop for tea when we worked till 8. Had a quarter of an hour for breakfast and half an hour for dinner; did not work in that time. My work was carrying bricks and heaving clay. I carried enough clay for four bricks on my head, and for two in my arms. My head used to ache, but not my back. Got 4*d.* a day, and the same when we stayed till 8. If we had worked till 12 it would have been just the same, but I never did so late as that, though I have often worked till 9 and 9½ on the light nights in summer. Have done so for two weeks together, going at 6 in the morning. Never got beaten, and never got tired, not when staying late. I hope I never shall get tired of work. My mother always brought me up to be a good worker.

Was at a day school a little bit. Don't know all the letters. Don't know what an "ox" is. (*Asked of* "ship.") Yes; about our place they keep a many of them. ("Ship" *explained not to be* "sheep.") No; don't know what it is, or what the sea is. Father reads the Bible out, but he only comes home once t'a week. An angel is very pretty. I wished I was an angel. They live in heaven. I hope I shall be one some day, and sit in Jesus' lap. To be one I must behave very well.

681. *Annie Holt*, age 12.—Am a "page," *i. e.*, roll clay in lumps, and bear them off if they are little. Am working now from 6 till 5 or 4½. Bring my dinner here, and eat it anywhere about the stove. Don't clean myself before, because us have to work after. We always swill the spottles off us faces before we go, and when we get home we wash in the yard. Keep a pinner here to work in, and leave it anywhere on the (warm) floor, where it will dry. It is always dry by the next morning. Put on shoes before I go. Get 5*s.* a week. Sing at work here many a time.

Go to the ragged school on Sunday. Never did any sums. Five times 11 is 55. Have not heard of France or London. The Queen's name is Mary.

682. *Elizabeth Lewis*, age 19.—A moulder. Here 6 years. We don't work above 12 hours.

Cannot read, at least hardly none, but can tell all the letters. Have not heard of Scotland. Don't know which way it is from here, north, south, east, or west. Am sure I don't. Don't know what a whale is.

683. *Jane Grosvenor*, age 17.—Cut my finger off two months ago at the press under which clay is put. A girl was turning the screw above, and thought I was ready when I was not, and turned it down.

[The stump of the finger is stiff and awkward, and is said to be "in the road," *i.e.*, way, so that she must have it taken off to the bottom if she can get a recommendation to the hospital, which she has not been able to do yet. Looks an adult.]

Birmingham District.

Stourbridge.

Bricks, Fire-clay, &c.

Mr. J. E. White.

b.

MR. R. NORTH'S, RED AND BLUE BRICK WORKS, BROCKMOOR.

684. Girls carry out lumps of clay on their head and in their arms from where it is thrown out tempered by the engine to the moulders out in the yard,—a considerable distance. A girl of 16 was carrying at one time enough for eight bricks, *i.e.*, 80 lbs. The place where they take up the clay was so dark that I could not see. A shaft, part of the machinery, crosses at the height of the head. The girls looked very healthy, though very rough and unmannerly. One big girl was sprawling on the ground; others, when asked questions, only laughed. Two, of about 17 or 18, when asked if they could read, ran off laughing, saying that they could not stay; one not having answered simple questions in figures, *e.g.*, 5 times 3.

685. *George Hawthorne*, foreman in charge of the brick-yard.—We make all kinds of work, drainage pipes, pipes, tiles, quarries for flooring, bricks, &c. In a great many places steam is used for grinding the clay, and it is also used for moulding the bricks. Two or three of the boys here work at the engine which grinds the clay, mind the fires, go errands, &c.

The regular hours are from 6 to 6, and till 4 on Saturday. The day-workers seldom work over, but are doing so now four nights a week till 8; sometimes it is till 9. They have not worked over this summer before. The piece-workers generally work over three or four nights a week till 8, and sometimes, but rarely, till 9. The men sometimes come at 5 a.m., but the girls not before 6, though they have begun earlier. All have half an hour for breakfast and an hour for dinner, which are brought by their parents, but piece workers often take only about half an hour for dinner. The girls generally stay here all day till they have done work, and eat their meals in the stoves. The red-brick yards in general work longer than the white. From 6 a.m. to 8, or perhaps 9 p.m., are about the regular hours, I should say, (*i.e.*, in summer,) but they do not work after 9, I think, about this neighbourhood. Few probably begin earlier than 6, except it be to temper the clay for the moulds. That might be done the day before without hurting the work.

Men who work here by the piece pay those under them; and the moulder women have each a girl of from 12 or 13 up to 17 or 18, whom they pay 8*d.*, 10*d.*, or 1*s.* a day. The workers in red-brick yards are generally men, women, and girls. We can't get boys; these forges and coal-pits take them all; but I would sooner have them than girls if we could, because they are hardier and stand the weather better. In wet weather, however, the men can't get the clay so well; it would spoil. But some of the work, *e. g.*, the moulding in the stoves, can go on wet or dry. But if it comes on wet the girls get knocking off. They ain't rigged like a boy. It's very dirty work carrying brick clay, for girls especially. The young women, the largest of them, generally shift themselves before they go away. Some that are gone home now are very tidy girls; but those that are here now don't shift, but go home as they are, though they generally get some warm water from the engine and wash first. Some are very curious characters. We are obliged to put up with any that we can get.

The girls carry usually enough clay for six bricks, of 10 lbs. each, at a time, part on their heads and part in their arms, for a distance of about 20 yards, others some yards further. Some have got a better gift than others, and can carry enough for seven or eight bricks. Each makes, on the average, 2,000 bricks a day, and can make 3,000 some days.

686. *Sarah Ann Harper*, age 13.—Carry clay for a woman. Come at 6 and leave at all times of a night, sometimes 8, sometimes later. Breakfast from 9 to 9½, and dinner from 1 to 2; no tea. Have us tea when we go home. Here two years, and was at another brick yard before; went at 7 and came away at all times, the same as it is here, and had the same meals. Don't know what I get a week here: it goes with my sister's money. (The woman says it is 2*s.* 6*d.* a week.) Don't know how old my sister is. (She is 15.)

Was never at day or Sunday school. Did go one Sunday, and learned my alphabet, but I know no more. Mother don't like to send me because I have got no shoes. Have got shoes on now, but they be but old ones, and I have got no others.

687. *Jemima Batham*, age 16.—Can read a bit. (Does not know the letters.) Do not go to Sunday school now. Don't know what eagle is, or the ocean, or what twice 11 makes. The Queen is a woman, a sort of queen; don't know her name. ("No! Her can't tell," said the woman whom she worked for.)

688. *George Warton*, age 13.—Don't know at all how old I am. (Is 14 next birthday, according to his elder sister, "be it when it will.") Carry bricks. Have worked in brick yards two years here, one at another place, and two before for my father.

Can read (only words of two letters). Learned at Brockmoor school of days.

[Is in a hot stove.]

689. *William Simmons*, age 14.—Can tell the letters, no more.

MESSRS. PEARSON'S, FIRE-BRICK WORKS, BRIERLY HILL AND STOURBRIDGE.

690. *Mr. Edward W. Pearson.*—We have works at each of the above places, but of just the same kind; and the hours, viz., 6 to 6, and the way of working are the same at each, as they are at most other white-brick works. Stourbridge and its neighbourhood for a few miles round is the seat of this manufacture. Round here there are perhaps a dozen such works, but the red-brick works are more numerous.

We employ most of our workers directly ourselves, and find it answer much better. It is the general custom for the foreman to contract to supply the work, especially in the red-brick works. The moulders, however, employ each a girl. Each woman has a stint of 1,000 bricks a day, for which she gets 2*s.* 2*d.*, and pays 9*d.* of it to her girl. But this does not take all the time, and she can either make more, *e.g.* 1,500, or leave earlier. Other girls, "pages," carry bricks from the stoves to the kilns and out again. A man sets them in the kiln. A girl carries six bricks at a time. A common fire brick weighs 9lbs. wet, and 7¼ dry. The number which she can carry in the day is according to the distance. We think of doing without young girls altogether soon, having men to wheel instead. Two men could wheel what eight girls can carry. Also we shall probably make the common sized bricks by machinery instead of by moulders. Large bricks cannot be made by machinery. Some of these weigh 1 cwt. each, and we have made some as much as a ton. We have only men in the pits. There is no small work or waste needing boys, as in coal pits

We do not take girls under 12, and make it a rule not to take them unless they can read and write, not because there is any occasion for it in the work, but because all persons now ought to be able to do so. Children should not go to work till 12 or 14, and then they would have a chance of learning. Many come not able to count. People about here are improvident, and will send a girl out to work as soon as she can earn 6*d.* Some think our rule, of not taking any who cannot read, hard. A man earning 25*s.* a week complained of our refusing his girl on this ground, and said that he could not afford to send her to school. Their idea is that their children should be made to get their living as soon as they are able.

691. *Sarah Ann Smith*, age 15.—Moulder girl. Have been at fire-brick works since 11 years old. At my first place the hours were from 6 to 6, as here. If we worked over it was till 8, but I only did so three or four times altogether. Sometimes stay here till 6½, at others leave at 4 or 5. Have carried off 1,550 bricks, wet, in a day, two at a time. Keep an apron here to work in. Wear no shoes or socks.

Can write. (Can scarcely spell.)

[A young woman of 18 was pointed out to me: "She cannot count." A boy of 15 in the mill said he could write a very little. He could not read. A man stated that the young were "bound to go (from here) "unless they attend some school."]

Birmingham District.
Stourbridge.
Bricks, Fire-clay, &c.
Mr. J. E. White.
b.

MR. JOSEPH PITMAN'S, FELLMONGER, STOURBRIDGE.

Fellmongering.

692. A few boys are employed here in preparing the skins in different ways, *e.g.*, cutting, salting, &c. The work is very dirty and sloppy, on which account some of the men wear leggings; the smell, too, of the skins in certain stages very unpleasant, and, one would imagine, sickening; but it does not appear that it is injurious. The hours are long in summer. A machine used by two boys for paring wet skins looked dangerous to the fingers, and shook the floor of the room so that I could not write near it.

693. *William Roberts*, age 15.—Cut wet skins with the machine. Come at 5½ or 6 a.m., and leave at 7 or 8 p.m. Sometimes come at 5 a.m. and leave at 8 p.m. Half an hour for breakfast, and an hour for dinner: go home. Found the smell bad in here at first. Wash before I go. Never cut myself with the machine. Him here (another boy) cut a piece right off the end of his finger. Was at a gravel pit and in a glass-house before.

Was never at a day school. Don't know the letters. "M" is "A."

[Very ragged. Shoulder quite bare.]

694. *John M'Phee*, age 13. Have worked in this salting shop 5 months. The hours now are from 6 a.m. till 7 p.m., but this week am working from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. Go home to meals. There is no washing place here. Never sick or feel sick, but have a worse appetite than when I was in a forge.

Was in a forge at Bilston before, and worked there from 6 till 6, heaving metal up at the rolls.

Can read. (Barely read one syllable words.)

[Languid and heavy.]

695. *Mr. William Henry James*, manager.—There are most hands, and the hours are longest, in the summer, as much more mutton is killed then, and sheepskin is the chief part of the trade. The work-people try to keep dry with leggings, &c., but the salt must soak through anything. Suppose the work does no harm, though it is disagreeable.

MESSRS. WOOD BROS.', SPADE, &c. WORKS, LYE WASTE.

Lye Waste.

Chains, Spades, &c.

696. Most of the boys strike hot bars of iron on anvils to form the links of large chains, two or three working under a man according to the size of the iron. The work looks hard, requiring very rapid strokes with large hammers, but there is a necessary regular, though short, interval between making each link while the next bar is being got ready. Pieces of hot metal fly about. While I was speaking to one boy another called to him, "you're a-fire, look!" upon which he quietly stooped and put out a burn eating into his trousers. The work is hot. A boy of 15 could scarcely be called clothed at all. A large part of his back was bare, and also the whole of the front of his body; his shirt and trousers being thrown open down to the very lowest inch that was decent. He earns, however, 8*s.* a week, so that the state of his dress cannot, it seems, be from want.

697. *Mr. J. W. Aston*, one of the firm.—At these works we make chains, spades, scythes, &c., and have other works at Cradley, near here, where we make anvils and vices at forges. We have also brick works. At all we use steam, and the hours are from 6 to 6, with an hour and a half for meals. These are the usual hours throughout the neighbourhood, though sometimes time is fetched up. At the brick works there are no boys, but girls who work under men and women for the foreman, who takes out a contract for the work, and supplies us with such an amount of bricks.

There are no works between here and Hales Owen but an anvil factory and several brick works. The iron works lie away towards Netherton and Dudley. There are, however, the cottage forges for nails and chains all about, at which a great number work. The nailers work for the nail warehouses, and, as a general rule, hinder in the first part of the week and work hard the rest. They are very irregular in their hours altogether, idling a great deal in the day, and working very late at night, sometimes till midnight. The children begin very young, from 9 to 12, at the small nails. Rowley, a village near, is a great place for small nails. There is no injury from the work if the children are not too small or weakly. If we try to get some of the men nailers into a factory, they do not like it, and will not have regular work.

We have tried a school, but found a difficulty in supplying teachers, and the boys did not seem to care to come, and they will not be forced. To keep up a school there must be compulsion.

There is a working man's institution here, which we took the principal part in founding, and which is chiefly supported by our people, for providing instruction and rational amusement. It is open in the winter evenings for classes, chess, draughts, &c.

698. *Robert Potter*, age 15.—Blew the bellows for a forge when I first came, then was "second fireman" (of a set of strikers) and am now "foreman" (of a set). That is the highest place below being a maker, who pays all under him. Get 8*s.* a week. Elder foremen get 12*s.* The hours are from 6 to 6.

Was at a red brick yard before. Most there were girls. Our usual hours of work were from 5 a.m. till 9 p.m., with half an hour for breakfast and about half an hour for dinner.

Was never at school "days" at all, but go on Sunday, and to church, and at nights in winter. Can tell the letters, but not spell.

699. *William Favell*, age 14, "foreman."—Was never at day-school, but go on Sunday, and to chapel when I got some clothes. Get 6*s.* a week, but never have any of it for myself. Father is a chain maker, and I have brothers and sisters at work too. *Think* Birmingham is a town. Have never heard of London, but have of the Queen. The sea is made of land, not of water. A violet is a pretty bird.

DUDLEY.

Dudley.

Iron, nails, &c.

700. Dudley is a large and important town, and the centre of a very important district. The importance, however, depends chiefly upon causes not falling, to any great extent, within the range of the inquiry assigned to me. The chief industrial employments are in the neighbouring iron mines

Birmingham District.

Dudley.

Iron, nails, &c.

and iron works, lime quarries, &c., and there are but comparatively few young employed in other ways. There are a small number of works or factories for the manufacture of smaller articles in iron, as anvils, chains, cables, fire-irons, &c.; and part of the population are also engaged in the domestic nail manufacture. The flint glass manufacture carried on here is spoken of in the evidence on glass (b. 114–118). A general account is given below by persons acquainted with the place and neighbourhood.

Mr. J. E. White.

b.

701. *Mr. G. Bradley*, land agent and relieving officer for Dudley.—The population of the place is over 40,000. The average number of persons receiving out-door relief is 1,500 or 1,600. Of these the greater part are nailers, who are the poorest class of the whole parish. I should say that as nearly as possible three-fourths of all who apply for relief or surgical tickets are nailers. They suffer much from working in close places, viz., shops at the backs of their houses, or in squares, and are of a low class, and poor. A nailer, work as hard as he can, cannot make more than 15*s.* a week. So the moment they are sick they must come for relief.

They employ their own families only, and are the only kind of people in Dudley who employ children very young. In iron works manual strength is wanted, and there are not many other factories, only a few for anvils, vices, fenders, &c. The nailers take out iron from a warehouse, and bring it back once or twice a week, being entitled to a certain allowance for waste of the iron. They are, however, often before the magistrate for not returning the proper quantity. Some of the employers are "foggers," and a great many give out iron and "tommy" the workers, charging them part of their pay for the iron, and paying part in money, and make a very good thing of this.

The nailers have no set hours, but work when they like. The nailers in a house near mine were a great nuisance. They began work at 2 or 3 a.m., and continued on till breakfast, and then would run about the fields all day, and begin again at about 8 at night, and work till 11 or 11½. This is supposed to be on account of the heat, but the work must be nearly as hot at one time as another.

There are many excellent schools here, and the Iron and Coal Masters' prizes of the South Staffordshire Association can be competed for at 12 years old. The examination is conducted by one of Her Majesty's inspectors of schools. The nailers, however, are very poorly educated, though they can count their nails well enough, quicker even than a person can weigh them. But otherwise they are very ignorant, and some of them cannot tell big A from a bull's foot.

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702. *Mr. Thos. Fredk. Higgs*, surgeon to part of the Dudley union.—The union has a population of nearly 45,000, about two-thirds in the town and one in the country. My district is the northern half of the town, including about 15,000 persons. The condition of the people is on the whole fair, and their wages enough to procure them sufficient food. Many, however, are ill-clothed and ragged. Most of these probably are the Irish, of whom there are a large number in my district. They spend money as soon as they get it, and seldom belong to clubs, so that directly they are out of work they come for relief. Of the patients whom I visit for the parish quite 20 are Irish for one English. They are very reckless, and would spend 5*l.* a week if they got it. In one part near here, called "Little Ireland," there are often disturbances. I expect one every Saturday night.

What affects the health of the people most is the crowded and unhealthy state of their homes. The nailers generally live in the poorest parts, and the drainage is very deficient. In winter the roads are very bad, from the accumulation of filth, &c. There is a local board of health, but no medical officer. There was one, but the office was dispensed with some years ago.

The children suffer much from their parents not knowing what is good for them, and giving them the same food as themselves. You see children of 12 months old eating meat and green peas, and though you may reason with the parents about it they don't attend.

I notice no particular effects of any employments here on the health. The usual hours of work in most of them throughout the nighbourhood are from 6 to 6, with meal hours. The nailers perhaps work from 6 a.m. till 7 p.m., some till 8 or 9, and generally have a half day on the "weighing days," viz., Wednesday and Saturday. They do not begin work here much earlier than 6, though I have known some at work at 4, when getting their work ready for Saturday. The horse-nail makers are a respectable class; indeed, that is one of the best paid of all the employments here, the work being of a more skilled kind. There are very few accidents, and there is very little machinery in the town. The chief accidents are at coal pits.

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703. *Rev. Dr. Brown*, vicar of Dudley.—In this district, within a radius of about six miles, we have a population of nearly a quarter of a million. This includes Wolverhampton, Bilston, Tipton, Sedgeley, Upper and Lower Gornal, Rowley, West Bromwich, Oldbury, Stourbridge, King's Swinford, Brierley Hill and Netherton. In Dudley and its immediate neighbourhood I know of no general employment for females. Boys are employed chiefly in mines and iron works. Nail making, however, is carried on in the homes of the people at forges, both in the town and in the district round, and takes the boys from school too early. In some cases the nailers are paid by truck; but it is curious that employers who pay in this way do not succeed. All the labour is confining, and affords nothing calculated to promote health, whether at furnaces, iron work of all kinds, glass work, &c.: glass-cutting is worse than any.

Education and intelligence have improved in the 18 years that I have been here, but the people are still far below those of Birmingham, 100 years behind. As a proof of this ignorance I may mention that I have seen a man going through the town sitting on a barrel of gunpowder smoking his pipe. Their morality, too, is low, as must be expected from their ignorance. Still they are naturally intelligent, and improve quickly by teaching. I fear, however, that the school in this parish will be closed in consequence of the new educational regulations, and there is every probability of other schools in the town doing the same.

It is desirable that some system of rewards should be adopted, as an encouragement to parents for educating and bringing up their children well, and in habits of industry and cleanliness; and rewards should be given to children as well as to parents. The mere benefit of a child's success in life from such training is not sufficiently immediate. Something tangible and present is wanted. It would not, however, do to give money, as that would be too great a temptation. There should be gifts, such as furniture, &c. for parents, and clothes for children. A mere certificate of merit put up in a cottage would be looked at with great reverence. I am sure that some such plan might be worked effectively at a mere trifling cost. People are much more easily gained by kindness than by compulsion, and rewards are far more effective than punishments.

I am also fully persuaded that there should be some public recreation ground provided for every large place, say every place with a population of over 10,000. It would be a grand thing, especially in such a populous neighbourhood as this, if such a thing should be made compulsory by Government.

Birmingham District.

Dudley.

Iron, nails, &c.

Mr. J. E. White.

b.

704. *Miss E. Fenn*, mistress of St. Thomas' National School.—Do not find that the girls leave school early to go to work. There is no employment in the town to take them away. The chief employment of women and girls here is nailing; but those who work at this are not of the class that come to this school. They are the lowest and most uncultivated, and often in rags and shoeless, being very poor, though not poor as compared with agricultural people. If they go anywhere they go to the ragged and free, *i.e.*, endowed, schools, of which there are several.

Since the alteration in the rule as to the Government grant we have had to raise the fee. This has diminished the numbers, though it may perhaps raise the class of those who do come.

MESSRS. JOSHUA WILKINSON AND SONS', ANVIL AND VICE MANUFACTURERS, DUDLEY.

705. The iron is roughly forged in a shed, in which is powerful machinery. The noise of the wheels, &c., drown the voice, and a large steam-hammer shakes the ground round it. A boy of 13, but few, if any, other boys, work in this part, but in other parts a considerable number are employed; some out of doors riddling slack and carrying fuel, others in shops turning over the anvils with levers while being made, striking with hammers, &c. The statement of one of the principals below as to the absence of boys is explained probably by their being in the employment of the men only. I had no opportunity of seeing him after going round the works. The engine runs all day, *i.e.*, 13 hours, without stopping; and though there is no immediate connexion between the engine and a great part of the boys' work, they have no meal-times, but "eat it when we can catch it."

706. *Mr. Wilkinson.*—We employ no females or children, and there are, I should think, very few boys, if any, under 18. The work, which is making anvils, vices, and hammers, requires a good deal of strength. The hours are from 6 a.m. till 7 p.m. There are few other factories in the town; the chief are for anvils, vices, &c., and all the work is done probably in much the same way as here. There may sometimes be a child or so brought in by a foreman.

707. *Luke Foster*, age (about 10 or 11 ?).—Don't know I'm sure how old I am. Riddle slack and go of errands. The regular hours are from 6 a.m till 7 p.m. Have no time allowed for breakfast but have to work the while I eat, ("like a boat oss," says a man near). Have about 10 minutes for dinner. Get 4*s.* a week. Here half a year.

Was never at any school, and have never been in a church or chapel, except sometimes when the burials have been, and I have gone with a little chap to help ring the bell. Never heard of the Bible. (Asked of Christ.) I've heerd that, but don't know what it is. (Of God.) Ha'nt heerd that. (Afterwards says,) He lives t' heaven. Some chaps said so, but I ha'nt heerd nothing about Him. Don't know what a "soul" is, or if I have one. When people die they be buried, baint they ? their souls as well as their bodies. The good and bad people's souls live together, don't they ?—in a good place. Don't know what they call the bad place, I'm sure.

708. *John Foster*, age 13.—Older than Luke. Turn the bar and pin to turn the anvils over: and turn gledes. Sometimes work from 5½ a.m. till 7½ p.m. Get to work as soon as we have done dinner.

Was at a chain-making place near before. There were three men and three boys, and the hours the same as here, viz., from 6 a.m. till 7 p.m. Did not stop for breakfast, but took it at work, blowing the bellows with one hand and eating with t'other. Generally had half an hour for dinner.

Never was at any school. Don't know the letters. Have been in a chapel about twice. Heard men singing and the organs, but don't know what they read about.

709. *James Tones*, age 10.—Am 10 to-day: mother told me. Have been here two years. Turn the bar and pin. Used to riddle coal. For a year I used to strike with a hammer as big as this here (about 12lb. or 13lb., according to a big boy and as it seemed). Did it two or three times on each anvil for about 10 minutes, (Qy. only while metal hot? J.E.W.) and did six or seven anvils a day, if small. It made your arm tired a bit when you had struck a good while. Burned my eye when putting a "slob" (block of metal) on. A piece flew and hit me, and I was obliged to have oil put on it. Often got burned in the fingers. The metal flies so much when it's struck. Work with father.

Don't know the letters.

710. *Francis Ibkiss*, age 13.—In the forge. Pull the door open and job about, waiting on father and the other men. The puddler pays me. We have no regular times for stopping in our work.

Should have went to school now only father had me here 18 months ago to wait on him. Was at the British day school four years, and paid 3*d.* a week. Do not go on Sunday. Am a pretty tidy scholar; can read, write, and am in fractions; and I had to do maps at night for the master in the morning. There aren't many that can read here. Out of all the lot of boys, *i.e.* about 50, of whom the youngest is James Tones I think (10), and the eldest perhaps 18, I don't suppose that there is one that can read, though some might be able to spell words. I can read a newspaper, and get the Bible and read. (Gives the names of Nehemiah, Elijah, &c., Daniel.) Elijah prayed, &c.

[Very intelligent.]

711. *William Ickerbotham*, age 12.—Here going 4 years. Turn the bar, strike, and riddle slack. Am so hot now because I have been riddling slack,—out of doors. There is water near in which we could wash, but the master would not let you because it would spoil it. Have dinner in the shop: don't stop more than ten minutes or quarter of an hour for it, and for breakfast don't stop at all. "We eat it when we can catch it, Sir."

MESSRS. BADGER AND CO.'S, NAIL MASTERS, DUDLEY.

712. This is only a warehouse at which iron is given out and nails bought; but close behind is a block of small shops let to nailers, who work independently for the manufacturer or factor, and in some cases underlet parts of their shops, or standings in them. The shops stand in a back yard, reached by a narrow passage, and in which are dirty gutters. There are, as I was informed by the manager, no fixed hours of work. "Not one in 100 works on Monday, when they do like most other people do who "have got cash in their pockets, and look for pleasure. They also take a half day on Wednesday, and "a half day on Saturday. A steady man does not work later than 8; sometimes it may be till 12."

713. *Jane Willett*, age 14.—Make nails. "Her comes any time she pleases" (said the nailer of the shop). Come at 6 or 7 a.m., and leave off at 9, 10, and 10½ p.m. Have come at 5 a.m. and worked till 10 p.m. Here two years. Work on my own account, and rent a standing. Get 3*s.* or 4*s.* a week. Grandmother has it for the rent, &c. Take a quarter of an hour for breakfast, an hour for dinner, and half an hour for tea.

Cannot write; can read (scarcely at all). Was at the day school seven years.

714. *Ann Heath*, age 13.—Make nails in another shop. Can't tell, I'm sure, how long I have been at this work. Come at 6 a.m., sometimes 7, and leave at 8 p.m. Take an hour for each of my three meals. Get about 3*s.* 6*d.* a week.

Can read (scarcely). Was at day school 12 months.

Birmingham District.
Oldbury.
Spades.
Mr. J. E. White.
b.

JAMES' SPADE FACTORY, OLDBURY.

715. *Eliza Tyler*, age 16.—Work now at Nettlefold's screw works at Smethwick. Was at James' spade factory at Oldbury before for six months. There were hardly any other factories there for girls, but some washed "gledes" (metal?) at one puddling and blacksmith factory, and there was another puddling place.

I ground spades on a large dry stone: the dust did not fly much. It was a very large place, should think there were as many as at Nettlefold's, a great many girls, and also boys and men. Some girls carried spades, others ground them, but more on wet grindstones than on dry. They liked the dry best because it did not wet them as the wet stones did. They wore aprons to keep them dry, but nothing else. They was very wet, them that was at the wet stones, and got wet through their aprons and the bodies of their frocks, and changed them when they got home at night; but they did not complain or have colds, and said that they liked the work very much. Some had coughs, and thought that it was from the wet on the ground, which was deep enough to cover the soles of thin boots, but it did not do to put them on, and they wore leather nailed ones; but when the shoes wanted mending they thought that the water would perhaps run in. The hours were from 6 to 6, never longer, and the same meals as at Nettlefold's, and the noise also about the same. The girls were by themselves, and very quiet: some gentleman overlooked them. Got 6*s.* a week, and mother generally gave me 6*d.*, which I put up to buy me clothes.

Was never at work before, but did not go to day school for more than about six months, as I have had to help mother. Have been to Sunday and night school; know the letters, but cannot read.

West Bromwich.
Iron foundry.

MESSRS. A. KENRICK AND SONS', IRONFOUNDERS, WEST BROMWICH.

716. Hollow ware, a name applied to saucepans and other kitchen articles, is made in these works, which are of high standing, as well as a variety of small articles in cast iron, *e.g.*, nails, hinges, &c. The greater part of the many boys are employed in the foundries, large but low buildings, the remainder in filing and turning. In a large shop full of steam-turned lathes, in which, however, there were no boys, I noticed one of the men with a respirator. I was told that these were supplied as a protection against the dust and fragments which fly off in considerable quantities, but that they were not much used.

717. When I entered the large foundry at 20 minutes to 2 it was fully at work, though only two-thirds of the dinner hour had passed. A young boy saying that a quarter of an hour was the time that he usually took for dinner, an elder boy, questioned by one of the employers if that was all, said that he thought that in the regular way they took about 20 or 25 minutes, not more.

718. *Mr. Kenrick.*—I do not think that there is anything in the employment of the young in the manufactures of this district which calls for legislative interference; and this is the opinion of those manufacturers in the district with whom I have spoken on the subject. I do not see however, that, so far as we ourselves are concerned, regulations of the factory kind would affect us injuriously. Our hours are from 6 to 6 with a half-day on Saturday, and for most of the hands on Monday also, and the regular hours of work are scarcely ever exceeded. Nearly the whole of the work depends upon the engine which blows the cupola, and this stops during meal-times. Some work, however can go on without it. If a man begins work as soon as he has finished eating, which perhaps he may do, as it is piece-work, the boys who help him must begin too. As many eat their meals in the works as away.

We do not wish for boys under 12 years old, but to allow only half time to all under 13 would throw a certain amount of loss on the families of those who are now employed. The practical effect of such a requirement in this district would be to shut out all under that age from work altogether, for they are generally employed by the workmen themselves, and these I am sure would never have to do with double sets. In our case all the boys, with one or two exceptions, are employed and paid by the workmen, who engage to complete so much work for a given price and find the labour.

If some employments were under regulation and others not, those which were not would have an advantage in the command of labour. Close to us there are very large glass works, as well as works of other kinds.

In one part of our work, which requires a furnace and goes at night, viz., the enamelling, three young boys from 11 or 12 upwards are employed for about nine or 10 hours in attending to the men. Their work is light, being merely to pull up balanced doors and to carry things to the furnace. This is work in which a man would not be of any more use than a boy.

It would be very difficult practically to carry out any regulations by inspection or otherwise in the smaller places, where there is more likelihood of their being needed, or indeed in the majority of the work-places, as so few work together. In many large places the boys are scattered about in ones and twos and threes in a shop under men, and there are a great number of small employers, "out-workers," who do not employ more than eight or 10 persons altogether, and work without machinery of any kind.

If any measure at all were thought necessary, the best would be to limit the age at which children could enter upon employments, say 12, but to leave them free after that to work the full time. Education previously to that age should not be enforced, though it is very desirable that it should be had. I consider that to enforce it, as *e.g.* in Prussia, would be objectionable in principle as an undue interference with private liberties. Even to require a test of some previous instruction on entry to employment is objectionable on the same ground. I was not aware of such a principle having been laid down by law in any case.

We established a school ourselves for the benefit of the children of our workpeople, at a weekly payment; but these did not fill it, so we allowed other persons to come. None who are in the works attend it. It is not open in the evening.

In this district there are but about half a dozen other hollow ware manufacturers, three in this parish, the others near Wolverhampton and Bilston. Three or four of the works may be about as large as our own. The system of work is probably the same as in ours.

719. *Charles Curley*, age 10.—"Thread knuckles," *i.e.*, put parts of hinges together, "pun" dust, take up scrap (waste metal), take out sides (of moulds), riddle sand, skim metal, *i.e.*, take off the surface of the molten iron from the top of the pot just before it is poured, and clean the work. The other younger boys do much the same. Come at 6 a.m., or a little before, and leave at 6½ or 6¼ p.m. Meals in here. Breakfast at about 9, and begin work again as soon as it is done, usually about a quarter of an hour. About the same time for dinner. Get a wash every night at home. Another bigger boy works under the same man with me. Get 3*s.* 4*d.* a week.

Was at school six years till coming here 10 months ago, and paid 4*d.* a week, and go on Sunday, but never was at night school. Learned off the maps, reading, and sums. Can read. (Does fairly.) (Spells from sound "punished" and "America.") Can write. (Writes his name.) Four times 3 is 12.

720. *George Moore*, age 9.—Am 10 next year, but do not know when. Work with father at the same work as the last boy.

Was never at school except on Sunday. Do not know B, O, or A; A is Y.

721. *Thomas Ferrars*, age 20.—"Run sides," *i.e.*, put sand into moulds. Went to work at between 7 and 8 years old, blowing bellows and helping the man.

Go to school on Sunday, but never was at any

other school. Cannot read, but know the letters (but calls "d" "b.") Father is not at work, having been asthmatical for eight years; was a collier. By what people say, London is a good place, and large. Have heard from a friend that Liverpool is a fine place. Have not heard of a mountain. Believe the Queen is a woman, but do not know what her name is, or if it is Victoria.

722. *James Ferrars*, age 17, brother of last witness.—Went to school last Sunday. Did not before, because I had no clothes, and never was at any other school in my life, and have not been taught anything.

[These two brothers are said to have had great disadvantages at home, and to be irregular in their habits. Both are squalid and feeble looking; and the elder, though over 20, looks quite a boy, and so thin that every rib could be counted, the shirt being half gone. Indeed, the two shirts would scarcely make one between them. Some others were very ill clothed.]

723. *Joseph Baker*, age 16.—Work at nail-casting. The apron is to keep the mould from hurting my legs and dress. Have been at work seven years. Never at school except sometimes on Sunday. Cannot read. (Knows the letters.)

Birmingham District. — West Bromwich. — Iron foundry. — Mr. J. E. White. — b.

724. *George Jones*, age 13.—File and turn at a lathe. Have been at these works since 7 years old. Get 7*s.* a week wages, and 3*d.* for sweeping for a woman.

Father cannot afford to pay for my going to night school. Can read a little (but imperfectly; *e.g.*, "was" is "as.")

725. *William Stringer*, age 12.—Blow bellows, pulling a rope with my foot and hands.

Cannot read. (Reads words of two or three letters, and writes from sound "boy" and "5.") Was at school till 10 years old.

726. *William Holden*, age 12.—At school till 10 years old. Did multiplication. Five times 5 is 10,—is 20,—is 25. (Reads tolerably.) Am about the best scholar in this shop. There are nine boys in it. One can read as good as me.

THE GENERAL HOSPITAL, BIRMINGHAM.

Medical and Surgical.

727. The statements and particulars next following were obtained from patients and the medical officers at the General Hospital, and, though relating to distinct trades, are inserted here together, just as they were obtained by visiting the wards and taking the cases as they happened to present themselves: a more convenient arrangement, it is thought, as giving, probably, a fair specimen of the number and kind of injuries of the young, incident to the occupations in which they are engaged, usually under treatment at the General Hospital as in-patient cases. The cases referred to from b. 728 to b. 736, both inclusive, with the exception of b. 731, were all under treatment, if not on the same day as near to it as they could be ascertained.

728. *Joseph Hood*, age 17.—Have been "taker-in" in a glass-house in Birmingham for four years, and worked the usual six-hour turns day and night, not working over often. The men are not very kind to you in a glass-house; they're rough brutes there. They beat you with iron things, viz., the pinchers that they handle the work with, and the iron that they blow with, and hit you about the head with them, and kick, and cuss, and swear at you; and they will do this for such little things, as, *e.g.*, if you tumble down and break a glass. We do not tell the master, they would beat us worse then. They are awful brutes, and would do anything at you. I have seen them knock boys down and kick them terrible when on the ground, so as to make bruises on the body and legs. Once I was taking in a glass and fell down and broke it, and when I came back and told the master (workman) he jumped up and run at me and knocked me down and kicked me. There was a great bruise on my thigh from it. I saw a man hit a boy of about 12 on the back of his head with the blowing iron, which had some glass on the end of it, and cut his head open, and made it bleed. It did not bleed much. We all catched it sometimes. They leathered us sometimes because we did something on purpose for fun, and sometimes when we couldn't help it.

I got the rheumatics (rheumatic fever) in the glass-house, and was bad eight months with it, but got well and went back for a short time, but soon got it again, and have had to come in here. My chest is very bad now, but I did not feel anything of that till my second illness.

Before being in the glass-house I was at brass casting. The man was very kind to me there.

[This boy is suffering from heart disease, brought on by his rheumatic fever. Looks very ill, and pants as he lies in bed. He is gentle and intelligent, a favourite with his doctor and nurse, and described as a good boy, and very grateful for all that is done for him.]

729. The next witness is suffering from heart disease, following upon acute rheumatism, not improbably resulting from a chill after his work in a foundry, which he describes as very hot, *e.g.*, in bathing, as he mentions. Riddling sand, of which he complains much, and which is one of the regular occupations of the younger boys in foundries, was spoken of to me by the physician as very severe and straining work, "quite unfit" for children, at any rate if, as I have always seen in such places, the riddle is supported in the hands. The boy is very intelligent and pleasing mannered.

730. *Joseph Slater*, age 14.—At 10 years old I went to some iron works a few miles from here, in which large pieces of metal for engines, &c., were made, and was there till lately. The hours were from 6 till 6, but I very often stayed till 8 p.m., sometimes for as much as six or seven weeks at a time, and have gone at 5 and 4 a.m. Have gone as early as that and stayed till 8 p.m., perhaps not more than a day at a time; have then gone two or three days shorter hours, and then the same again. We had half an hour for breakfast and an hour for dinner, which was brought to me; but we very often used to work at dinner time, sometimes stopping only five minutes to eat. Sometimes we lads used to try which could eat it quickest, and begin work again. The work, making cores, riddling sand, &c., for casting, was very dusty, and made our faces very black. Monday mornings were the worst, when another boy and I used to have to clean the stove out, which would be three or four inches thick with soot. There was no place to wash in, but we often used to bathe in the canal, sometimes after being very hot from the casting.

Have riddled sand till my back used to ache so I could hardly bear myself, and when I went home I used to kneel down and put my head on a chair. Could not bear to sit up.

Sometimes the men would kick we, sometimes throw anything at us, if we were running to get out of their way, *e.g.*, stones, wood, iron, &c One man kicked me on the bottom of the spine so that I could not bend my back for two or three days. That was because I was told to call out something which happened to be a nickname of his; but he was a stranger, and I did not know it. If we was at our games we used to get beaten. The big boys used to beat us as well as the men, but they did not hurt us. My uncle was master (foreman?), and would not

Birmingham District.

Medical and Surgical.

Mr. J. E. White.

b.

have let me be beaten if he had known it. Some boys was very often burned with the metal. One had a great piece burned out of his foot. He was carrying a ladle of melted metal and it fell into his shoe.

731. *William Whitehurst*, age 13.—Worked in a forge in some iron works at Smethwick. Dragged out bars red-hot from the roller. A man was cutting off the iron with shears, when a "skill" from the iron fled into my arms and cut the artery (radial). It was about midnight, and I was brought in straight to the hospital here by 2½ a.m., and have been in here a week.

[This boy's pupils were remarked upon to me by the surgeon as unnaturally large, as "usual in people who work much at "night."]

732. *John Beresford*, age 16.—Have put my shoulder out, (a compound dislocation) from being caught in the band while drilling bayonets. Was putting the band on, when a little lad, who was drilling the same as I was, loosed it, and it caught me and got me right up to the ceiling, and I fell out to the floor. There was no one in the shop to stop the machinery only the little lad. I had got caught in bands twice before, but was not so much hurt as this time; there were men near then who stopped the machinery. Have seen a boy have his fingers cut right off with a drilling machine. He was minding his work, but slipped and fell, and catched his hand in the cogs, and was in the hospital 11 weeks. I worked last winter from 8 a.m. till 9 p.m. for three months, afterwards from 8 till 6.

733. The next witness, when last brought for relief to the hospital, was suffering so severely from the spasms caused by his disease, *colica pictonum*, or lead poisoning, brought on by his work as painter, and so utterly prostrate, that he was taken at once as in-patient, as an "urgent case." The pain of this disease is described by the physician as "awful," and the boy as having been "very ill indeed." The blue lead line could be still seen on the gums.

734. *Edward Dayers*, age 14.—Have been three years painting Venetian blinds. From 7 till 7 were my proper hours, with two hours for meals. But for about the six summer months we went at 6 a.m. and stayed till 10 p.m.; sometimes, but rarely, only till 9: about once or twice in the whole time we may have left at 7. There were two boys younger than I, the youngest 11. He always had his meals in the shop, and I had my breakfast and tea there, but went home to dinner. The windows were not often open, and the place used to smell a great deal. Sometimes a gentleman who came round to buy used to complain of it, and say he wondered how we could stand it, it smelled so strong. We washed our hands before our meals in oil, and had to wash about three minutes to get the paint off. There was a tap in the yard, but no soap. Formerly we used to have turpentine to wash with, but it was left off because it was getting so dear, and they could get oil a good deal cheaper. For the same reason they made the paint with paraffin instead of turpentine, and that made the place smell a good deal worse.

Had been to the hospital either three or four times for the pain before I came as an in-patient, once being brought by mother at night. The pain was so bad I had to hoot out, and thought I should have died, and so did mother. Perhaps I should have died, if I hadn't come here. Could not eat for a week or so before I was first bad; the only thing that I could eat at all was, perhaps, a bit of cake made with dripping and sugar.

735. A boy of 10, George Ingram, was brought into the hospital by two men, for whom he worked, at the point of death from English cholera, already blue and cold, but was nevertheless put down by them on a bench and there left, without a word of information or concern. He was so grimed with dirt, though his occupation is not specially dirty or dusty, that it was asked in the hospital if he was a sweep boy. Their manner altogether was so heartless, that the physician reproved them strongly, on which they at first merely laughed. Such men, at least, cannot belong to the number of under-employers who are said to "always let the little ones go at the proper time, to go to evening school, &c." Regard for a boy's bodily health or mental improvement would probably have but little weight with such should it suit their convenience to keep him. The boy, who was still in a condition which did not allow of his giving many particulars, stated that he worked as cobber to a stamper, who paid him 2*s.* a week, and that his regular hours of work were from 6 a.m. till 7 p.m., but that he did not leave work usually till 8.

736. Another boy of 11, George Morril, who was in such a painful state of chorea, "St. Vitus' dance," as to make him unable to express himself clearly, had also worked as a cobber in a stamping shop. In such shops the fall of the stamps is heavy and constant, and shocks of this kind, in the opinion of the physician, would be peculiarly injurious to a child, or indeed any delicate person, liable to such nervous affections. Another boy of 14 attributed his illness to his being kept up regularly from 4 a.m. till 11 p.m. This however was at a public house.

737. The following letter is from Dr. Anderson, the house physician at the General Hospital, who had kindly undertaken to furnish me with some information as to the many affections which had come under his experience traceable to the local manufacturing employments:—

The General Hospital, Birmingham,
October 24, 1863.

My dear Sir,

I have been much occupied in preparing statistics and returns relative to (*certain hospital purposes*). As you can fancy, my inquiries on subjects likely to interest you have been somewhat interrupted; but afterwards, when we are quieter, I may have some time to follow them out.

We have, as before, cases of chest affection, from the fumes probably of oxide of zinc, among brass founders employed in brass mixing; cases of consumption in those who grind pearl and bone buttons; and I think I have traced a few cases of eczema of the hands (a skin disease) in boys employed in grinding or cutting shells for mother-of-pearl work.

We have not a few cases of glass-cutters and glass-blowers affected by lead poisoning. They grind the glass, as you know, upon leaden discs. Those also are affected who polish with *putty powder*, which is composed of oxide of tin and oxide of lead.

The white glass, being composed of silicate of the oxide of lead, and volatile, is also poisonous in its effects to those who work with it.

Lead poisoning also occurs in boys and men employed in making brass cocks (those cocks that are of a dark, almost copper, colour), and in boys employed in soldering funnels. I enclose a note from Mr. Bracey, and with many regrets that I should be unable to give you any definite information at present, and hoping to see you again when you visit Birmingham,

I am, yours faithfully,

J. E. White, Esq. W. Anderson.

738. The note referred to is a selection of a few recent accidents in factories, made by Mr. Bracey, the house surgeon, as follows.

(1.) *Esther Llewellyn*, age 15.—Caught in a shafting at ——'s, thimble maker, Park-street. Severe contusion of lower extremities. (Remarkable escape: crinoline.)—Oct. 15, 1863.

(2.) *Mary Kennedy*, 18.—Caught in cogwheels* by her crinoline as she was stooping forward, at ——'s, Penholder works. Very severe laceration of buttock; probably fatal.—Oct. 19, 1863.

(3.) *Jemima Smallwood*, 24.—Married. Fell against part of the machinery at ——'s glass button works, Macdonald Street, being giddy. Killed on the spot. Coroner's inquest, "Accidental death." No blame.—Oct. 1, 1863.

(4.) *John Davis*, 19.—Ivory button maker. Fell against shafting in an epileptic fit, slight scalp wound resulted.—Oct. 21, 1863.

(5.) *William Matthews*, age 14.—Admitted 9th September 1863. Burn* of arm and leg, just recovered (*i.e.* by the end of October).

* The machinery in this factory, which I had seen previously, though I have not visited it for the purposes of the present inquiry, is like very much that I have seen in other factories, and noticed as apparently dangerous.—J.E.W.

* The burns of this boy, as well as of a man admitted with him, also severely burned, and lately recovered, were caused by a quantity of liquid metal falling on them whilst they were engaged at "their usual occupation;" *i.e.* casting.—J.E.W.

739. The notes of the next five cases were taken by myself from a glance at the surgical in-patients' book for a short previous period.

(1.) *Robert Kelly*, age 10.—Metal rolling. Amputation of hand. Cog.

(2.) *Thomas Brand*, age 10.—Latches. Compound fracture of radius and ulna. Millband.

(3.) *William Inman*, age 9.—Wound of sole of foot, from treading in scrap, *i.e.*, waste metal (often lying on the floor of workshops, &c., J. E. W.), admitted 26 July, discharged August 21.

(4). *Edward Cartwright*, age 18.—Moulder. Burn of foot from hot iron.

(5.) ———, age 19.—Casting. Burn of foot.

740. The following table probably gives a fair specimen of the slighter kind of accidents and injuries of the young arising from the manufacturing employments of Birmingham and its neighbourhood. The 64 cases were taken from the total number of the cases of all kinds and at all ages, viz., about 1,075, entered in the surgical out-patient book of the General Hospital for the two months ending the 19th of June last year (1862), the date of my examination of the book, when on a visit to Birmingham, previous to my visit on a general inquiry in the present year. Those cases only were taken in which the patient was entered as under the age of 18, and other data seemed to point to one of the local industrial employments as the cause or occasion of the injury. It is possible that in a very few of these cases the injury may not have been occasioned by the employment, but these are probably more than balanced by other cases which were omitted owing to the data failing in some one point or more to establish a connection, though one seemed probable.

TABLE compiled from the Surgical Out-patient Book of the General Hospital.

Sex, Male or Female.	Age.	Occupation.	Part injured.	Cause.	Sex, Male or Female.	Age.	Occupation.	Part injured.	Cause.
M.	13	Guns	Finger.	——	—	10	Saws	Finger	Saw.
—	17	Guns	Finger.	——	F.	16	Iron spoons	Finger	Machine.
—	10	Guns	Forearm	Chisel.	M.	12	Shears	Finger	Shears.
—	10	Firewood	——	Burn by resin.	—	—	Wire drawer	Finger	Press.
—	13	Press	Finger	Press.	—	12	Guns	Finger.	——
—	14	Press	Thumb	Press.	—	13	Guns	Thumb	Nail (?).
—	16	Buttons	Finger	Press.	F.	16	Press	Finger	Press.
—	18	Lacquerer	Gums	Inflammation.	M.	16	Brass	Finger	Grindstone.
M.	15	Plates	Finger	Iron.	M.	16	Clockmaker	Eye	Inflammation.
F.	17	Screws	Finger	Lathe.	F.	10	Press	Finger	Press.
(?)	16	Umbrellas	Finger	Press.	—	16	Press	Finger	Press.
M.	13	Clogs	Finger.	——	M.	12	Files	Sprain, abdominal muscle.	Work.
—	11	Guns	Arm.	——					
F.	15	Pens	Finger	Press.	F.	13	Tin-work	Thumb	Shears.
M.	11	Stamping	Finger	Stamp.	M.	10	Hinges	Amputated finger.	Machine.
F.	14	Balls	Finger	Grindstone.					
M.	16	Buttons	Finger	Press.	—	11	——	Contracted hand.	Press.
F.	13	Cutler	Thumb	Press.					
M.	15	Machines	Finger	Machine.	F.	15	Flattening	Finger	Press.
—	12	Buttons	Ulcer on finger.	——	M.	15	Balances	Finger.	——
					—	17	Filing	Foreign body in eye.	——
—	11	Guns	Hand	Bayonet.					
F.	16	Penholders	Finger	Lathe.	—	18	Bayonets	Sprain wrist	Work.
M.	11	Finisher	Foreign body in finger.	Wood.	M.	13	Drilling	Finger	Hook.
					—	14	Buttons	Finger.	——
F.	14	Buttons	Thumb	Press.	F.	12	Press	Finger	Press.
M.	10	Brass	Finger	Press.	—	16	Press	Finger	Press.
—	—	Screws	Finger	Press.	—	18	Stamping	Finger	Press.
—	17	Tools	Knee	Lathe.	M.	17	Stamp	Thumb	Press.
—	17	Machinist	Hand	Lathe.	—	12	Printer	Finger	Press.
—	12	Gilding	Foot	Sulphuric acid.	F.	13	Buttons	Finger	Press.
F.	12	Press	Finger	Press.	—	16	Stamping	Finger	Press.
M.	9	Brass	Finger.	——	M.	11	Machine	Finger	Stamp.
—	12	Buttons	Finger	Press.	—	15	Stamp	Finger	Press.
—	14	Saws	Hand	Saw.	—	14	Bronzing	Foot	Balance weight.

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741. The following particulars were also obtained last year by questions put by me to out-patients attending on the same morning:—

742. *Henry Holmes* (age about 12).—Went to work at a printer's in Great Charles Street. Had not been there an hour when, as I was pulling out the paper after it was printed, the cover came down and smashed two of my fingers. They cut them off for me here.

743. *George Flint*, age 11.—Worked at a saw mill in Bradford Street.—Was sawing when the board jumped up, and the ends of my two first fingers were sawn off. Many other boys worked there, and I had been there two years.

744. *William Bashford*, age 19.—Have lost my two middle fingers at sword grinding. Had been at it three years, and a boy of 16 grinds with me.

745. *Thomas Day*, age 14.—Have lost my middle finger at jewellery at a shop in Great Hampton Street. Was at work putting the metal down under the stamp for another person who worked it.

746. *Henry Hobart*, age 10.—Lost the end of my finger working at a place in Lawley Street, at a press for stamping blanks of metal into R shapes. There were 12 boys, two of them younger than I.

747. *George Mayne*, age 14.—Worked at stamping nails for ornaments in Great Hampton Street. Hurt my finger and had it opened. There were five or six girls and boys there.

748. *John Guest*, age 15.—Was at sugar grinding in Moor Street. Got my hand between part of the machinery, and lost the tips of my second and third fingers. The shaft was worked by steam. There was one boy less than I there, and others bigger.

749. *Samuel Austin*, age 15.—Work at gun stocking and cut my hand with the saw.

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750. *Mr. Wilders.*—House surgeon to the Queen's Hospital. As far as my experience here goes, Birmingham is, I should say, remarkably free from serious accidents, considering the amount and nature of the machinery in use. The accidents in rolling mills are chiefly to men, though not always; *e.g.*, a boy of 14 lost his arm from being drawn in between the rollers, as he was standing on the putting-in side of the rollers. Of the casualty out-patient accidents amongst children old enough to work, fully one half are losses or injuries of fingers and thumbs, &c., from stamps and presses. I have lately looked through the surgical out-patient book for another purpose, but keeping the accidents of the young particularly in view, and I find that their accidents are of just the kind mentioned in the table furnished above from the General Hospital.

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751. *Dr. B. W. Richardson*, Senior Physician to the Royal Infirmary for Diseases of the Chest, London. Some cases which came before me in the course of my practice a few years back drew my attention to the extreme unhealthiness of the occupation of sandpaper making. The cases were of such intensity that I was anxious to make myself personally acquainted with the nature of the employment by visiting a London manufactory. I did not succeed in this attempt, but I learned from some of those employed that the work is very light, consisting chiefly of shaking the sand or glass dust over the paper, and that the proceeding is conducted mainly by young boys. I referred specially to the injurious character of the work in an essay on "Life and Labour," published in the Sanitary Review and Journal of Public Health in January 1859. My attention was first directed to the evils resulting from this occupation by seeing a patient 11 years old who was suffering apparently from consumption. He had been at work at sandpaper making for 3 weeks only, and had complained of the bad effects on his very first day. He felt, he said, the sand "sticking in his throat" and making it dry, and he endeavoured to swallow it. Soon after this he was affected with difficulty of breathing, cough, and a sharp pain through his chest, as if it was being pierced, and he coughed all the following night. After a few days he began to expectorate, which gave him some relief at first, but it increased to such a degree that he was brought to me, and in spite of all that could be done he died from the exhaustion within a month from the time when he first commenced his work. His mother, apparently a good and intelligent mother, stated that she had before lost in the same way two children, who had been at the same work. In consequence of this case I saw afterwards two other boys, of about the same age, suffering from the same cause and in the same way. They also both died. I am informed that suffering and death of the same kind are common amongst children engaged in the work of making sandpaper. I have had one case of the same kind at the Royal Infirmary for Diseases of the Chest, but this boy recovered.

In the first case which I saw I examined the lungs after death. In the extremities of the bronchial passages were particles of sand and powdered glass, and I could feel the "grit" by touch, and could see the particles of sand and glass with the microscope after washing them from the tissues. It has been denied that bodies like particles of glass and sand can be inhaled into the lungs, such denial resting mainly on the distinguished Bernard's experiments in which rabbits were made to inhale sand dust in large quantities. But, as above shown, I have proof direct that the particles named can enter the lungs; and the fact is not opposed to Bernard's results. To subject an animal suddenly to a cloud of dust for an hour or two is a very different process from that of placing a boy for 12 hours in an imperceptible dust, just sufficiently fine and distributed not to irritate, and not to create reflex resistance. In the case of the animals the muscles of the larynx actively opposing the entrance of the foreign substance, there is copious secretion in the throat, and constant attempts to reject the substance that is irritating the mucous membrane, while the ciliary action is playing with full vigour; in the boy there is little or none of this opposition, the introduction of the particles is insidious, slow, and without consciousness of the mischief excited in the lung structure until mischief perhaps irreparable has been set up.

In my practice I have observed in other manufactures in which girls or boys are employed, great evils arise from the inhalation of dust, especially from fibres of silk and cotton, from carbon, and from rouge dust. I have also seen bad results from the temperature or want of pure air.

In one occupation, fur dyeing, in which powerful chemical substances are used, one of the principal employers uses a machine for carrying off the noxious vapour by means of a draught, but I have learned that he was almost the only, if not the only, man who uses this precaution.

Sulphur sometimes is inhaled in the form of fumes of sulphurous acid in preparing straw for bonnets, &c. by means of sulphur, an occupation in which the young are often engaged, sometimes in private houses, and much mischief ensues. A few other occupations that occur to me on the moment as injurious to health are jewellery, cigar and snuff making, paper drying (one drying-room has a temperature of 130°), shaving brush making, &c. A large number of others, at

least as injurious, could be added from what has come within my own experience. If the inquiries of the Commission extended to young men and young women, the facts that could be adduced would be of the most remarkable character, as showing an amount of prevailing and preventible disease of which the public can, I am sure, have no shadow of conception.

752. The following letter and statement are furnished by a physician of experience in Birmingham, Dr. Russell, of New Hall Street:

New Hall Street,
My dear Sir, August 13, 1863.

I send you some memoranda respecting anæmia, as I have found it among our female operatives and servants in lower class situations.

I have not attempted any statement respecting the other matter, of which I spoke to you, for I could not give *numerical* data, as I have not always specified the intemperance of the husband, where it was present, among the sources of the patient's anxiety.

My statement to you consisted of this; that at our public institutions, among the out-patients in particular, there is a large class, consisting of females, most of them above 20 years of age, and married, who suffer from indefinite symptoms, commonly entitled nervous debility, or sometimes (loosely) hysteria. Their condition is marked by depression of mental power; they are desponding, very emotional, and with little power to control their emotions; prone to imagine themselves sufferers from bodily ailment, and watchful of every sensation, which they magnify into a symptom, and retain in their recollection until some new fancy takes its place.

Their sleep is disturbed at night, not unfrequently they dream frightfully, start up in terror, and are apt to see phantoms (resembling the victims of intemperance).

Various other symptoms are superadded; headache vertigo, palpitation, &c.

Bodily health is also impaired, and becomes more affected as the disease advances. Digestion is enfeebled, often painful; emaciation progresses slowly but steadily; œdema is apt to occur; and the menstrual functions are irregularly performed.

A large proportion of the sufferers from these symptoms refer the originating of their malady to anxiety, care, trouble, worry, &c.; and among the particular causes of such trouble, the intemperance of the husband, his cruelty and neglect, constantly appear. I do not attempt precision, but at a guess, I should place this particular cause for trouble to the female sufferer from nervous debility, not only at the top of the list of causes, but considerably above any other.

Thus the habits of intemperance in which men indulge, become indirectly a very pregnant cause of ill health among the adult female population.

Faithfully yours,
James Russell.

Anæmia.

Among many well known causes of *Anæmia* those which are associated with unhealthy occupations or modes of life hold an important place.

As the blood of females is more liable to undergo the changes which constitute the disease than the blood of males, it is in females that the malady most frequently presents itself, at least when it is dependent upon occupation or mode of life; and hence it is most frequently met with among the female population of this town.

In a large proportion of cases of anæmia occurring under the circumstances in question, no evidence of organic change is afforded by the patient beyond that which is the fundamental condition of the disease, diminution in the proportion of the blood cells.

Hence a considerable amount of the disease is compatible with a fair share of available health; the symptoms develope themselves gradually, so that the patient is to a certain extent habituated to them, and, unless they assume a condition of severity, will generally pursue her ordinary avocations.

Moreover the most irksome symptoms only exhibit themselves in a severe form on particular occasions, as when the patient eats, takes exercise, or makes exertion; though in many cases they are present to a degree sufficient to trouble and depress the patient through the greater part of the day.

For the reasons stated the disease is often endured even for some years, and is permitted to make considerable progress before relief is sought for. In many instances indeed no complaint is made until some accidental illness further depresses the patient's health, and reduces her to a state of debility from which she finds herself unable to recover. The commencement of the disease will probably be referred by the patient to the period of such accidental attack.

Hence, in a large proportion of cases, especially in elder patients, the symptoms of anæmia can be traced backwards through several years, by careful inquiry; or, what frequently happens, the history of the patient indicates periodic increase of the more urgent or irksome symptoms, especially of the stomach pain, or of some muscular suffering, which have obliged the sufferer on each occasion to seek for medical aid. Such patients present themselves more than once or twice at the same institution; or they report repeated visits, at different times, to other institutions.

Another consequence of a fair amount of serviceable health remaining to the patient who suffers from anæmia, is that, as soon as the more painful symptoms are relieved, she often ceases to attend at the institution, and is disinclined to persevere in treatment until a cure is effected.

Speaking generally, the result of treatment of anæmia in our public institutions is not encouraging, so far as cure is concerned. My own observation leads to the inference that, unless in comparatively recent cases, the benefit derived from medical care does not extend beyond temporary relief; though undoubtedly exceptions to the rule do occur.

Many causes co-operate to produce this result; among them I may especially mention the difficulty, often the impossibility, of removing the cause by correcting unhealthy habits of life; the long period during which the malady has been present, whereby a lowered standard of nutrition appears to have been impressed upon the blood; and also the gradual indulgence in habits, to a considerable extent induced by the disease, which are unfavourable to vigorous health, especially disinclination for exercise in the open air, and dislike for animal food.

Among notes of cases of this disease, collected some years ago, in the practice of the General Dispensary, in this town. I have analyzed the following with reference to a few points:—

Number of patients - - - 102
The sex in all, female.
Single, 94. Married, 8.

Of the married patients none attributed their disease to causes connected with the married state.

Age, as follow:—

Years.	Number.	Years.	Number
14	3	24	2
15	5	25	4
16	6	26	4
17	11	27	2
18	8	28	2
19	12	29	1
20	13	30	1
21	8	37	1
22	7	43	1
23	11		

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That is,

From 14 years to 20	- -	45 patients.
20 „ 25	- -	41 „
25 and upwards	- -	16 „
[Above 29	- 3.]	

Of those of more advanced age, a large proportion had been for a long period employed in their trade.

Occupation:—

Dressmaking 10; Button stitching or carding 3; Tailoring 1; Saddle or Boot stitching 3; Book-binding 1; Cabinet lining 1; Umbrellas 1; Brace making 2; Gloves 1; Straw bonnets 1; Boxing pens 1 - - - - - -	25
In a warehouse - - - - -	9
In service - - - - - -	22
Washing - - - - - -	3
House work - - - - - -	2
Teaching - - - - - -	1
Buttons of various kinds - - -	12
Plate, various kinds - - -	4
Burnishing - - - - - -	5
Screws 2; Steel pens 6; Presswork 6; Coffin Furniture 1 - - - -	15
Glass cutting or roughing - -	2
Needle eyeing 1; Pearl drilling 1 -	2
	102

Cause:—

26 No cause ascertained or ascertainable.

2 Constitutional feebleness.

52 Directly ascribed their malady to confinement at work, or to want of exercise.

4 The operation of one or other of these causes (confinement or want of exercise) legitimately inferred from the occupation of the patient. (Dressmaking &c.)

11 To late hours, and excessive work; these patients were all in service (in seven patients placed under the preceding head, late hours were superadded to other causes).

3 To close warehouses or shops (14 included this among other more prominent causes).

1 To grief and anxiety from seduction (in one, anxiety was added to other causes).

3 To privation.

The causes named above were common alike to married and single: in the former no fresh cause appeared.

Of the patients in whom the malady was referable to confinement, one or two described the beginning of their symptoms to change from an active to a sedentary life.

The effects of close application to work were intensified in not a few by the practice of taking the meals in the shop (admitted in 11), or by the patient living very near her place of work (mentioned in 15).

Where closeness of the shop is spoken of, overcrowding is sometimes alleged, or the presence of stoves or gas.

Neglect of exercise is often admitted. This injurious practice, arising in great degree from causes connected with the circumstances of the patient as regards residence or work, is likely to be much encouraged in anæmia, not only by a lowered condition of mental and physical energy, which the malady involves, but also by the muscular pains which are so constantly present; in part also by shortness of breath, caused by imperfect nutrition of the heart; possibly also by œdema of the feet, which is very frequently present.

Want of fresh air, and of the regulated exercise of of the whole body which walking involves, in great measure explain the imperfect sleep of which many complain. A collateral cause would also exist in excessive weariness from overwork in a feeble state of health.

The effect of the disease in depressing mental and physical energy is demonstrated, not only by disinclination to take exercise, but by impatience of pain, a tendency to depression, and a disposition to notice symptoms, to describe them in exaggerated terms, or to attach to them an undue share of importance. This condition of mind and body also developes an inclination for sensual indulgences by the gratification of the passions; but on this subject I have no special data.

A further effect of the disease is a serious one, as tending to increase the influence of the disease over nutrition, and to prolong its continuance. Loss of appetite is a frequent symptom, resulting partly from weakness, partly from confined air and want of exercise. The stomach pain also produced by eating, which is a frequent attendant upon anæmia (dependent frequently upon ulceration, as proved by the vomiting of blood), not unfrequently renders the sufferer afraid of taking food, even when the appetite for it is present.

The loss of appetite is especially apt to affect the inclination for animal food, and to lead to the substitution for meat of lighter or more tasty articles of diet, as bacon, pudding, bread and butter or cheese, tea.

Some admitted that they did not taste meat once in a week, some few (a very small minority) from the inability to obtain it; but the generality confessed that they were careless of meat, or had a decided distaste for it.

Of 85 to whom the question was put, 33 did not take meat regularly, took it in small quantity, or hardly took it at all.

It is further to be noted that in the case of the 52 who did take meat, loss of appetite would often interfere with its amount or with the regularity of meals; and further that imperfect digestion (evidenced by pain and flatulence) and habitual constipation (a very general symptom) would seriously impair the due preparation of the food in the stomach and bowels.

*** The distaste for animal food, and the disinclination for taking exercise by walking, mentioned above, not only appear in the patients' history, but obtrude themselves upon our notice in conducting the treatment. One of the greatest difficulties in managing these cases is in overcoming the patients' tendencies in these two particulars.

General.

753. A short summary of the manufactures and of the condition of Birmingham is extracted below from an account prepared by a gentleman for many years past engaged in one of the largest manufactories there, and well acquainted with the general manufactures of the place, and to which I am referred by him. It is as follows:—

Birmingham is the workshop of the world so far as general objects in metal are concerned, and in some other animal, mineral, and vegetable materials. In it are produced, in iron and steel, rifles, muskets, pistols, swords, and bayonets, nails and screws, hinges and fastenings of all kinds, steel pens; millions upon millions of pins, hooks, and eyes; buttons in metal, wood, bone, horn, and pearl shell; all and every kind of brass goods, as candlesticks, lamps, chandeliers, and gas fittings; also every kind of upholstery decorations in the same metal; millions of miles of wire, in iron, brass, and copper, are drawn there yearly; the superficial surface of the globe might be covered with the sheets of metal rolled in her mills; of electro-plated goods it is the great central manufactory. Its works in glass are of great size and excellence. Birmingham produces also agricultural implements of all kinds, matchetts for the negro to cut down the sugar cane, edge tools, saddlery, railway carriages and mountings, lamps, &c.; metal bedsteads, ironmongery, tin wares, jewellery, *papier maché*, and japanned goods; in short, saving cutlery, what hardware is not made in Birmingham? As we have already said, it works in other materials than metal.

No town is so varied in the character of its manu-

factures as Birmingham, and there are few which supply so large a population with the means of living; even in the worst times the applicants for relief are proportionably few as contrasted with Manchester: individual wealthy manufacturerers are rare, but we believe that on the whole there are a greater number who realize a decent competency. Comfort is thus more widely distributed, and the variety of trades renders anything like a general pinch in the hardest times a thing of very rare occurrence indeed. The provident clubs, building societies, &c., largely contributed to by the working classes, are useful resources in time of need.

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754. A paper read before the London meeting of the Social Science Association in 1862, containing facts and statistics relating chiefly to the new trades of Birmingham, has been kindly placed at my disposal by the writer, who is himself engaged in an important manufacture, and takes an active part in educational and social improvements. The paper is so concise that it is given entire, with the omission of a few less material passages.

An Account of some New Trades in Birmingham, and Phases of its Social Life since 1832. *By* J. Skirrow Wright.

In the following paper I am only able just to glance at the subjects introduced; much interesting information might be added, and the list of new trades extended. The statistics for the most part must be taken as approximate only; and for them I am under great obligation to the various manufacturers.

Ship Sheathing.—About thirty years have now elapsed since the late Mr. G. F. Muntz discovered that a certain combination of copper and spelter would produce a metal which would effectually resist the action of sea-water. * * * * Some time ago, it was discovered that the addition of phosphorus to molten metal rendered it still more impervious to the action of the sea-water, and a patent was procured for this also. A large quantity of this metal is now consumed annually. There is scarcely a port in the world at which ships are built, at which there is not a large demand for sheathing metal; and, of the two sorts, not less than 100 to 120 tons are produced weekly, giving constant employment to about 500 men and boys, and being of the annual value of half to three-quarters of a million. It is computed that in Birmingham and its immediate locality, an average of 400 to 500 tons of copper is consumed weekly in the sheathing, tube, casting, wire, and other trades. Thirty years since, a tenth of the quantity would probably be an over-estimate.

Brass Tubes, for locomotive or marine boilers, are made principally in Birmingham. They are cast in one piece, and can be drawn to a length of 30 feet, with a 10-inch bore. About 100 tons are produced weekly. Some 500 men and boys are engaged. This trade was unknown 25 years since, and all tubes, previously to that time, were soldered. A large number of persons are employed in the manufacture of small tubes for useful and ornamental purposes, as gas tubes for chandeliers, desk rails, &c.

Railway Carriages.—A large trade in these has found its seat in Birmingham. A thousand persons are employed in three or four great establishments, from which railway carriages and trucks are supplied to all parts of the world.

Metallic Bedsteads.—Twenty years ago metallic bedsteads were only used in hospitals and public institutions, and in very hot climates; but latterly they have come into very general domestic use. At that time there were not more than four makers, now there are 50, who probably produce 200,000 annually. There are nearly 2,000 persons employed in this trade, of whom about 300 are girls and women. The labour of the men being manual only, their wages may not average more than 25*s.* per week. The only deleterious part of the trade is the painting. The good qualities of metallic bedsteads are at once apparent—durability, portability, and cleanliness.

Steel Pens.—In Great Britain, Birmingham has retained exclusive possession of this trade. The first metallic pens were made some 46 years ago by an artisan who worked in a garret, but it is only about 30 or 35 years since that it became a trade. It now gives employment to nearly 2,000 persons, who work in well-ventilated, well-conducted factories, and for the most part earn good wages. About four-fifths are women and girls. Men are employed to harden and temper the pens, &c.; this does not require any great skill, and the average wage is from 20*s.* to 25*s.* per week; but clever workmen are required as tool makers, who earn good wages, and, when very skilful, from 3*l.* to 5*l.* weekly. It is computed that from eight to ten tons of steel are cut up weekly.

Jewellery.—Since the discoveries of gold in California, the jewellery trade in Birmingham has received a most remarkable development. A large district on the north side of Birmingham, that 25 years ago was cultivated as gardens, is now covered with respectable houses having workshops attached, occupied almost exclusively by persons connected with the jewellery trade. The Jews' quarter in Amsterdam is not more distinctly marked than is the jewellers' quarter in Birmingham. There is no doubt that at least half the jewellery for personal ornament produced in the kingdom is made in Birmingham. It is not possible to ascertain the value of the precious metals used yearly in this trade, as Australian, Mexican, and United States coins, as well as English sovereigns, are melted to a large extent; but at a moderate estimate 3,000 oz. of gold and 6,000 oz. of silver are used weekly, which represents an annual consumption of about 700,000*l.*, exclusive of the quantity used for gilding and plating, and in the manufacture of forks, spoons, and services of silver plate, which would undoubtedly bring up the value to upwards of a million pounds sterling. Besides this, a very large amount of diamonds, pearls, and a variety of precious stones are used. For the most part the trade is carried on by small masters, who employ from three to 50 men and boys each; many of the masters working at the bench themselves. It is remarkable that, except in gold chain making, and a few as polishers, no women are employed; and yet it is much lighter, and apparently more adapted for female labour, than many other trades in Birmingham to which they readily apply themselves. The gold and silver chain making is usually carried on in large manufactories, and in this branch steam machinery has been employed, and gold chains can be produced with the greatest facility, of any length, by its means. In 1832 there were about 20 masters and probably 200 employés; now there are upwards of 250 masters and about 3,000 workpeople, besides a large number in subsidiary trades, as lapidaries, die-sinkers, enamellers, case makers, &c.; and if the workers at the silver and gilt toy trades are included, it would show that at least 5,000 persons are engaged.

Buttons.—Some two generations since, the making of buttons was the staple trade of Birmingham; but the freaks of fashion, and foreign competition, have placed it in a lower rank. It was one of the original trades of the celebrated firm of Boulton and Watt; but the beautiful studded steel buttons and buckles, from which they reaped a large fortune 70 years since, are now nearly all made in France. Partly through the unwise action of the trades' union, and partly through the competition of the Viennese, with change of fashion, there are not more than two-thirds the pearl buttons produced now that there were a few years since. The quantity of mother-of-pearl shells consumed in this manufacture varies from 1,000 to 1,500 tons annually. But we refer to the trade in order to

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call attention to the development of a new branch. Central America produces the corozos nut, which, from its resemblance, when dry, to the grain of elephants' tusks, has been termed vegetable ivory. Upwards of 700 tons of this article were last year imported and consumed in the manufacture of buttons. It can be turned and carved as easily as ivory or bone, and receives the most delicate dyes. From 500 to 700 persons are employed; mostly women or girls. The produce is, weekly, from 5,000 to 8,000 gross.

Hooks and Eyes. — In nothing has the application of machinery produced such results as in these insignificant but very useful articles. Forty years ago, when made with the hand by means of pliers, they were worth from 3*s.* to 4*s.* per gross, and now they are produced and sold wholesale at less than 2*d.*! About 800 women and children are altogether or partially employed at their own homes in sewing them on cards, for which they receive about three-eighths of a penny per gross. The original machines were introduced by a Frenchman about 30 years since; and the quantity now produced is estimated at 50,000 gross weekly.

Photography.—No trade has greater claim to be considered universal. Formerly, the metallic frames which were so largely used, were the products of either Germany or America; now Birmingham manufacturers can produce cheaper than either. At the present time there are from 400 to 500 persons employed in connection with photography in Birmingham. Two years since nearly twice the number were engaged; but the change of fashion or taste has almost revolutionized this as it has so many other trades. The albumenized paper is made in Birmingham. One person uses the whites of tens of thousands of eggs in the process, annually.

Electro-Plate. — No trade has done so much to elevate the taste and exalt the position of the workman as the electro-plated trade. The rude hammerer has given way to the artist modeller and the skilled chaser. The plater, who soldered his silver and copper together by heat after the only known mode pursued by his grandfather, has been supplanted by the scientific chemist; and the poor "water-gilder," whose palsied limbs told of daily dealings with poisonous mercury, is succeeded by workers who cover the base with the most precious metals, without any fear of losing their health, or finding, through their trade, a pathway to an early grave. Within a quarter of a century this trade has been brought to—or rather we may say created in—Birmingham. We have nothing that will enable us to make a comparison with what it was 20 years since. Upwards of 2,000 persons are employed in this entirely new trade, amongst whom are some French and many English designers, modellers, and artists of great talent, and a number of practical chemists, who are possessed also of considerable scientific knowledge. The wages generally paid are above those in any similar class in Birmingham. In the manufactory of Messrs. Elkington (who employ 1,000 persons) are produced colossal and life-size bronze statues, statuettes of every description, copies of the finest works of ancient art capable of being produced in metal, and every description of gilt and plated wares. They also manufacture *solid* silver plate to a very large extent. Many tons of fine nickel metal are used weekly in this trade, as a base to receive the pure coating of gold or silver deposited by electricity. It should never be forgotten, that electro-gilding has been the means of saving many lives annually in Birmingham, which would otherwise have been sacrificed under the old method of gilding by mercury.

Many other entirely new trades are in operation, employing in the aggregate a large number of persons —but separately only a small number—such as the making of percussion-caps, embossing presses, metallic eyelets, metal clasps for books, and photographic albums.

It is a very difficult matter to estimate, with any degree of correctness, the influence which the trades of our town have upon the social life of its inhabitants; but we think we can trace some connexion between them, and would briefly glance at a few of the more novel features.

The comparative freedom of the population of Birmingham from crime, more especially in the case of women, is probably owing to the demand there is for their labour, to their industrious habits, to the opportunities constantly afforded them of advancing their position; and not least, to the benefits they derive from their attendance at Sabbath schools, where large numbers remain until the age of 20 and upwards. Except in a few exceptional cases, our town cannot boast of its millionnaires, but a large number of small fortunes have been realized, and there is less distance between master and workman than elsewhere: the small capital required in many trades enables large numbers of men to become masters. One of the largest of our jewellers, himself originally a workman, can point to at least 10 other masters, each employing several workmen, and apparently well to do, all of whom have been employed by him as apprentices or journeymen.

The development of so many new trades has attracted a large population; the increase shows a larger per-centage than any other first-class provincial town, with the exception of Sheffield:—

In 1831 it was		147,000
„ 1841	„	183,000
„ 1851	„	232,000
„ 1861	„	296,000

or, with the suburbs, 310,000,

showing an increase in 30 years of 100 per cent. It is worthy of note that each inhabitant has nearly double the space which is permitted to the population of Manchester; the number of persons occupying each house is five in Birmingham, five and a half in Manchester, and seven in Liverpool: in Birmingham no persons live in cellars. A large proportion (comparatively) of the houses in Birmingham are the property of the occupiers: this will especially apply to those erected within the last 10 years; and, in the outlying districts, the agency of building societies has largely contributed to this; and the independence and self-reliance which are thus fostered are most important elements in the well-being of a community.

As regards education, the facilities for obtaining it are so great that no child or young person need be without the elements at least; in fact, there appears to be rather a want of scholars than schools. The free grammar school gives a gratuitous first-class education to several hundred boys, and its advantages are used by the principal inhabitants of the town, without respect to creed or sect. There are in connexion with this truly noble charity (its income is about 12,000*l.* per annum) several elementary schools, at which the sons and daughters of artisans can obtain, without cost, a good, sound, and most useful education; also attached to nearly every church, and to several chapels, are day schools, where good elementary (and in some cases more advanced) education can be obtained at from 2*d.* to 6*d.* per week. Five years since an educational society was formed, and adopted a Prize Scheme, which has been most successfully carried out, and stimulated to increased exertions, both masters and scholars. It should be noted that the Society of Friends have opened schools on Sunday mornings, where some 600 or 700 young men and women are taught reading and writing. There are upwards of 700 pupils studying in the schools of design. Eight hundred pupils attend the evening classes of the Birmingham Midland Institute.

Provident and Co-operative Societies. — There are very few of the artisans of Birmingham who are not connected with some sick club or provident institution; the various orders of Odd Fellows number some thousands of members in Birmingham. Many of the larger manufactories have sick clubs; the members receive a certain sum weekly if unable to work, and generally divide the balance at Christ-

mas; the principle is not sound, but answers a good immediate purpose, and the dividend generally is made at a time when the manufactory is closed for taking stock.

Building and Land Societies are supported by a different class: the good wages obtained by many artisans, and the considerable profits made by small masters, have caused them to attain a remarkable degree of prosperity. It is computed that 9,000 to 10,000 persons are now contributing to these societies a sum equal to from 130,000*l.* to 150,000*l.* per annum; and that, during the last 20 years, a sum not much short of a million pounds has been paid into them.

Public Baths have been established by the municipal authorities. The first experiment in this matter was so successful that the Town Council deemed it desirable to extend the advantages, and they have recently erected commodious buildings in two other districts, whilst a fourth is contemplated. About 240,000 baths are taken annually, producing a revenue of 3,650*l.*, and involving an outlay of 2,650*l.* Wash-houses are not used.

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A free library has also been established, an account of which has been furnished in another paper.*

There are at present two public parks in Birmingham, but these are too distant from the centre of the town to permit a large majority of the inhabitants to avail themselves of these advantages. We learn that, in the seven months ending 1st October, the park nearest to the town was visited by about 220,000 persons, nearly all of whom were artisans and their families, and not a single case of misconduct of any kind has been reported to the committee. This park is used as a practice ground by 13 cricket clubs, numbering some 360 men and boys.

* See "Papers and Discussions on Social Economy," p. 95. Emily Faithfull, Victoria Press.

755. The following tables,—drawn up from answers given by some of the scholars of large evening schools, whole rows or classes being questioned by me in succession, without passing over any,—give a specimen of some of the employments, and the hours of work usual in them, and in some cases the extra hours or overtime; but the time required to obtain accurate answers as to this and additional matters from all questioned must have greatly diminished that number.

St. Thomas' Evening Schools.—Girls.

Name.	Age.	Employment.	Regular Hours.	Overtime.	Remarks.
			A.M. P.M.	A.M. P.M.	
Caroline Adderley	15	Lately at lock polishing. Service now.	9 to 8	— to 10 (often nights together.)	———
Elizabeth Lissaman	12	Gold chains	8 to 7	— to 8 & 9	———
		Buttons before	8 to 7	— to 8 & 9	———
Sarah Ann Price	15	Electro-plate burnish	9 to 7	7 to 10	Are seven girls.
Emma Broadbent	10	Bonnet shapes	9 to 8	— to 9 (and later in summer.)	Three years at work. Wages 3*s.* Wretchedly thin and pale. Has headache. Are 13 girls there.
Mary Ann Owen	14	Heading pins	8 to 7	— to 8	In a little shop. Eight girls. Wages 3*s.*
Emma Jones	10	Metal chains	8 to 7	- - -	Wages 1*s.* 6*d.*
Mary Ann Horton	11	Guard chains	8 to 7	8 to 9 (before Christmas.)	At work four years.
Elizabeth Bannister	13	Lacquering	- -	- - -	Makes head ache.
Betsey Slacker	14	Sadlery	8 to 7	- - -	Works at home with three brothers.
		Pocket-books before	9 to 7	- - -	Three girls.
Jane Hanson	15	Carriage lamps	8 to 7	6 to 9	Began work at 6 years old.
Sarah Jane Hopley	15	Fancy toy warehouse	9 to 8	— to 9	———
Drusilla Barnes	16	Mind shop. Umbrellas before.	9 to 7	———	———
Jane Lewis	10	Bonnet shapes	9 to 8	- - -	At work two years.
Selina Jinks	9	Lamp shop	9 to 7	———	———
Eliza Wood	12	Burnish	8 to 7	———	———
Sarah Ann Milward	13	Printing	8 to 7	— to 10	Great many girls. Many younger. Some of 9.
Fanny Clarke	13	Spectacle warehouse	8½ to 7	— to 10 (seldom.)	———
Matilda Sheldon	15	Varnishing	8 to 7	— to 8 & 9	Began work at 8 years old.
Emma Watgen	11	Hooks and eyes	—	———	———
Caroline Etheridge	12	Whipcord	8 to 6½	7 to 6½	Turns a handle; easy work. Wages 2*s.*
Caroline Spragg	13	Japanning	7 to 7	- -	Two hours meals.
Mary Jane Foster	13	Chandelier warehouse	8½ to 7	———	———
Jane Tonge	10	Paper boxes; pastes	9 to 7½	- - -	Works at home with sister and two girls. Worked for some years.
Mary Tyson	10	Service. Buttons before	7 to 7	———	———
Mary Ann Henderson	13	Wire weaving	- -	- - -	Helps father.
Elizabeth Heywood	11	Stationery	8 to 7	— to 9	At ruling machine.
Jane Morris	12	Leather purses	9 to 7	———	———
Four girls from 11 to 14.	—	Home.	—	———	———
Three of 13 and 14	—	Service.	—	———	———

St. Thomas' Evening Schools.—Boys.

Thomas Holmsley	12	Chandeliers	8 to 7	7 to 8	Went to work at 9 years old.
Charles Jowett	12	Belts, frogs, boxes, &c.	7 to 7	— to 8,9,10 6 to 7 (sometimes.)	———
William Jowett	11	Errands	7 to 7	7 to 9	———
Joseph Russell	14	Engine fitting	6 to 6	- - -	4 on Saturday.

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756. A Report of the "Birmingham Educational Association," on "an inquiry into the state of "education of the children of the working classes, as affected by the demand for labour and by other "causes," gives much useful information, carefully collected, as to the ages at which children begin work, what the work is, and the extent to which it practically cuts many off from the existing means of instruction. This Association was formed in the year 1857, for the objects stated below, and presided over and supported by a body of noblemen, members of Parliament, clergymen, manufacturers, and other gentlemen interested in the district, amongst whom appear the names (widely associated with education) of Lord Lyttleton, Sir J. S. Pakington, Bart., M.P., C. B. Adderley, Esq., M.P., and other well-known names. The Prize Scheme instituted by it has been very successful. The number of candidates from various schools in the town present at the last yearly examination in October 1862, 652 out of 670 entered, is as large, I am told, as can be accommodated for examination in the large Town Hall; and the attainments, as appears by the report of the examiners and as I am otherwise informed, are high. The class, however, affected by this scheme must, it appears, be different from the mass of those whom I found and examined in factories and workplaces.* The Report, preceded by a statement of the object of the Association, follows unabridged.

* At the yearly examination in October 1863, held after the above was written, out of 1,226 candidates entered, 904 boys and 322 girls, 1,200 attended; 517 received prizes, and 314 certificates. The report attributes the increase to the admission of younger children, including a class under 8 years old, and to requiring only 100 instead of 170 days attendance (at school?—J. E. W.), and contemplates measures for reducing the number of candidates as unnecessarily large.—J. E. W.

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757. The object of the Association is to promote education generally in Birmingham and its neighbourhood, and especially the education of the children of the working classes. As one means of effecting this object, it has already established a Prize Scheme, with the view of inducing parents to allow their children to remain longer at school, by offering prizes to those who shall, after examination, prove themselves to have acquired a certain amount of knowledge. The Association also proposes to avail itself of any other means which, from time to time, may seem calculated to promote education. The furtherance of measures for diminishing juvenile vagrants, and providing for their education and employment, will form an important portion of the work of the Association. It is also hoped that the Association will be enabled to furnish to the community a means of expressing an opinion on the various educational measures that may be proposed for consideration, either in Parliament or elsewhere.

Report of Statistical Sectional Committee.

When your committee were first appointed to collect and examine statistics in reference to the state of education in Birmingham, their attention was immediately called to the Educational Returns of the Census, accompanying the Report of Mr. Horace Mann.

Considerable trouble was bestowed on these returns, and some correspondence entered into, in the endeavour to make them available, as a source of information, on the moot questions of how early and to what extent labour interfered with education, and in what degree the obstacles resulted from the inability, indifference, and neglect of the parents. It was, however, soon apparent, that in order to be locally useful, deductions had to be carried through so many steps, while the data which would form the groundwork of the argument proved on investigation so unsatisfactory from the mode in which hypothesis was mingled with fact, that your committee, in order to obtain reliable information, decided to initiate for themselves an inquiry amongst the working and poorer classes of the population of Birmingham.†

It was resolved, therefore, to issue a circular to the clergy of the several parishes and districts, requesting them to fill up a form of return from the committee. The circular and form of return are appended to this report—(A and B). In answer to this circular the clergy of 14 parochial districts (see Appendix C), have furnished returns compiled with manifest care and great exactness. These returns have been condensed and tabulated; and the statistical committee have much pleasure in laying the tables before the association, believing they will be found to contain trustworthy information not previously obtained.

These returns extend over 1,043 families, scattered over various parts of the borough, and comprised in 55 groups of houses, varying in number, and relate to 1,373 children, viz., 753 males and 620 females, between the ages of 7 and 13.‡

From Table I. it will appear, in respect of the males, that the largest number who receive daily education is 62 per cent. between the ages of 7 and 8; 61 per cent. between 8 and 9; 45 per cent. between 9 and 10; and 41 per cent. between 10 and 11; that between 11 and 12 the school attendance diminishes to 17 per cent., and between 12 and 13 to 10 per cent.

These figures would seem to show that, of the poorer classes of scholars, equal to about one-fourth of the whole, their day-school life ceases at 9; that of nearly two-fourths of our scholars their school life ceases at 11; but that after this age barely one-fourth of the number (who would come from the families of the most respectable artizans) have prolonged their education to between the ages of 12 and 13.

Of the 38 per cent. who have no day-school education, it will appear that between 7 and 8, 6 per cent. only are not at school because they are employed, the trades being happily few for which the labour of such infants is available.

The remaining 32 per cent. are idle; they are those whom the poverty, the indifference, or the actual vices of the parents are suffering to grow up in ignorance.

However lamentable the fact that so large a portion should be without education, it is in a measure satisfactory to observe that while between 8 and 9 those who are employed have increased from 6 to 13 per cent., those who are idle have decreased from 32 to 26 per cent.; and therefore that it is from this class, rather than from the school directly, that labour draws at this period. Whatever its defects, the teaching of the workshop is better than the teaching of the street.

Between 9 and 10 it is to be remarked, that while the per-centage of those employed has more than doubled (from 13 to 29 per cent.), the number of the unemployed is as large as before, viz., 26 per cent.

Between 10 and 11 the per-centage of the unemployed has diminished by nearly one half (from 26 to 14), and that of the employed has been augmented by an increase more than equal to it (from 29 to 45).

From 11 to 12 nearly three-fourths (73 per cent.) of the whole have found employment; and from 12 to 13 more than four-fifths, or 82 per cent.

† In the close of his report Mr. Horace Mann seems himself to allude to the defects which he found in the material supplied to him in the following remark: "It would of course be vain to hope that in a work "like this the statements and the figures should prove wholly unim- "peachable; the utmost that can be affirmed is the existence of a dis- "position to be fair, and the expenditure of pains to be correct."

‡ The actual number of children returned was 1,382, but of these nine (six females and three males) were below the age of seven; they have, therefore, been thrown out. In the Form of Return a column was placed for infant schools; as the number at these only amounted to 25 they have been thrown into the day-school column.

As it has been shown above that one-fourth of the scholars leave the day school at 9, and two-fourths more by 11 ; it is now the place to inquire to what extent education ceases altogether with the day school.

The two means of supplementary education are the Sunday school and the evening school.

It is worthy of notice, that under the head of "employed" the attendance at the Sunday school which, between 8 and 9, bears the proportion of only 8 per cent. to the boys of that age, increases to 21 per cent between 9 and 10 ; to 32 per cent. between 10 and 11 ; to 54 per cent. between 11 and 12 ; the per-centage then remaining almost stationary, viz., 55 between 12 and 13. On the whole, that between 7 and 13, generally 55 per cent. are in the Sunday school, besides those who are so from among the unemployed.

In the case of evening schools, such as attend them at all, appear to be those who have attended the day and Sunday schools until 10 ; unfortunately their number never exceeds 9 per cent.

To gather up the results, 16 per cent. of the males are at day school between 7 and 9 ; 28 per cent. are under daily instruction till 11 ; and 14 per cent. have daily instruction till 13 : of this 58 per cent. nearly all appear to be under Sunday school teaching during the whole of the period; and further, the chief increase in the attendance at evening schools arises concurrently with the diminution of the numbers in the day school after the age of 11.

How long the influence of the Sunday and evening schools continues beyond 13, and over what proportion it extends, there are no data to show.

Table II. presents some variations with respect to the occupation of girls' time worthy of notice.

Between 7 and 8, 53 per cent. (or 9 less of girls than of boys) are at school. Various causes might be assigned for the education of girls commencing somewhat later than that of boys ; between 8 and 9 the per-centage of girls is rather in excess of that of boys, being as 63 to 61 : between 9 and 10 the number of girls at school diminishes largely (as that of boys does at the same age), so that the per-centage of both sexes is thus nearly alike, viz., 45 and 46 : between 10 and 11 the per-centage of girls at school has decreased to 33 per cent., while the boys has only come down to 41 : between 11 and 12 it remains nearly stationary, being then double that of the boys at the same age : between 12 and 13 also the per-centage of girls is 17, while that of boys is only 10 per cent. The total result shows a remarkable equality, the per-centage of boys at the day school between 7 and 13 being $41\frac{1}{2}$, and that of girls $42\frac{1}{2}$.

From the above, therefore, it will appear that though the girls are not sent to the day school as early as boys, and though the fluctuations of their attendance are greater, yet that while the better class of boys remains steadily between 9 and 11, the same class of girls (though not to an equal proportion) is to be found in school one year later, between 10 and 12 ; also that the attendance of others, prolonged to between 12 and 13, equals that of boys between 11 and 12 ; and that thus, in respect of the whole period, the less attendance of girls in the earliest years has been so counterbalanced as to bring the comparative total averages of attendance to nearly the same point.

On looking down the "employed" columns in Table II., the observation occurs, that, with tolerable exactness in each year and on the period, the proportion of girls employed is one-third less than that of boys, a fact not perhaps generally known. If, therefore, on the whole, the per-centage of girls under instruction is equal to that of boys, while the per-centage employed is one-third less, it is obvious that throughout a larger number of girls must be found in the columns of the "unemployed."

It must, however, be borne in mind, that under this head is comprised those who are kept at home, not perhaps on much system, nor for any definite time, but yet with a purpose, to nurse the infants, or to supply the place of the mother when in work at the factory.

The years in which this call seems most to swell the columns of girls unemployed, as compared with that of boys, is between the ages of 9 and 11 ; for while between 8 and 9 these per-centages are all but equal (viz., boys 26 and girls 28); between 9 and 10 the per-centage of boys unemployed remaining the same, that of the girls has *increased* to 35 ; and between 10 and 11 that of boys having *decreased* by one half to 14, the per centage of girls, on the contrary, has mounted up to 39. The same cause probably operating, accounts for the larger number of girls unemployed between the ages of 11 and 13. With respect to the totals, the proportion of girls to boys returned unemployed is as 3 to 2.

Tables III. and V. will show, in the total, 1,373 children between the ages of 7 and 13, that 42 per cent. are receiving instruction in day and Sunday schools : that from those employed 23, and from those unemployed about 12 per cent. are in Sunday schools : thus 77 per cent. have received some degree of instruction, whilst 23 per cent., of whom 10 per cent. are employed, and 13 per cent. unemployed, are without school instruction of any kind whatever.

Table IV. furnishes an abstract (which it is hoped may be found useful) of the first three tables, showing the per-centages under the three main heads of those at day school, "employed" and "unemployed."

In the Form of Return issued by the committee, under the column of "employed," the nature of the employment was further asked for, and the age at which that employment was first commenced. The remaining tables relate to these inquiries.

Table X. will show that out of 290 boys employed, the ages at which 267—and out of 162 girls employed, the ages at which 110—went to work are given.

It is not, indeed, to be expected that, with whatever care collected, those statements which depend upon the recollection will be given with the same exactness as any which assert a present fact ; and therefore, the answers in this column cannot be so accurately relied upon as those which state the age of the child at the time when the inquiry was made, and from which the first tables are condensed. The number of cases in which no return is made, viz., in that of 23 boys and 52 girls, renders it impossible to institute a satisfactory comparison between this table and the first ones, which state the numbers actually employed at each age ; but so far as the comparison can be made, the partial want of agreement would seem to indicate that, in this column of the return, the age at which the child went to work was generally stated at less than was really the case.

This conclusion will further modify considerably the dependance to be placed upon the ages at which Tables VII. and VIII. show that the trades begin to employ childen ; yet what can be relied on with certainty is, that when Tables VII. and VIII. affirm that boys on the average go to work at $9\frac{1}{2}$, and girls at 10, the average age at which they do go to work is *not less* than this, but is probably by some months higher. Moreover, whatever degree of inaccuracy may be assigned to these statements, it cannot be supposed to alter the relative proportions of numbers and ages as employed in the several trades enumerated; and, therefore, the Tables VII, VIII, and IX., present a very valuable and interesting record of the classes of trades which compete with the school, and of the extent to which they each numerically affect it.

From the returns which have been thus collected, further information might perhaps be derived. All the principal topics your committee believe are gathered in the appended tables.

They would remark, in conclusion, that this report is confined simply to the exposition of facts contained in the tables, and that they have carefully refrained

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from drawing inferences, or suggesting remedies. That this should be their plan was a point fully discussed, and deliberately adopted; and their report, therefore, as a statistical committee, has been drawn up with a studious avoidance of such topics. They only trust that the labour which has been expended in preparing the information thus presented may prove of value, and may both serve to indicate the wants of this town, and further the object of removing obstacles in the path of general education.

Signed on behalf of the committee,

J. D. Goodman, Chairman.
William Gover, M.A., Secretary.
J. Fawkener Winfield, } Association
John Thackray Bunce. } Secretaries.

A.—Association for the Removal of Obstacles to Education.—*Statistical Committee.*

49, Ann Street, Birmingham,
Rev. and dear Sir, January 6, 1857.

The sectional committee appointed to collect statistics for the above association are desirous of obtaining accurate information with respect to the causes which retard the progress of education amongst the families of the working classes, and the extent to which these hindrances operate.

The sectional committee believe that these causes may be ascertained more satisfactorily by facts accurately collected from small numbers in every part of the town, than by large returns less carefully prepared.

The plan which they would respectfully suggest, is, that each clergyman should select, in different parts of his parish or district, groups of about 25 contiguous houses; such parts being chosen as will give fair indications of the state of the poorer classes, both in the haunts of vagrancy and in the dwellings of the most respectable artizans.

They venture to hope that each clergyman will furnish them with returns from at least two groups, or 50 houses. In the larger parishes, and where scripture readers, or experienced district visitors, are engaged, they trust that the returns may be furnished from a greater number of groups.

As considerable labour will be necessary to condense and tabulate the returns, the committee trust that you will fill up and forward the number which you can furnish within 10 days after receipt of the forms.

The enclosed forms are for two groups; the committee will gladly provide more whenever requested. They sincerely hope that they may rely upon your earnest co-operation in this inquiry.

Signed on behalf of the sectional committee,

J. D. Goodman, Chairman.
William Gover, M.A., Secretary.
J. Fawkener Winfield, } Association
John Thackray Bunce, } Secretaries.

To the Rev.

B.—SPECIMEN FORM OF RETURN.

_____ *Parish.*

* The names of streets and of families are fictitious.
† The houses between Nos. 35 and 38 contain no children of the ages between 7 and 13.

James Street.* House No.	Name of Family.	Employment of		Children between 7 and 13.			At School.			Employed.		Unemployed.	Remarks on Cases.
		Father.	Mother.	Name.	Age. Years.	Age. Months.	Day.	Evening.	Sunday.	Nature of Employment.	Age when first sent to work.	Reason why.	
35	Smith	Wood-turner.	Toy-maker	Emma	9	–	–	–	–	—	–	Nursing at home.	———
				John	12	10	–	–	–	Errand boy.		———	———
†38	Roberts	Butcher	Domestic	Elizabeth	10	–	D.	–	S.	—	–	———	———
				William	8	3	D.	–	S.	—	–	———	———
39	Gent	Chain-maker.	Assists her husband.	Richard	9	–	–	–	–	- -	–	No clothing	Parents are drunken.
46	Taylor	Pipe-maker.	Ditto	Charlotte	12	6	–	–	–	Button maker.	$10\frac{1}{2}$	———	———
				Samuel	9	–	–	–	S	- -		Nursing at home.	Unable to pay for school.
Court 6	Goodwin	Cabinet-maker.	Washerwoman	Mary Ann	7	9	–	–	–	—	–	———	———
$6\frac{1}{2}$	Jones	Nail maker.	Tailoress	James	12	10	–	E	S.	Button maker.	$11\frac{1}{2}$	———	———
7	Williams	Chain-maker.	Washer-woman.	Sarah	12	3	–	–	S	Nursing out.	9	———	———
				William	9	–	–	–	S.	—	–	- - -	Ditto.
8	Simpson	Button maker.	Domestic	Henry	7	–	–	–	S.	—	–	- - -	Unable to pay for School.
9	Johnson	Brass-worker.	Dead	George	12	8	–	–	S.	Brass-worker.	10	———	———
10	James	Grinder	Assists her husband	Mary Ann	12	6	–	–	S.	- -	–	Nursing at home.	Parents very poor, and unable to clothe their children.
				Walter	9	–	–	–	S.	- -	–	———	
				John	7	–	–	–	–	- -	–	———	
12	Manton	Bellows maker.	Music-string maker.	William	9	–	–	–	–	Black-smith.	$8\frac{3}{4}$	———	Parents are both drunken and neglect the children.
				Thomas	7	3	–	–	–	- -	–	———	
13	Bates	Nail-cutter	Domestic	John	12	10	–	–	–	Nail-cutter.	$12\frac{1}{4}$	- - -	Boy is left to please himself about school.
14	Davis	White-washe-	Ditto	Nathaniel	7	–	–	–	S.	- -	–	- - -	Unable to pay for day school.

C.—List of the Parishes and Districts in Birmingham from which the Returns were received for the Tables.

* * * * * * * * *

Table I.—Showing the Number of Boys at School (specifying the description of School), the Number Employed, and the Number Unemployed, at each Age, between Seven and Thirteen.

753 MALES.

—	At School.			Employed.					Unemployed.			
	At both Day and Sunday School.	At Day School only.	Total per-centage.	Employed and at Evening and Sunday School.	Employed and at Evening School.	Employed and at Sunday School.	Employed and not at any School.	Total per centage.	Unemployed and at Sunday School.	Unemployed and not at any School.	Total per-centage.	Total Number.
Age 7 to 8 - Number	61	23		1	0	5	3		18	25		136
Per-centage	45	17	62	$0\frac{1}{2}$	0	$3\frac{1}{2}$	2	6	$13\frac{1}{2}$	$18\frac{1}{2}$	32	
Age 8 to 9 - Number	66	23		1	0	11	7		18	21		147
Per-centage	$45\frac{1}{2}$	$15\frac{1}{2}$	61	$0\frac{1}{2}$	0	$7\frac{1}{2}$	5	13	12	14	26	
Age 9 to 10 - Number	43	17		5	0	23	10		15	20		133
Per-centage	$32\frac{1}{2}$	13	$45\frac{1}{2}$	4	0	17	$7\frac{1}{2}$	$28\frac{1}{2}$	11	15	26	
Age 10 to 11 - Number	32	16		2	1	35	14		8	8		116
Per-centage	$27\frac{1}{2}$	14	$41\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	1	30	12	$44\frac{1}{2}$	7	7	14	
Age 11 to 12 - Number	14	5		7	1	51	19		5	5		107
Per-centage	13	$4\frac{1}{2}$	$17\frac{1}{2}$	$6\frac{1}{2}$	1	48	18	$73\frac{1}{2}$	$4\frac{1}{2}$	$4\frac{1}{2}$	9	
Age 12 to 13 - Number	9	3		10	3	53	28		4	4		114
Per-centage	8	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$10\frac{1}{2}$	9	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$46\frac{1}{2}$	$24\frac{1}{2}$	$82\frac{1}{2}$	$3\frac{1}{2}$	$3\frac{1}{2}$	7	
Total Number -	225	87		26	5	178	81		68	83		753
Per-centage -	30	$11\frac{1}{2}$		$3\frac{1}{2}$	$0\frac{3}{4}$	$23\frac{1}{2}$	$10\frac{3}{4}$		9	11		
Total per-centage -	$41\frac{1}{2}$			$38\frac{1}{2}$					20			

Table II.—Showing the Number of Girls at School (specifying the description of School), the Number Employed, and the Number Unemployed, at each Age, between Seven and Thirteen.

620 FEMALES.

—	At School.			Employed.					Unemployed.			
	At both Day and Sunday School.	At Day School only.	Total per-centage.	Employed and at Evening and Sunday School.	Employed and at Evening School.	Employed and at Sunday School.	Employed and not at any School.	Total per-centage.	Unemployed and at Sunday School.	Unemployed and not at any School.	Total per-centage.	Total Number.
Age 7 to 8 - Number	46	23		0	0	2	2		27	29		129
Per-centage	$35\frac{1}{2}$	18	$53\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	3	21	$22\frac{1}{2}$	$43\frac{1}{2}$	
Age 8 to 9 - Number	54	17		1	0	6	3		15	16		112
Per-centage	$48\frac{1}{2}$	15	$63\frac{1}{2}$	1	0	$5\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$	9	$13\frac{1}{2}$	14	$27\frac{1}{2}$	
Age 9 to 10 - Number	32	12		0	0	13	5		15	19		96
Per-centage	$33\frac{1}{2}$	$12\frac{1}{2}$	46	0	0	$13\frac{1}{2}$	5	$18\frac{1}{2}$	$15\frac{1}{2}$	20	$35\frac{1}{2}$	
Age 10 to 11 - Number	26	2		3	0	10	10		18	15		84
Per-centage	31	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$33\frac{1}{2}$	$3\frac{1}{2}$	0	12	12	$27\frac{1}{2}$	21	18	39	
Age 11 to 12 - Number	26	6		4	1	21	15		8	8		89
Per-centage	29	7	36	$4\frac{1}{2}$	1	$23\frac{1}{2}$	17	46	9	9	18	
Age 12 to 13 - Number	10	9		4	0	34	28		16	9		110
Per-centage	9	8	17	4	0	31	$25\frac{1}{2}$	$60\frac{1}{2}$	$14\frac{1}{2}$	8	$22\frac{1}{2}$	
Total Number -	194	69		12	1	86	63		99	96		620
Per-centage	$31\frac{1}{4}$	$11\frac{1}{4}$		2	0	14	10		$15\frac{1}{2}$	16		
Total per-centage -	$42\frac{1}{2}$			26					$31\frac{1}{2}$			

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TABLE III.—Showing the Number of Children, both Males and Females, at School (specifying the description of School), the Number Employed, and the Number Unemployed, at each Age, between Seven and Thirteen.

		753 MALES. 620 FEMALES.											
		AT SCHOOL.			EMPLOYED.					UNEMPLOYED.			
		At both Day and Sunday School.	At Day School only.	Total per-centage.	Employed and at Evening and Sunday School.	Employed and at Evening School.	Employed and at Sunday School.	Employed and not at any School.	Total per-centage.	Unemployed and at Sunday School.	Unemployed and not at any School.	Total per-centage.	TOTAL NUMBER.
Age 7 to 8	Males	61	23		1	0	5	3		18	25		136
	Females	46	23		0	0	2	2		27	29		129
		107	46		1	0	7	5		45	54		265
Per-centage		$40\frac{1}{2}$	$17\frac{1}{2}$	58	$0\frac{1}{4}$	0	$2\frac{1}{2}$	2	$4\frac{3}{4}$	17	$20\frac{1}{4}$	$37\frac{1}{4}$	
Age 8 to 9	Males	66	23		1	0	11	7		18	21		147
	Females	54	17		1	0	6	3		15	16		112
		120	40		2	0	17	10		33	37		259
Per-centage		$46\frac{1}{4}$	$15\frac{1}{2}$	$61\frac{3}{4}$	1	0	$6\frac{1}{2}$	$3\frac{3}{4}$	$11\frac{1}{4}$	13	14	27	
Age 9 to 10	Males	43	17		5	0	23	10		15	20		133
	Females	32	12		0	0	13	5		15	19		96
		75	29		5	0	36	15		30	39		229
Per-centage		33	$12\frac{3}{4}$	$45\frac{3}{4}$	2	0	$15\frac{3}{4}$	$6\frac{1}{2}$	$24\frac{1}{4}$	13	17	30	
Age 10 to 11	Males	32	16		2	1	35	14		8	8		116
	Females	26	2		3	0	10	10		18	15		84
		58	18		5	1	45	24		26	23		200
Per-centage		29	9	38	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$0\frac{1}{2}$	$22\frac{1}{2}$	12	$37\frac{1}{2}$	13	$11\frac{1}{2}$	$24\frac{1}{2}$	
Age 11 to 12	Males	14	5		7	1	51	19		5	5		107
	Females	26	6		4	1	21	15		8	8		89
		40	11		11	2	72	34		13	13		196
Per-centage		$20\frac{1}{2}$	$5\frac{1}{2}$	26	6	1	37	17	61	$6\frac{1}{2}$	$6\frac{1}{2}$	13	
Age 12 to 13	Males	9	3		10	3	53	28		4	4		114
	Females	10	9		4	0	34	28		16	9		110
		19	12		14	3	87	56		20	13		224
Per-centage		$8\frac{1}{2}$	$5\frac{1}{4}$	$13\frac{3}{4}$	$6\frac{1}{4}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$38\frac{3}{4}$	25	$71\frac{1}{2}$	9	$5\frac{3}{4}$	$14\frac{3}{4}$	
Total Number		419	156		38	6	264	144		167	179		1373
Per-centage		$30\frac{1}{2}$	$11\frac{1}{2}$		$2\frac{3}{4}$	$0\frac{1}{2}$	$19\frac{1}{4}$	$10\frac{1}{2}$		12	13		
Total per-centage		42			33					25			

An Abstract of Tables I., II., and III.

TABLE IV.—Showing the Total Numbers and Per-centage of Children, at each Age, at School, Employed, or Unemployed, between the Ages of Seven and Thirteen.

* It is to be observed that in these Tables no fractions except $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, and $\frac{3}{4}$ occur. The tables were originally calculated to two places of decimals, but it was deemed sufficient for all practical purposes not to admit fractions of less value than $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. In most cases, therefore, the results, so far as this alteration affects them, are approximate.

	Numbers.	PER-CENTAGES.		
		At Day School.	Employed.	Unemployed.
Age 7 to 8 Males	136	62	6	32
Females	129	$53\frac{1}{2}$	3	$43\frac{1}{2}$
	265	58	*$4\frac{3}{4}$	$37\frac{1}{4}$
Age 8 to 9 Males	147	61	13	26
Females	112	$63\frac{1}{2}$	9	$27\frac{1}{2}$
	259	$61\frac{3}{4}$	$11\frac{1}{4}$	27

Abstract of Tables I., II., and III.—continued.

		Numbers.	Per-centages. At Day School.	Employed.	Unemployed.
Age 9 to 10	Males	133	45½	28½	26
	Females	96	46	18½	35½
		229	45¾	24¼	30
Age 10 to 11	Males	116	41½	44½	14
	Females	84	33½	27½	39
		200	38	37½	24½
Age 11 to 12	Males	107	17½	73½	9
	Females	89	36	46	18
		196	26	61	13
Age 12 to 13	Males	114	10½	82½	7
	Females	110	17	60½	22½
		224	13¾	71½	14¾
Total Males		753	41½	38½	20
Total Females		620	42½	26	31½
Total Number		1373	42	33	25

Sunday School Education is omitted from this Table.

TABLE V.—Showing the description of Education received by the 1,050 Children found to be at some kind of School out of the Total Number of 1,373.

MALES AND FEMALES.

Number of Children.		Per-centage.		
419	At both day and Sunday school	30½	At school	42
156	At day school only	11½		
264	Employed and at Sunday school	19¼	Employed and at school	22½
6	Employed and at evening school	0½		
38	Employed and at evening and Sunday school	2¾		
167	Unemployed and at Sunday school	12	Unemployed and at Sunday school	12
1,050	Children at school			76½
144	Children employed and not at any school			10½
179	Children unemployed and not at any school			13
1,373				100

TABLE VI.—Showing the extent to which Employment interferes with Education at each Age between the Ages of Seven and Thirteen; also the extent to which various other causes interfere.

MALES AND FEMALES.

Per-centage of Children Employed at each Age.

Total Number.	Age.	Number Employed.	Per-centage Employed.	Of whom are at Sunday School. Number.	Per-centage.
265	7 to 8	13	4¾	8	2¾
259	8 to 9	29	11¼	19	7½
229	9 to 10	56	24	41	17¾
200	10 to 11	75	37½	50	25
196	11 to 12	119	61	83	43
224	12 to 13	160	71½	101	45
1,373		452	33	302	22

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Per-centage of Children Unemployed at each Age.

Total Number.	Age.	Number Unemployed.	Per-centage Unemployed.	Of whom are at Sunday School.	
				Number.	Per-centage.
265	7 to 8	99	37¼	45	17
259	8 to 9	70	27	33	13
229	9 to 10	69	30	30	13
200	10 to 11	49	24½	26	13
196	11 to 12	26	13	13	6½
224	12 to 13	33	14¾	20	9
1,373		346	25	167	12

TABLE VII.—Showing the Employments which absorb the largest Number of Males, and the Average Age at which they commence Work.

MALES.

Number of Different Employments.	Nature of Employment.	Number.	Per-centage.
10	Brassfoundry	43	16
	Errands	31	12
	Button making	23	8½
	Gun making	11	4
	Jewellery	11	4
	Glass cutting	11	4
	Shoemaking	9	3¼
	Spoon making	7	2¾
	Filing	7	2¾
	Blacksmiths	6	2¼
		159	
67	Sundries	108	40½
77		267	100

Ages at which they commence the several Employments.

Button making	9 years 1 month.
Gun making	9 years 1 month.
Errands	9 years 5 months.
Brass foundry	9 years 7 months.
Jewellery	9 years 10 months.
Glass cutting	10 years 1 month.

Average Age at which Boys commence Work.
9½ years.

TABLE VIII.—Showing the Employments which absorb the largest Number of Females, and the Average Age at which they commence Work.

FEMALES.

Number of Different Employments.	Nature of Employment.	Number.	Per-centage.
6	Button making	34	31
	Service	25	23
	Warehouse girls	8	7
	Paper box making	6	5½
	Guard-chain making	4	3½
	Pin making	3	2½
		80	
26	Sundries	30	27½
32		110	100

Ages at which they commence the several Employments.

Button making	9 years 2 months.
Guard-chain making	9 years 10 months.
Service	10 years 3 months.
Paper box making	10 years 7 months.
Pin making	11 years 3 months.
Warehouse girls	11 years 6 months.

Average Age at which Girls commence Work.
10 years.

TABLE IX.—Showing the several Employments in which the Children are engaged, and the Number of Children engaged in each.

267 MALES.

Barber 1	Draper 1	Lapidary 1	Silversmith 1
Bayonet maker 1	Electro-plater 1	Machinist 1	Shoemakers 9
Bead maker 1	Engineer's boy 1	Military ornament maker 1	Snuff-box maker 1
Blacksmiths 6	Errand boys 31	Mill workers 3	Snuffer maker 1
Blank maker 1	Filers 7	Nail maker 1	Spade maker 1
Brass founders 43	Fishmonger's boy 1	Office boys 3	Spoon makers 7
Brazier 1	Gasfitters 4	Packer 1	Stay maker 1
Bricklayer 1	Gilt toy makers 2	Painters 2	Stamper 1
Broker's shop, at a 1	Glass workers 11	Paper maker 1	Steel toy makers 3
Button makers 23	Grinder 1	Pen maker 1	Stoker 1
Burnisher 1	Guard-chain maker 1	Pencilcase maker 1	Tin-plate workers 2
Candlestick maker 1	Gun case maker 1	Percussion cap maker 1	Tray makers 3
Carver 1	Gun makers 11	Pin makers 2	Tube workers 3
Chasers 2	Harness makers 3	Polishers 3	Umbrella makers 4
Clock maker 1	Hemp dressers 3	Printers 5	Watch maker 1
Coach maker 1	Iron workers 4	Rolling mill, at a 1	Watch-key makers 2
Coal yard, in a 1	Jewellers 11	Rule maker 1	Waggoner's boy 1
Confectioners' boys 2	Japanners 2	Screw makers 2	Wire workers 2
Corkscrew maker 1	Labourer 1		Wood turner 1
Dancer at public houses 1	Lamp makers 3		

TABLE IX.—*continued.*

110 FEMALES.

Bead makers	2	Frame maker	1	Nail cutter	1	Screw makers	2
Box makers (paper)	6	French polisher	1	Needle worker	1	Service, at	25
Brace maker	1	Guardchain makers	4	Paper bag maker	1	Stay maker	1
Bracelet maker	1	Hook-and-eye maker	1	Parasol makers	2	Steel toy maker	1
Burnisher	1	Lacquerer	1	Pen makers	2	Thimble maker	1
Button makers	34	Lamp maker	1	Piercer	1	Tin worker	1
Errand girl	1	Mangling	1	Pin makers	3	Turning	1
Factory girl	1	Measuring-tape maker	1	Pupil teacher	1	Warehouse girls	8

TABLE X.—Showing the several Ages at which the Children began to work.

Of 267 MALES out of 290 Employed, of whom the Ages when first going to Work are given.

Number.		Per-centage.
20	Went to work between 7 and 8	7
60	„ „ 8 and 9	23
75	„ „ 9 and 10	28
72	„ „ 10 and 11	27
33	„ „ 11 and 12	12
7	„ „ 12 and 13	3
267		100

Average, 9½ years.

Of 110 FEMALES out of 162 Employed.

Number.		Per-centage.
8	Went to work between 7 and 8	8
10	„ „ 8 and 9	9
29	„ „ 9 and 10	26½
30	„ „ 10 and 11	27
19	„ „ 11 and 12	17
14	„ „ 13 and 14	12½
110		100

Average, 10 years.

TABLE XI.—Showing the various Occupations of the Mothers of the Children in the foregoing Tables, as far as relates to 415 out of the 1,043 families visited.

Number of Different Employments.	Nature of Employment.	Number.	Per-centage.
	Attending to Domestic Duties	132	32
	Laundresses	79	19½
	Keeping shop	33	8
	Needlewomen	27	6¾
	Charwomen	21	5
	Shoebinding	21	5
	Button making	21	5
	Burnishing	8	2
18	Tailoring	6	1½
	Polishing	5	1¼
	Hook-and-eye making	4	1
	Steel pen making	4	1
	Warehouse women	4	1
	Stamping	4	1
	Screw making	3	0¾
	Keeping school	3	0¾
	Brace making	3	0¾
	Nail making	3	0¾
		381	93
29	Sundries	34	7
47		415	100

The 29 Occupations included in the Sundries.

Bead maker	1	Lacquerer	1
Bookbinder	1	Measuring-tape maker	1
Box maker	1	Milkwoman	1
Brush maker	1	Music-string maker	1
Cap maker	1	Nurses	2
Chain maker	1	Optician	1
Cook	1	Paper stainer	1
Dyer	1	Patten tie maker	1
Glass maker	1	Pin maker	1
Glove cleaner	1	Pipe makers	2
Grinder	1	Saddle stitcher	1
Hawkers	2	Thimble makers	2
Hinge presser	1	Toy maker	1
Housekeeper	1	Wire worker	1
Japanners	2		

NOTE.—This Table was was not included in the first edition of the report, owing to the information relating to the employment of the mothers having been only partially given in some returns, and in others omitted altogether. With this explanation it is, however, now added, being important as showing the extent to which the employment of mothers interferes with the good management of their families.

758. An "Examination" of the above Report, published by one of the committee, the Rev. G. S. Bull, for several years past and still Rector of St. Thomas', Birmingham, a parish with a population at the last census of over 32,000, argues that the picture given by the report is too favourable, the inquiry being made at an unsuitable season. He remarks:—*

This surely will be allowed by all who consider the facts, 1st., that during the first two, and part of the third months in every year, large numbers of operative manufacturers are locked out whilst stock is being taken; that generally trade and its "orders" are slack, and 2ndly, that the first hands to be dispensed with in such cases are the youngest, the very group selected by the statistical committee, from 7 years to 13.

The workers out of doors, all connected with the building trade, including bricklayers and their labourers, and brick-makers, other labourers on spade work, and also joiners and carpenters and other trades, were, it is well known, very badly off in Birmingham

* Only extracts from this Paper are given. The words in angular brackets [ ] are supplied by myself, where necessary, to explain the context.—J. E. W.

Birmingham District.

Educational and General.

Mr. J. E. White.

b.

at this season, (January, February, and March, 1857,) and the requisitions and forms of inquiry bear date January 6, 1857.

This being the case, and the investigators having made their inquiries during "the slack" of work, it is inevitable that the results should be very imperfect, and they cannot, therefore, fully represent the "obstacles to education" arising from the too early employment of infants and children between 7 and 13. Still a sad case is made out.

It is not meant to impugn the tables or results so far as they are drawn from the data, but the data must be insufficient, and so far erroneous for the intended purpose, even as an "approximate" test of the "obstacles to education;" for none conversant with Birmingham can deny that at no period of the year is the labour of very young children so little in request, or the means of paying the school pence so scanty.

Hence the heavy figures of the columns in all the tables of the "unemployed, and not at any school." Had the data been furnished in this month of June, many of the last-named column would have passed into another headed "employed, and not at any school," or "at a Sunday school only."

[After commenting upon the discrepancy as to the ages of beginning work, as appearing in Tables VI. and X., he demurs to the explanation offered by the the Report, and observes that the] discrepancy is not less than above 2 per cent. on the ages from 7 to 8, $11\frac{3}{4}$ from 8 to 9, and 4 from 9 to 10; or on the three periods an average difference of 18 per cent.; whilst on that of 8 to 9, which occupies so prominent a place in the inquiry, the difference is nearly 12 per cent.

May not the "partial want of agreement" be fairly solved by the fact that at the time of obtaining the data a large proportion of the little men and women were locked out from work, and for lack of pence not at daily school so as to be returned, and therefore set down in the report as "idle!" Had the data been taken at a time of average employment, these would most probably have been "employed," or else (to the extent only of $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., as is stated in Table III.) "employed and at evening school!"

Thus viewing the data upon which the tables and report are founded, the conclusion is unavoidable, that the evils and "obstacles" relating to education in Birmingham are very partially unfolded, not from want of labour or accuracy in the compilers of it, but from imperfect data.

[After a remark on Table V. and Sunday schools, he proceeds:]—

This observation is not made with any purpose to depreciate Sunday schools, which, as a remedial measure, are to be esteemed. Their good effects, however, are greatly lessened from the weariness of too many of the elder scholars, arising from the too protracted hours of their weekly and daily labour. The same remark applies to many of the teachers. And truly the actual time of instruction, deducting all preliminaries and preparations, marking lists, inquiries, late arrivals, &c., &c., cannot be deemed more, even in schools attending Divine Service in the morning only, than one hour and three quarters for actual school instruction during the whole Sunday. Valuable as is even this, yet, as respects any solid mental improvement, it is not much to be set down in that score, as a make-weight, for lack of daily and evening schooling.

The Evening School Returns.—These, it must be confessed, are meagre indeed, but they are, perhaps, among the most important of any, for they indicate, beyond contradiction, the great "obstacle" that confronts the infant and youthful workers the instant they enter the door of a factory, warehouse, or workshop. Theirs is unreasonable, because debasing, labour. Debasing because it leaves no due margin for mental imptovement, no time for due recreation. [Even a steam engine] sometimes "heats," jumps, "gets out," and breaks down. But the human machine, when in its formation state, especially when bones are little more than gristle, and natural growth demands great supplies and great consideration, ought surely to be dealt with wisely and tenderly, and especially as to young females.

Of the readiness of young people generally to avail themselves of evening schools, even when they are so jaded as to be little able to profit by them, I am a willing witness. Yet I have seen more than one, ere now, actually asleep with the pen in hand.* Our youngsters will, it is true, romp and play after a day's work of 10 or more hours in our heated shops and factories, but mental exertion and quiet effort are then often out of reach.

[After quoting the Report as to the ages at which day-school life ceases, he asks,]—

Does the evening school life begin then?—The answer will be found in Table V., "Employed and "at evening school one-half per cent., employed "and at evening and Sunday school $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent.;" total $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.! and the Report on this head states,—"In the case of evening schools, such as "attend them at all appear to be those who have "attended the day and Sunday schools until 10. "Unfortunately their number never exceeds nine "per cent.!" It dwindles, as we see, to an average of $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. (See Table II., last line but one.) As to girls, their return in evening schools is two per cent. And as to their being unemployed to a greater extent than boys, the committee notice, with evident concern, the fact that their detention at home is not only to nurse the infants, but also "to "supply the place of the mother when in work at "the factory." The mother from home! what woe is wrapped up in that fact,—woe both the cause and the effect! What sort of a home is that when husband comes from work?

To the compilers [*i.e.* of the Report] for their assiduity great thanks are due and given, but its tables, &c., are public property, and demand just but unsparing scrutiny, especially as to their basis. If the errors of so limited and uncertain a calculation, even considered as "approximate" only, should be adopted as the basis of any legal measure, or should be deemed to justify non-interference, the results may be deplored when they cannot be remedied.

Remedies.

I. As to the Prize Scheme, what has it to offer to the dead? What to the educationally defunct at between 7 and 13? Secure time for education, and the scheme may succeed.

To suppose that any considerable number will be allowed for a few shillings' worth of books, to stay at school for any effective learning, is surely delusive.

II. Competition, that voracious and inexorable monster, must have food, and these youngsters are its food. A cheap article, by means of cheap labour, viz. that of the youngest possible hands, for the longest

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* The Rev. Dr. Miller, as one of the governors of King Edward's School in this town, has published at this juncture a letter to the highly esteemed head master, suggestive as to evening schools. Having written to several neighbours for their opinions, he has published, among several others, the following replies to his inquiries; I omit my own.

From the Rev. P. Reynolds, Incumbent of St. Stephen's, Birmingham.

I have no hesitation in saying that, so far as my experience of Birmingham enables me to judge, our evening schools are a failure. We want several things to render them effective.

1. More time for instruction. If the pupils work till 7 or half-past 7, little or no good is or can be done in an evening school," &c.

From the Rev. J. Angell James, for above 50 years a Minister of the Independents in Birmingham.

In the present state of our manufacturing system and population the importance of evening schools, well regulated and sustained, cannot be doubted; and yet the very circumstance which renders them necessary, I mean the engrossing demand for juvenile labour, is a great impediment in the way of their success. The late hours to which the young people are kept either prevent their availing themselves at all of the privilege of attending school, or unfit them by fatigue for it, &c.

From the Rev. W. Gover, Principal in Worcester Diocesan Training College, and for many years a Clergyman in Birmingham, to the Rev. Dr. Miller.

I do not, however, think that, even with efficient teachers, we can expect to have large evening schools of those who are drafted to labour at 6 and 11, because the hours of employment are generally too prolonged to allow the attendance of more than a few.

endurable time, and at the least possible wages—this is the desideratum, and here is the race. And whilst (by thousands) the hale stalwart male is emigrating to other climes, the infant labourer is filling his place; he is supplanted by the youth, and the youth by the child, and the child by the infant. Women—mothers as we have seen—are also working their husbands out of work, and every improvement in machinery is adapted to the least expensive hands. This is the philosophy of labour in the nineteenth century!

And what is our gain but loss?—in morals irreparable loss,—in national stamina, loss: and thus we shall go on, so far as our unprotected hardware districts are concerned, till we contribute, as our share of the national family, a poor, withered, pigmy race, deteriorated by too early and elongated labour, effeminated by debasing pleasure, emasculated as to the best qualities of the Saxon race, and of little worth either in peace or war.

III. Competition must have a curb, and that a legal one. Voluntary engagements as to men and masters have proved only ropes of sand. No man with any practical knowledge of such matters in the manufacturing districts will ever propose such a futile scheme.

IV. A modified Factory Act relating to all under the protected age of 18, and admitting none to labour in workshops and factories below 10 years, would be a wholesome remedy to propose. The half-time system, legalizing the labour of an infant at 8, even for half a day, is surely barbarous. The advocates of the ten hours bill had this forced upon them.

But surely with the boasted improvements in machinery, we are entitled to ask for a remission of the period of toil, at least as respects the younger workers, and if any evening instruction is to be available, the regulation must require their labour to cease at six o'clock. And my earnest cry shall be, "Pro-"tect the young by law, and close for all at six!" then we shall have time both to learn and to play.

OBJECTIONS.

Let prize schemes and registration or certificate schemes be allowed any useful operation, but yet how few of our young people will these affect, out of the deplorable mass for whom we are concerned! How few "obstacles," if any, will such schemes "remove," as to the greater number. No one who feels that a parent is highly blameworthy, who wilfully neglects the education of his child, can hesitate to accord in any safe and constitutional measure which may visit penally upon the parent such continued remissness.

I have heard some objections to legislation as to hours and ages. One only will I refer to,—that of "garret work, or home work,"—and will only assert as a sufficient reply, that garret work lessens and factory work (as witness the new long chimneys) increases yearly. Besides, if we cannot reach every evil, yet we ought to deal with all within our reach.

As to the $3\frac{1}{4}$ per-centage of evening school attendance of the Report, though it affects those only up to 13, yet it is clear from the replies given in Dr. Miller's letter, that the evening school attendance of the more advanced of our young people is equally wretched. May I be suffered to call especial attention to this effect of the too extended and late hours of juvenile labour! Think of those young men, who are to stand in future years in a parent's place, but in a state of ignorance, without mental resources, and therefore indisposed to care for the education of a future race,—whose pleasures are all sensual, whose habits, generally, are those of the animal rather than the man; thank God, we have exceptions in both sexes. Think too of the mothers of the future generations, bereft of suitable qualifications for the domestic hearth, and for whom the long hour system has earned the name of "dolly,"—a thing that can wear a smart dress, but cannot mend a stocking. Of what avail is the prize scheme to these, or the certificate system, or Dunlop's act? Only the due and reasonable restriction of labour by the law can bring the youth of both sexes, from 13 to 18, into suitable communication with their educational friends, and perpetuate by evening school the culture of the day school, which otherwise must soon, generally, come to nought. Why is it that ministers almost utterly lose sight of their most promising young people as soon as they obtain regular employment? The answer is obvious. And of what effective use can ever our Midland Institute be to those who are employed beyond six o'clock?

759. The writer of the above Paper formerly took an active part in a factory district, under Mr. Oastler, in support of the Factory Acts of that time, and has since for many years, in addition to his heavy parochial labours, exerted himself and written much in behalf of some adaptation of the factory system to the hardware district. He has kindly placed the above and some other of his publications at my disposal as containing the expression of his experience and views. A few compressed extracts are given of statements and remarks on points most often dwelt on by him.

The late hours of occupation in the hardware districts render evening schools, as to what we may call factory workers (or shop and warehouse workers), ineffective and impracticable. My own conviction is strengthened by daily experience, that only a suitable legislative measure, limiting the age at which children shall be employed away from home, and the hours of labour of children and young persons, say under 18 years of age, can secure to the friends of education a fair and sufficient opportunity to carry forward and perpetuate early instruction by the help of evening schools. * * * *

What, practically, is this outcry against "interference" in the matter of capital and labour? What but a positive demand that every device that the capitalist can contrive to cheapen labour by employing the youngest (because the least expensive) "hands" for the longest endurable period, shall be allowed, if not sanctioned. Is not the poor man's, or child's, or youth's labour his capital, and often his only capital? Then, I say, protect the capital of the poor as well as that of the rich. What is the consequence of neglecting this duty? Let our gaols, asylums, aye, and reformatories, supply the answer.—(*A New Year's Address*, 1858.)

Education, few will question, is a principal one (*i.e.* prevention of crime). If so, all hindrances to education should be carefully explored and zealously removed, as far as may be done.

The chief, though not all the hindrances or obstacles to education I would point out are these:—

1. The mischievously early removal of children—say of mere infants—to our workshops, warehouses, or factories. Many leave us before they can do more than spell their Maker's name, and repeat His ten commandments, or the simplest truths of the Gospel. What is the consequence? They go forth to a vortex of temptation before they have either principle or good habits for the resistance thereof.

2. Then the late hours to which these youngsters, and the elder ones also, are employed, and the fitfulness of those periods which end at 7, 8, 9, or even 10 o'clock, as "orders" may require, render any system of those most valuable continuations of education—evening schools—for the most part impracticable. Nay, I doubt if any respectable surgeon or physician would not condemn, as physically mischievous, any such other mental exertion or continuation of confinement after so long and so late an employment

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as falls (on average) to the lot of our best disposed young people.

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But the securing education for the young by law, and its beneficial effects is now no longer a theory. How can that be bad in Birmingham and Sheffield which has proved to be so good in Manchester, and Leeds, and Bradford? Why should not a *suitable and modified* Factory Act be applied to the hardware districts, as well as to the cotton, woollen, and flax districts?

"Garret work," and work at private houses, used to be the great objection; but that difficulty is fast melting away, and the numerous new long chimneys in Birmingham prove that factories are to be the rule, and garret work the daily diminishing exception.—(*Crime: its Prevention and Cure, Oct.* 1856.)

Here I may notice the fact that not a few of you, who from a laudable desire for your own improvement endeavour to attend upon evening schools, are too frequently baffled in your endeavour by the extension of your hours, and I lament to see many of you coming in from work to the school-room at 8 o'clock, and even after that, when you had almost better be thinking of supper and bed.—(*Address, Dec.* 1860.)

760. The incumbent of another large parish in Birmingham, in reply to my inquiries, personally and by letter, as to the working of night and other schools in his parish, especially the former, gives his experience thus:—

St. John's, Ladywood,

My dear Sir, Birmingham, Sept. 17,* 1863.

In answer to your letter of the 10th, on the subject of night schools, I must confess that hitherto ours have been a failure.

My parish has about 11,000 of the working classes, and we have in our day schools a regular attendance of from 260 to 300 boys, 150 girls, 200 infants, and 100 mixed at a branch school. But in the night school we never had an average of more than 74 boys and 30 girls; at least whilst they paid anything. Our girls' night school has this year an attendance of from 80 to 90 twice a week, but they pay nothing, and the school is conducted by an enthusiastic volunteer lady, to whom they are greatly attached.

During the last three years, the number of admissions and average attendance of the boys have been as follows:—

——	1860–61.	1861–62.	1862–63.
Admissions -	258	298	175
Average of year's attendance -	6	74	43

There are plenty of boys, therefore, if we could but keep them; but they come in for a little while, and then pass out. I have endeavoured to supply them with abundance of fair teachers; we had one year as many as six paid; we have now two certified masters. We have also supplied them with books, and charged but 3*d.* a week (of four nights) for admittance, which they can easily pay. I cannot, therefore, think that I have failed for want of proper teachers, although I admit I have not yet found exactly the man I should wish for at the head of the school. Such a man, however, can rarely be found, and is worth a higher salary than night schools can afford to give; and indeed if, as I believe, success in a night school in Birmingham depends on having an extraordinary man, such success must be, as it is, very rare indeed.

I think the work and the entertainments of the town are the great impediments. In the country, as soon as it is dark, the boys can work no more. Here gas turns night into day, and frequently, to finish a job, all hands, young and old, work till 10 p.m., especially on Friday nights. Even if they only work till 7, it is much to expect of a poor lad, after 12 hours' work, to come to school, rather than go to bed, or to the public-house dance or comic song.

It should be remembered that the boys, as soon as they go to work, become *men*, and very independent young men too; and very few, if any, come to school, except of their own will. They have learnt the very rough independent manners of the men at their work, and they require very nice handling to be kept in order. I have always found, indeed, that I could manage them easily by appealing to their good sense and feeling as *men*, but one cannot often be in school oneself.

One thing I may add. We do not find the best boys from our day school coming to the night school, after they have left the day school. They rather shrink from the rough company they meet; so that it is in but few cases that the night school continues the day school education.

The night school boys generally are great fellows, who begin to feel the want of the education they refused when young; they learn very little, and have to be examined in the lowest grades of the New Code.

As to the day schools, I do not think they suffer very much from the work. The boys stay at school till 10 or 11, and if they have been sent regularly through the infant school, upon which everything depends, they can read, and write, and do arithmetic well by that time.

The examination on paper passed by children from 6 years old and upwards in our Prize Scheme would astonish those who are not acquainted with good parochial schools.

I shall be very happy to send you any information I can.

Yours very faithfully,

Francis Morse.

* The letter is given with additions made some time subsequently to its date.—J. E. W.

General.

761. The following statement is the result of communications made to me in interviews with Mr. Glossop, the chief superintendent of the Birmingham police, and officers of experience in the detective force. It was wished that the information should be given in this form without specifying the persons by whom it was given.

In the course of our duties we get an acquaintance with nearly all the manufactures of the town, even to the value of many of the articles, which is given to us, *e. g.*, in cases of property being stolen, as is frequently the case. A great deal of property is lost by employers from giving work out, or from its being pilfered by their workpeople from their premises. The materials used in the Birmingham manufactures, being principally metals, are easily disposed of to marine store dealers and others, because they can be melted down at once, so that it is impossible to trace them. This is especially the case with the precious and other metals used by jewellers, and the brass and copper so largely used in brass foundries. Small pieces of these, scrapbrass, brass dust, &c., have in fact almost as current a value here as coin. There are a set of idle thieving fellows who watch about for boys at odd times, meeting them, for instance, at the corners of streets as they are coming from their work places to dinner, and tempt them to pilfer little

things from their master. They will first ask questions as to where they work, what stuff they work with, &c., and after perhaps several interviews, if they find a boy easy to be tempted and get his confidence, they will say, "Well now, couldn't you get me "a pencil," &c., or something of that kind, and when he brings it they receive it from him in the same way, giving him what they please in return, probably not a shilling in the pound. This has come out on apprehensions. If a boy gives way once, he is at their mercy, and must continue to do as they please, or they threaten to tell of him. When one boy is secured he may be induced to try and tempt his fellows in turn. Sometimes, however, a boy is honest, and tells his master at once, and then some one being sent with the boy to meet them, they are caught in a trap. Unless, however, a lad is very faithful, it is very difficult to catch one of these receivers. Still there have been repeated convictions for inducing lads in this way, and men have got two years' imprisonment for it, but not a tenth part of the pilfering ever comes to the notice of the magistrates, because it is so difficult to trace out. Also men known to be pursuing this practice, though they cannot be detected, have been apprehended for other offences and sent away. These fellows keep a melting pot and run down the metal at once, and then they easily get rid of it, as it is known that it cannot be identified. The practice, however, has been much less prevalent of late, since the passing, two or three years ago, of the new Act about marine store dealers. There was great consternation about it in the trade at the time, and some gave up the business in despair, and the others have been much more cautious, and there have not been many convictions since. It is boys principally who are implicated in this way. Girls have scarcely been even suspected.

A great amount of property given out by gun manufacturers to out-workers is also made away with. This is of a kind which is of no use to a marine store dealer, as he could not get rid of it; but there is no difficulty at all in disposing of it as the seller's own property to little under-masters. The brisker the trade the more robbery of this kind there has been,—a hundred times more. When guns are wanted, and cannot be got fast enough, they are snapped up by such men at all risks.

Tailors lose in the same way a good deal of work which they have given out, but this is chiefly from the dishonesty of men, who pawn the clothes to have a spree, perhaps, and get drunk, and then make off, and cannot be followed.

On the whole the temptations to which lads are exposed here are enormous, and it is difficult to see how any laws or external restraint can touch the evil. The only thing that will be effectual is improving education and raising the moral tone, which amongst large numbers are low enough. It happens sometimes, no doubt, that good parents have a bad child, or, in some strange way, that all the sons turn out very good and the daughters very bad, or just the reverse; but as a rule it is certain that a good steady father and mother, bringing up their children well, will have them turn out well in the world. Nearly all the criminals come from the neglected children who have been brought up in the streets, "street Arabs;" and no wonder, when it is considered what places the streets are.

In some low streets in particular the language to be heard, especially of a Sunday morning, from men and women sitting out with children about within hearing, is shocking. Such words as ——, ——, (profanest and foulest expressions) are in common use, and even young girls of 15 use the same language in factories. A boy was charged with stealing a shilling. "So help me God! I didn't," said he; and when told that such language was by no means in his favour, and asked why he used it, answered, "Oh, mother does." There are thousands and thousands in Birmingham who never go to a church or chapel at all, or think of giving their children instruction of any kind. The public-house is their chapel. It would be a great benefit if Government would not allow public-houses. They are the cause of nearly all crimes. Nineteen out of twenty prisoners here owe their guilt to them one way or other, even in the case of pilfering from factories. There is not a man, woman, or child able and willing to work who cannot get it. Of course there are cases of illness, or a father may die and leave a widow and a lot of young children, but these are exceptions. It is seldom, too, that all the members of a family are at the same kind and place of work, and therefore that all are thrown out at once, and employments are so various that if a person is thrown out of one he can nearly always get another, so that as a rule where there is want it is not from necessary want of employment.

The wages of average men may be put at from 25*s.* to 30*s.* a week, and of superior workmen from 2*l.* to 3*l.*, and if they have underworkers under them they may get much more, and the lowest wages of men able to do men's work, *e.g.*, as porters, packers, jobbing men, &c., are 14*s.* or 15*s.*; though there are men belonging to low and idle classes, and irregular in work, who may get less. Women's wages may be taken as from 5*s.* or 6*s.* to 8*s.* on the lower scale, and from 8*s.* to 10*s.* on the higher, *e.g.* at steel pen work, though there are superior workers who make up to 14*s.* or 15*s.* Many large milliners give from 7*s.* to 8*s.*

There are some idle fellows who, if they have got a wife, or still more, as soon as they have got children big enough to go to work, will do little or nothing themselves, but spend their wives' and children's money on themselves and in drink, and keep them in distress. It is unlikely that children are ever ill-used or beaten in factories here. The shop would not stand it.

The children or young people do not work in garrets or private houses here to any extent at least to be noticed, except girls who sew buttons, hooks and eyes, &c., on cards for women. Even these have been noticed only in front houses and comfortable rooms, which a woman who can keep some girls can afford to have.

A great many young lads are employed in brass foundries, and are often worked hard by the men under whom they are; and a large number, a great many of them too young, are also employed, by gun-makers especially, in carrying heavy loads. A young boy may be seen carrying sometimes as many as 10 guns. If a couple of men work together at guns, they are bound to have an errand lad. Several streets, in fact a part of the town, are full of gun-makers, either in factories or at their homes, in shops and garrets.

Second-rate milliners in the outlying streets are said to keep sets of girls, not under 11 or 12 years old, however, with no payment during two years' apprenticeship, and to work them very hard, *i.e.* as long as ever they are wanted.

762. The published reports of the proceedings at the Birmingham Public Office show that the above statement, as to the practice of stealing metals from employers, and the facilities of disposing of the property, is by no means overdrawn. No less than three such cases casually met my eye in as many days, another two days after, and two within about a fortnight before. Some extracts are given as illustrative of the system pursued.

763. In one case, B., "a young man of respectable appearance," being searched by a detective on the premises of his employer, a gold chain manufacturer, was found to have 10 dwts. of gold upon him. While the detective was searching B.'s house, "W., a gold cutter by trade, who had been suspected of "buying gold of B., came there with gold weighing scales, weights, &c." "B. said that W. had

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"induced him to steal gold for some time past. He had sold him as much as 3 oz. B. was ordered to "be imprisoned for six months; W. was discharged," the magistrate, however, not having "the slightest "doubt that he had received stolen gold with a guilty knowledge from B."

764. In another, a youth pleaded guilty to stealing from his employers, goldsmiths, gold ingots, chains, pieces, &c., to the value of 40*l.* or 50*l.*, found locked up at his home, and in various pawnbrokers' shops, and was sentenced to six months' imprisonment.

765. In another, a detective searching a marine store dealer's shop for property stolen from an electro-plater, found property which, as he suspected, he afterwards ascertained to have been stolen from a manufactory, that of another electro-plater, where B., the marine store dealer, a woman, pointed out the girl P. as the person from whom she had bought the property. B. was charged with receiving the stolen goods.

The stolen goods, for which the prisoner gave 1*s.* 1*d.* only, it appeared were worth 16*s.* P. stated that a few days ago she took a number of tools to the prisoner, who bought them. She was wearing her working apron, and the prisoner asked her what her trade was. Upon her replying that she was a burnisher, B. said that that was a trade at which her sister could not make a living. The prisoner added that she bought old rags and glass, and asked if she had got any. Witness replied in the negative, upon which the prisoner said that she should think she might get plenty at the place where she was employed. Witness left the shop, stating that she would "try what she could get," and on the same day stole a number of glass mounted mustard cruets, value 2*s.* each, and some salt-cellars, worth 1*s.* each, from her master's premises, and took them to B. * * * Another girl stated that she went with P. to sell the burnishing tools, numbering about 14 or 15, and that prisoner, after offering them a halfpenny for them, gave her and her companion a penny each for them. There was not sufficient evidence to prove that the property was stolen when she purchased it, and she was, after a severe reprimand from the Bench for buying the goods from so young a girl without making any inquiry as to how they came by them, discharged.

766. In another, F. and T. were charged with stealing gold metal from their employer (a jeweller and silversmith), and P. with unlawfully receiving it. T. had acknowledged taking gold and selling it to F. for 2*s.* 6*d.*, and F. said "that he would tell all about it. "He had been drawn into it by P.," who gave him 5*s.* In P.'s house were found a set of weights for weighing gold, scales, &c., and a piece of gold in a timepiece. For P.'s defence, it was stated that he "had been in business two years as a "jeweller, and bought the gold in the most legitimate manner;" but P. was remanded, and bail refused.

767. Another man had been in the employment of his masters, electro-platers, for a considerable time, but suspected "during the past few weeks." In his coat, hanging up in the workshop, were found about 12 lbs. of German silver, which he pleaded guilty of stealing.

768. In another case, a youth pleaded guilty to stealing several pieces of silver from his employers, silversmiths, and was sentenced to six months' hard labour.

METAL MANUFACTURES of LANCASHIRE.—By Mr. H. W. LORD.

GENTLEMEN,

1. The number of persons in Lancashire, whose employment falls under this head, is second only to that of those engaged in the cotton manufactures of that county. Every town, in which cotton factories exist, contains also establishments more or less extensive for the making or repairing of the various parts of the machinery used in preparing that material for the market.

2. In many of such works in the larger towns machinery for the manufacture of the other textile fabrics of the kingdom is likewise made. In others the manufacture of heavy tools used in making machinery is superadded to this.

3. Besides the above-mentioned sources of employment, manufactories of various locomotive and stationary engines, iron ship building yards, and other works of a like class, furnish occupation for a considerable number of hands.

4. Some few of such works have forges, and most have foundries in connexion with them. There are also large foundries and forges, in which the metal is prepared for subsequent processes, which are completed at other independent works.

5. To these must be added the numerous manufactories, which are exclusively devoted to the production of some one portion of the machine or engine, which is put together elsewhere; as, for example, the spindle and flyer, and the roller-maker, in the case of cotton machinery; the screw and bolt, and the boiler and tank, and rivet-maker, in the cases of iron ships, locomotives, stationary engines, and the like.

6. Lastly, there are the independent manufactures of wire, files, nails, pins, locks, and hinges, Lancashire tools, watches, and watch-movements, with some other miscellaneous occupations.

7. By personal observation and inquiry I have obtained information relating to each of the foregoing trades. Tabular forms, which I had forwarded to employers, have been returned to me from 49 distinct establishments, which I had visited, in many cases very carefully, in most cases sufficiently, filled up. These alone comprehend a total very little short of 20,000* individuals, of whom 500 are children, and 3,500 young persons. Besides these I have visited a considerable number of works to which, in consequence either of their small size, or the small proportion of children and young persons employed there, I did not send the tabular form. In many instances, in which I have obtained evidence, merely corroborative of what I had previously received, I have either omitted it altogether, or have retained the substance in the form of a special account of the place visited.

This mode I have adopted particularly in the case of the foundries, machinists, &c., the features of which trades I found to be reproduced with very little variety in each of the towns, of which the cotton manufacture forms the staple industry. Accordingly, after ascertaining that the evidence upon that subject taken by me in Manchester was confirmed on further investigation at Bury, Rochdale, Oldham, Stockport, and Bolton, I satisfied myself by making general inquiries in Blackburn, Preston, Wigan, Ashton, and other places, that sufficient materials had been furnished me for reporting to you thereon.

8. It is obvious, however, that the title "metal manufacture," used as it is to comprehend at once iron ship-building and pin-making, embraces trades carried on under conditions so diverse, and concerned with production so varied, as to render any collective treatment of them impracticable. I propose, therefore, to confine myself in the first instance to the works of machinists and engineers, including under that head iron and brass founders, and spindle and flyer makers, whose manufactures are not unfrequently carried on in immediate connexion with them.

MACHINISTS, ENGINEERS, &c.

AGE.—SEX.—NUMBER.

9. The youngest children employed in such works are to be found in the foundries and the moulding shops. Age.

10. I received returns from 24 works of this class; out of 333 children comprised in them 5 were as young as 9. I heard of some "small" machinists who were said to have employed children as young as 8 and even 7; I myself met with one who had begun at 8, and several who had begun at 9, to "rub off and help the fettlers." The five above mentioned were in every case employed by machinists, not in the machine shops but in connexion with the foundries attached to the works; 16 were 10 years old and 79 were 11. I should say that the majority of the lads who are engaged in that branch of the business have begun to work before the age of 12, and many before 10.

11. It is rare for any boys to be employed much under the age of 13 in any manufacturing process in such works, whether using a tool or tending a self-acting machine. Some, however, of the age of 12, and even 11, were found so engaged.

12. Most of that age in the mechanics' shops or smithies were errand boys for the foremen of the room, or carried light articles for the workmen.

13. Although it was very generally stated to me by the employers of labour, and by their foremen, that they did not need any under 13 years of age, and would prefer to be without them, I did not meet with more than two cases in which there were not some boys under that age employed upon their works.

The employment of three girls at one machinist's to set pins in gauges for the combs used in cotton combing, is one of so exceptional a nature as to justify the assertion that none but males are employed in such works. Sex.

14. With the view of obtaining an approximation to the aggregate numbers usually engaged in such works, I applied to the chief constables of several of the largest towns in Lancashire. From the information furnished to me at Manchester, Bolton, Oldham, and Blackburn, the following table is compiled, whence it appears that there are 136 "foundries, machinists, &c.," in those four towns alone, employing altogether in times of average briskness as many as 22,584 persons. My own observation, Number.

* I was informed repeatedly that in times of ordinary prosperity the number of hands employed would be nearly double that returned at the time of my inquiry.

and the returns to the tabular forms which I have received, lead me to consider that at least one-fifth of that number are under 18 years of age.

Returns of Foundries, Machinists, &c.*

Name of Towns.	Number of Works.	Usual Number of Hands.
Manchester - - -	53	9,979
Oldham - - - -	28	5,838
Bolton - - - -	34	4,681
Blackburn - - -	21	2,086
Total - -	136	22,584

15. From a similar source in Liverpool I have learned that at 35 foundries, &c. in that town there are as many as 1,329 persons under 18.

16. The proportion of those under 13 to the adults, or even to those between 13 and 18, is, however, a small one. In the 12 machinists' works from which I received returns, the total number under 13 is 267, while that of the adults is 8,738, and that of the young persons (13—18) 1,708.

17. The number of children employed by spindle and flyer makers is greater in proportion to the number of adults than that in machine shops. From the tabular forms of six works of this class it appears that 35 under 13 were employed there, the adults numbering 1,029, and the young persons 345.

18. Engineers on the other hand have much fewer under 13; at two such works, where 2,006 adults were employed, there were 262 young persons, but only 13 under 13.

19. In foundries, again, the proportion of children is rather higher; the returns of four showing 18 under 13 to 65 young persons and 355 adults. This is consistent with my observations in the case of the machinists, whose youngest boys were for the most part to be found in connexion with their foundry or moulding shop.

Hiring Wages.

Hiring.

20. As a general rule, all work, that is susceptible of measurement, is paid for by the piece. In such cases the workman usually hires, and pays, the boys who assist him. Those who assist day-workers are for the most part paid by the principal. The lads who are trained for any employment, which requires skilled labour are called apprentices, but are rarely bound by formal indenture. In fact the system of apprenticing has been very generally abandoned; a contract for three or four years with the parent has been in some cases substituted; in most, however, there is no tie beyond that of mutual interest, and as the lads become experienced, they frequently change their masters. When bound at all, it is to the principal, and not to the workman, under whose superintendence they are placed.

Wages.

21. The youngest boys, who work as dressers and rubbers-off in the foundries, earn from 2*s.* 3*d.* to 4*s.*, and sometimes 6*s.* or 7*s.*; the moulders' helpers, skimmers, &c. from 4*s.* to 9*s.* and 10*s.* a week. In the mechanics' shops the day-workers, such as the painting and errand boys, earn about 3*s.* or 3*s.* 6*d.*: bolt and screw makers and drillers, who are paid by the piece, may earn at 13, 5*s.* and 6*s.* a week without overtime.

22. Apprentices are paid from 3*s.* or 4*s.* to 10*s.* and 12*s.* according to their age; as they are not regularly bound, their wage is proportioned to the value of their work, so that at 20 years of age turners and fitters may earn 12*s.* or 14*s.*, and moulders 18*s.* and 20*s.* a week.

23. Spindle polishers earn 4*s.* or 5*s.*, and the other boys employed in roughing out, &c., or helping the men, from 3*s.* to 8*s.*

24. In all cases, whether paid by the day or by the piece, their wage varies according, not only to their age and their skill, but to the district, in which the works are situate.

Nature of Employment.

25. Besides the occupation of errand boys for the foremen and other workmen, who from time to time require small things to be fetched for them from different parts of the works, children are employed in foundries and at machinists' works as "dressers," to rub off the sand from the castings with a brush or old reed, or to take the rough part off by chipping and filing. Many of 11 and 12 are skimmers in the moulding shops; the skimmer holds back with an iron hook the dross or skim (scum) on the surface of the molten metal, as it is poured into the moulds. They also help the moulder to fill in the sand for his moulds, and use the charcoal bag for dusting the hot metal to give it a "skin." Children are also employed to paint, polish, and grease the iron work or wood work of machines when finished.

26. Their chief occupation in engineering works is that of carrying rivets to the boiler makers. I met with one or two boys of about 12, both in mechanics' shops and in smithies, who were working at drilling, screwing, and "tapping"† machines, and one told me that he had begun to grind at 10 years of age. These, however, are exceptional cases. In tenting self-acting machines for turning smooth rollers, boys of 12 and 11 are sometimes employed.

27. In spindle and flyer works children of 12 and 13, or even younger, heat the rods in the furnace for spindle forging; some polish the spindles; this is effected by means of implements called "clamps," which resemble pairs of tongs with oiled pads at their ends. The clamps are pressed tightly down on to

* I believe that the persons employed in forges are included in these figures. I have treated of them separately; their number is, however, small in comparison with that of those, who fall strictly within this class.—H. W. L.

† "Tapping" is putting the worm or screw into nuts; the term "screwing" being limited to putting the thread on to the screw or bolt. Screw and bolt making is also carried on as an independent trade under conditions, to which special reference will be found at p. 7 C.

the spindle, which is made by a strap and pulley to revolve with great rapidity; others, of ages from 10 to 13, drill holes, file and "rough out" the wharves, and otherwise assist the men. The last mentioned occupations of drilling, &c. form also the employment of some between 13 and 18. Others of that age "tap," or put a screw into a throstle flyer, and "centre," or point the spindle; they also have to grind and glaze now and then, but not for long continuously.*

28. It is difficult, and probably unnecessary, to give any detailed explanation of the numerous and varied employments of young persons in foundries, and the other works of machinists and engineers. As apprentices in name, if not strictly so called, in the moulding shop, the smithy, and the mechanics' shop, they begin with comparatively light and simple work, assisting the men either indirectly by preparing articles for them to finish, or to use up, in fitting and completing machinery, or directly by forming one of a set engaged simultaneously on some one piece of work. As instances of the latter mode of employment, I may mention "striking" with a sledge hammer, and regulating the fall of a light steam hammer; and of the former, turning, drilling, making bolts, screws, nuts, rollers, and performing many other operations, such as cropping, slotting, planing, and polishing, &c. by means of machinery worked by steam power, each one having his own machine independent of any other person, subject only to the general superintendence of the foreman of the room, or, in many cases, the closer supervision of some experienced workman, who might have half a dozen or more of such apprentices placed under him to teach and help. I should not omit to mention that I found lads of 13 and 15 in many places grinding and glazing tools and other articles; in some, however, none under 18 are allowed to work at the wheel or strap.

29. One wholly independent occupation, in which the labour of young persons and even of children has lately been adopted, is to be found in the comparatively novel process of plate moulding (No. 26). Where castings of a light and simple nature, and of an uniform and recurring figure, have been required in large numbers, the plan has been adopted of forming the whole design in relief on a metal plate, and stamping it, like a seal on wax, upon the moist sand, which, retaining the impression thus given to it, becomes a mould fit to be used for casting, without requiring the manipulation and judgment of the practised workman. In such a case it is obvious that the extent, to which juvenile labour might be substituted for that of adults, is limited only by the weight and size of the plate.

Hours of Work.

30. The usual hours of work are from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., with intervals of an hour and a half for meals, or 57½ in the week, the Saturday half holiday being universal. These are very generally exceeded with children, as well as young persons, in times of ordinary briskness to the extent of two hours, or up to 8 p.m., for two, three, or four months in the year. And occasionally work, in which young persons are engaged, is prolonged to 9 and 10 o'clock at night. Such overtime does not in most cases occur at one particular season, but at different periods throughout the year, sometimes for two or three nights only, but more often for two or three weeks, or even months consecutively. It varies considerably from year to year. In 1853, for example, at the works of Messrs. Hetherington, an hour overtime four days in every week the whole year round was made, and in some months two hours and a half, while at the time of my visit they had been making for the year past only 44 hours a week (No. 1). So at Mr. J. Whitworth's works, the overtime beyond 7 p.m. for each young person in the last five years ranged from 1·58 weeks in 1859 to 8·80 in 1860, a difference of 7·22 weeks or more than 43 working days (No. 11).

31. Mr. W. Madeley, junior (No. 8), says, "For the last three years we have been generally working "overtime with all hands. . . . For the three years preceding those we made no overtime to speak of." Similarly Mr. J. Tatham (Rochdale) (No. 19) stated to me that the number of occasions, upon which all, or most, would stay till 8 p.m., varied one year with another; it might go on for six months together, and might not happen again during two or three years for more than one month in all at different times. At Mr. Collier's (Salford) I was informed that for three or four months in the year on an average 14 hours a day are made. Those hours (6 a.m. to 8 p.m.) had not been exceeded for a long time, but during the year before last they generally worked till 10 p.m.

32. This same fluctuation is implied in the mere use of the phrase "in good times;" as, for instance, at Mr. Mitchell's (Bury) (No. 40), "In good times the work for hands of all ages is continued until 8 p.m. "for five nights a week, month after month." At Mr. Preston's (Manchester) (No. 30), "In busy "years the working hours are prolonged till as late as 9 p.m. so often as 80 or 90 times; in other words, "for three months or more in the year." In like manner Mr. Hall (Bury) (No. 28) says, "Our "ordinary hours are from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., but they are often prolonged, when times are good, till "8 p.m. for two months taking the year through, and occasionally till 9 or 10 p.m." And Mr. Johnson (the Ashbury Railway Carriage Works) (No. 49) says, "Generally speaking we exceed our "usual hours of 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. by two hours for three or four months in the year, not consecutively, "but at different times, so as to make up that average."

33. I take the following instances from my notes:—

No. 4. A lad of 15 from 6 a.m. till 8.30 p.m. for three months at turning.

No. 33. Another of the same age from 6 a.m to 9 p.m. for the last two months.

No. 43. Several, of ages from 12 to 14, from 6 a.m to 8.15 p.m. for some months, carrying rivets, or helping in the smithy.

No. 42. One of about 13 from 6 a.m. to 8.30 p.m. for three weeks.

No. 13. One of 12 from 6 a.m. till 9 and 10 p.m., "for some time now," cleaning in moulding shop.

No. 46. One of 14, who had worked at 11 years of age "from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. often, and once or "twice from 5 a.m. to 11.30 p.m., rubbing off."

34. It is extremely rare for children or young persons to work through the night. As a rule none but adults work after 10 p.m., or in the night shifts or sets, which are occasionally taken on, when the work is expected to require late hours. I found, however, one case of a boy of 15, who had worked all night

Night work.

* At one spindle manufactory a large number of boys from 11 upwards were employed in filing bands for bayonets, or in shaving and cutting bayonets and rings; in the latter case merely watching and feeding a self-acting machine.—H. W. L.

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in addition to the previous day, greasing machinery for exportation (No. 4). At the Ashbury Railway Carriage Manufactory (No. 49), which in some respects falls under the present head, it has been found necessary to employ the hands in the wheel and axle department by day and night turns of 12 hours for 10 months out of the 12; that plan is also adopted in the other departments there, when work is likely to be required for some time after 8 p.m., but that is rarely the case. In machinists and engineers works, generally speaking, night work is required in repairing a break-down in the machinery or some other works, in which case children are not employed at all, and young persons but seldom.

Meal hours.

35. Half an hour for breakfast and an hour for dinner are universally allowed, and rarely curtailed. Lads engaged in watching self-acting machines occasionally have to take their meals as they watch, when perhaps their department may be the only one, in which overtime is being made, or when less overtime is being made in the other branches of the works (No. 1). When the work is continued after 6 p.m. half an hour for tea is usually allowed. In most cases they leave the works and go home for meals, or at all events for dinner; that, however, is left with themselves, and depends upon their distance from home. In some large works in country districts ample accommodation in the way of dining halls and cooking apparatus has been provided by the proprietors on the premises.

Holidays.

36. The holidays depend of course to some extent on the state of trade; the period also will vary somewhat with the time of races, fairs, &c. of the district in which the works are situate. In the neighbourhood of Manchester, besides Christmas Day and Good Friday, from four days to a week at Whitsuntide, several days at the commencement of the new year, two days at Easter, and a day in autumn for some excursion are very generally taken. Besides this the boys in most cases take a half holiday on Shrove Tuesday. When times are good, or, in other words, when work is plentiful, much of the time thus spent in holiday making is worked up by overtime on other days. Whenever that is the case, the lads would probably make as much overtime as the adults (No. 1a).

Treatment.

37. I have no reason to think that the children and young persons are treated otherwise than well; the nature of the work itself is consistent with a certain amount of roughness, but nothing like cruelty is practised. I not only had no complaints from the lads themselves or from the workmen, a fact on which I lay little stress, but disinterested persons, such as the clergy, medical gentlemen, and chief constables in various towns united in assuring me that rough treatment was the strongest expression that could be fairly used, and that even that was characteristic rather of the habits of the people in their home life than of their temper in the workshop.

State of place of work.

38. The younger boys work frequently in the open air, or under a shed. The moulding shops and mechanics' shops and smithies are for the most part lofty and roomy. Instances, however, of overcrowded workshops and defective ventilation are still sufficiently numerous to call for observation. In the smaller foundries and machine shops this is particularly the case. Contrivances for getting rid of the dust in grinding and glazing are not very frequent, and are generally inefficient.

Accidents.

39. Considering the frequent opportunities for accidents, where a large number of machines moved by steam power are being continually used by inexperienced hands in learning the trade of an engineer or a machinist, they occur much less frequently than might be expected, and comparatively few of those that do happen are such as fencing would prevent. They appear to be caused in most cases by the careless using or the misuse of the tools, and not by the "gear," which connects the machinery with the motive power. In this respect they are distinguishable from the accidents which occur in cotton and other mills. The witness Sugden (No. 21) puts this very clearly, "Accidents in the mills are chiefly "caused either by cleaning, while the machine is in motion, or through being caught by a strap and "pulley. No mechanic would be so foolish as to do the first, and it is the women and girls chiefly, "who suffer in the second way from their hair or dresses hanging about."

40. Mr. Thos Hetherington (No. 1) says, "Accidents of course happen with us, and occasionally they "are serious. The worst, about 13 years ago, caused the loss of an arm, but in 25 years we have never "had any one killed; in no case would any amount of fencing have prevented them. Our driving gear "is all enclosed and every precaution is taken that can be." And he goes on to state that it is in putting on straps, and in grinding, that accidents chiefly occur; in the latter case not only from the stones flying, but through the tool slipping with the grinder's hand between the rest and the stone, so that a hand or arm is crushed in a moment.

41. These statements are confirmed by medical testimony. Mr. R. C. Brown, of Preston (No. 56), "states: As far as I can learn, nearly all the accidents which occur at the workshops I have visited "(10 of various kinds employing a total of 800 hands) belong to one of three classes:—

"1. Scalds and burns from melted metal or heated iron.

"2. Fractures arising from carelessness in passing straps on to wheels.

"3. Lacerated wounds and compound fractures of the fingers, owing to the sudden breakage of the "chisels, while the workman is guiding its cutting operations with both hands, and pressing against "the tool with the whole weight the body."

42. After mentioning that accidents of the third class seldom if ever occur to lads under 18, he observes that the record of accidents at the dispensary confirms this account.

43. To the same effect is the evidence of other medical practitioners, which I have therefore thought it unnecessary to retain.

44. In spindle making also the accidents, which ordinarily occur, are such as fencing would not prevent. Mr. Ryder, of Bolton (No. 39), notices the danger of children being put to polish spindles, when they are not strong enough to hold the "clamps" down, so that the spindle flies out with great velocity, and to the great danger of the polisher and every one near. In one case a boy had his nostril and lip cut open nearly to the eye by an accident of this description. The foreman at Messrs. Mitchell's, of Bury, stated that polishing boys had their fingers caught and hurt badly sometimes, mentioning one, who allowed some waste, with which he was wiping the spindle, as it revolved, to be caught in the strap, and in trying to pull it back, had his arm drawn in (No. 40).

46. Mr. Thompson (No. 57), in illustration of a remark that the accidents to children were the result of

carelessness or ignorance, mentioned the recent case of a boy, who had come to him with both hands cut to the bone; he had endeavoured to stop a strap in motion by seizing it, instead of shifting it from the pulley. Another case was mentioned by a foreman at Messrs. A. Lees, of Oldham, which had happened on the morning of my visit; a boy of about 14, who worked at a machine for cutting iron, turned with his back to it to talk to another lad, and, while talking, put his hand behind him. The machine caught his fingers and crushed them.

46. In speaking of the accidents in grinding, Sugden says (No. 21), "there's not a mechanic reaches "21, but has the top of a finger or two taken so." Again, Mr. Palmer (of Messrs. Platt's, Oldham) (No. "23), Most of the small accidents, we have, arise from the boys playing about or getting into mischief."

47. From the instances I have referred to it will appear that such accidents, as do occur, are, in a sense, the necessary accompaniments of learning a dangerous trade. On the other hand it is obvious that "in smaller shops, where the lads and men are closer together and confined for room, accidents are more "likely to occur" (No. 21). Perhaps the best commentary on the comparative rarity of serious accidents is given by the witness Ward (No. 24), who, speaking of works, in the various departments of which more than 4,000 persons are employed, told me that their accident club fund (the object of which was to pay so much per week to a disabled member and not to pay the doctor's bill) was so seldom called upon that they had recently had to divide out some of the money, besides having a dinner and supper out of it. Mr. Morley, the surgeon who attends the accidents among about one-half of the persons employed on these works, stated that they consisted for the most part of burns (in the forge chiefly), bruises, and crushed fingers, a broken arm or leg being very rare. In 1859 he had attended 177 cases in those works; that number was beyond the average, and Mr. Thompson gives a similar account (No. 57).

Influence of Employment on Physical Condition.

48. Their employment in mechanics' shops, smithies, &c., is not considered, either by the workpeople or the medical gentlemen whose opinion I have sought, to have any marked effect on the health of the youthful operatives. "There is no sick club," said one witness * "it is not wanted." That was in works, where upwards of 4,000 persons were employed. There are, however, in all such works certain departments, which are considered more or less unhealthy. Conspicuous among these are two, the grinding and glazing, and the brass-founding. Children are very rarely employed in either, though one boy (No. 2) told me he had begun to grind at 10; but lads of 14 and 15 are not unfrequently so employed, and some have begun wet grinding at 13 years old: in some works none but adults are permitted to grind. "Some portions of our work" (No. 1), says Mr. Hetherington, "are unhealthy; in some "works the grinding and glazing are done in cellars, where there is no free current of air as here, but "wherever they are done, the emery and iron dust are bad." The boy, who had begun to grind at 10, said "the dust makes my chest bad at times: father used to grind here too; he died of it; he was "35, when he died." So (No. 8) grinding and glazing is unhealthy work, but not nearly so bad as the "cutlery grinding in Sheffield. Still, for the reason of its unhealthiness, they are the best paid of any."

49. The operations in question have generally for their object, not as is the case with the Sheffield grinders, the production of a sharp edge or point, but a high polish. The stones for grinding and the leather bands, which are for the most part used for "glazing," are moved by steam power.

50. The effects of such an occupation have been so frequently treated of, and especially of late, in so ample a manner by Dr. Greenhow,† in his report to the medical officer of the Privy Council, that I did not think it necessary to accumulate evidence upon this point. I may add that the grinders all sit at their work leaning towards the wheel; the glazers stand. The stooping position in the former case is an additional disadvantage. The use of the fan is far from being general, nor did it seem particularly successful in the instances, in which I had an opportunity of observing its working. This is probably to be attributed in some degree to a cause which Dr. Greenhow alludes to in his Report, to which I have already referred, the large size of many of the articles, on which the grinding is performed, rendering it difficult so to arrange a screen about the stone as to enable the fan to draw the dust effectually. Something may also be attributable to a dislike on the part of the grinders themselves to an innovation on their long-established mode of working (Nos. 8, 21).

51. The fumes of the brass are said to be highly prejudicial to those who work long in brass-founding. It is moreover often carried on in cellars or garrets, very low-pitched and wholly unsuited to such an occupation, where two or three men and one or two boys would be working together. One cellar was mentioned where five persons had been so employed at once. Mr. Marsden (44a) described the effect upon himself of being in the foundry to watch, or assist occasionally, when the metal was being poured, as causing sickness and stupefaction, and making him "double down," and become quite salivated with the sulphur.

52. Mr. Marsden's gardener told me that all the leaves in his greenhouse, which was about 20 yards from the foundry, would curl up and shrivel whenever the wind happened to blow in that direction while they were casting.

53. An engineer stated that it was well known that brass-founders did not, as a rule, reach 50 years of age, iron-founders, on the other hand, being rather long-lived. After the crucible is lifted from the furnace, there remains, in the words of my informant, "a poisonous film floating about in the air." (No. 44.)

54. So (No. 21), "Brass-founding is certainly very unhealthy; of course some have to be brought up "to that. . . . . When the molten metal is poured out, they all have to leave the shop to avoid "the fumes, and when they work, they tie a handkerchief round their mouth and nostrils. I would "not be a brass-founder for any money." The men themselves are not ready to admit this; at Messrs. Dobson and Barlow's works, Mr. Barlow himself (No. 26) spoke of the unhealthiness to me, while we were in the brass foundry, but the oldest of the men there insisted that it was all drink and bad habits; he admitted, however, a tightness on the chest to be a very general complaint, but treated it as a little matter that a taste of rum could set right any day.

* Ward, No. 24.

† 3rd Rep., App. VI., p. 120, *et seq.*

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55. The effect of turning brass was also noticed by Mr. Hetherington, and by the foreman of the turners in his employ (Nos. 1, 6), as hurting the lungs, but it appears that a lad is not very often occupied in brass turning for long together; one told me that he never had to turn brass for more than two or three hours together; and another, who had worked for two or three days consecutively, said that he had done so but once in some months, and didn't think it hurt him.

56. The heat at the mouth of the furnaces, where boys stand to heat rods for the "drawing-down" machines, and the "roughing-out" the wharves in spindle making have been also referred to* as injurious to health, the latter especially creating an unwholesome dust, which "gets up your nose and irritates," when there is no fan.

57. Mr. Hetherington (No. 1) thought that the charcoal dust, which the helping lad in moulding shops shakes over the hot metal in the moulds, was likely to be prejudicial to health, as also the frequent kneeling in the damp sand; and he referred to the rules of the Moulders' Benefit Society, which allow no moulder over 45 years of age to become a member, as showing that they were considered short-lived. I did not, however, find that the attention of the numerous medical gentlemen, whom I spoke to, had been specially drawn to particular effects of the business upon the health of the moulders, and am disposed to think the drunken habits of the men, which are almost proverbial, have, as Mr. Hetherington himself suggested, more to do with such cases.

58. Mr. Barlow (No. 27) drew my attention also to the effect of naphtha used for polishing the wood-work of cotton machinery. As that, however, though a usual incident in machine making is not a feature of metal manufacture, but rather characteristic of the business of an upholsterer, I will only refer you to p. 10 c of the evidence, on which the matter is noticed.

59. In the opinion of Mr. Barlow, who had himself been for 15 years a cotton spinner, and in his present business for 12, there was nothing in the various processes of moulding and machine making so prejudicial to health, as the work of a factory operative in the carding and the skutching rooms

60. For the young, however, the long hours of work are in themselves hurtful. A boy who had worked at 13 in a moulding shop at St. Helen's told me that he used to get very tired there with only the ordinary day's work from 6 a.m. to 5·30 or 6 p.m. "When it" (stopping till 8 p.m.) "goes on, "as it does for weeks sometimes, it is very tiring, especially for the lads. . . I think ten hours a day "is enough for any one, man or boy, at our work; I would rather have it 8 hours than 12 (No. 21). "If they have been working their full time well, they haven't the energy left to get through much more "at the end of it" (No. 24). So a lad of 15, who had been working from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. in spindle works—"Those long hours are tiring; the work itself isn't" (No. 33).

61. I noticed at some engineering works that two or three of the lads, who were driving light steam hammers, looked pale and thin (No. 42). I could learn no special reason for this. Others of the same age, at heavier work in the same smithy, looked strong and healthy.

Moral Condition.

62. Although these trades have partaken of the great general advance in social and intellectual condition, which is conspicuous in the manufacturing districts of Lancashire, there is still much to be done, before a satisfactory account of them can be given. "The foundry boys," says Mr. Hetherington's foreman, "are very uneducated. I think they are improved from what they were 35 years ago, when "I entered the trade; but there is room for much more improvement yet. . . Many parents who "earn large amounts drink away their earnings, and have to bring their children to work here, instead "of sending them to school; that is how they come so young too" (No. 5). The evidence of another foreman is even less satisfactory: "I think the boys that work here (spindle making, &c.) are "worse than they were 20 years ago. They are worse mannered and more ignorant. The language "they use is certainly worse than it was when I was a boy. It is the parents' fault, all of it" (No. 31). This witness was singularly intelligent and temperate in his expressions; a man apparently in the prime of life, and not disposed to take a gloomy view of things.‡ I am bound to say that Mr. Lamb's cashier (No. 36), speaking of the same trade with an experience of 19 years, gave a more favourable account; but on the other hand, I was informed by Mr. Cotton (No. 38), himself a spindle manufacturer, and formerly foreman to Mr. Lamb, that the boys' morals were very bad; he insisted on inflicting fines for swearing and using other bad language, but that did not check them; and their habits of gambling and other vicious practices were equally irrepressible.

63. These remarks, however, do not refer to the class of apprentices in machinists' and engineers' works. Of them Mr. W. Madeley (No. 8) says, "You will find them generally intelligent, and more or less educated." This proved to be the case for the most part, but even among them I met with instances of ignorance which astonished me; while many cases, which you will find throughout the evidence taken by me, or in my summary of the information obtained at particular works, were lamentable in the extreme. In the mechanics' shop at a machinist's, two or three lads of 16, turners and fitters, a highly paid class, were not able to read a newspaper. One of 15 in the same room could not read at all. At an engineer's one of 14 and another of 17, neither of them mere labourers, could not read; and at another several of 14 and 15 could only spell the words of a very simple hymn letter by letter.

It is, however, among the smaller helping boys, the dressers in the foundry, and moulders' boys, the painters' and errand boys, and the polishers and helpers in spindle manufactories, that the greatest ignorance prevails. I give a few instances, taken from the evidence, not meaning it to be inferred that such ignorance is universal among this class, but only that it exists to such an extent, as to make it my duty to call your attention to it in a marked way.

"No. 37 (spindle works).—Am going on 13. Have never been to day school; go to Sunday school "sometimes. Never learned anything; can't read or write or do sums. Never heard of Edin-"burgh. Don't know where London is. Heard of the Exhibition; don't know anything about it; "don't know it was in London. I know about my own work, and that is about all I do know." [This was not said in a sulky or stupid way; indeed, his manner was rather pleasing than not.]

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* No. 26, 40a.

† *See* as to this in 4th Report of Med. Officer of Privy Council, App. IV. p. 152.

‡ His remarks upon the little good to be got from early schooling alone are very worthy of attention.—H. W. L.

"No. 52 (smithy).—Am 12. . . . . Went to day school for a year before I came to work, "three years ago. Go to Sunday school now. Can't read. Don't know who the Apostles were, nor "what disciples means, nor who they were; never heard of St. John. Don't know where Scotland is, "nor what it is. Don't know what county Manchester is in." [This witness, I find in my notes, was particularly well behaved, and naturally quick.]

"No. 53 (smithy).—Am 13. Have never been to day school; go to Sunday school, but don't "read; they read to us there. I don't know what it's about; never heard of St. Paul."

"No. 54 (foundry).—Am 14. Can't read; could 18 months ago, a bit. Used to go to day "school; go to Sunday school now. Don't know who St. Paul was; don't remember ever hearing of "him, or of the Apostles. Don't know where Lancashire is, nor what it is."

The above are no doubt exceptional; I regret to say they are not isolated cases. (See also No. 9.)

IRON SHIP BUILDERS, &c., BOILER, TANK, SCREW, AND BOLT MAKERS.

64. In concluding my remarks under the head of machinists, &c., I wish to draw your attention to the employment of children and young persons in the iron ship building yards of Liverpool, and by ship smiths, including boiler, tank, and rivet works, and screw and bolt manufactories. These occupations in such works are sufficiently analogous to those above treated of to justify such a course; while the evidence, which I have to lay before you on the subject, will show that it is equally inconvenient to class them together, and to keep them wholly distinct.

Age and sex.

65. In all the above named trades, with the exception of ship smiths, boys begin to work frequently before they are 12, and sometimes as young as 10; in screw and bolt making, occasionally even before 9 years of age; one whom I asked had began at 8. No females are employed.

Number.

66. The number of the children employed in ship building yards, and by boiler and tank makers, bears a small proportion to the total. At Messrs. Vernon's yard, which I was told I might take as a fair sample, only 20 were under 13 out of a total of 971; but more than one-fifth—213 in 971—were under 18. At Messrs. Cato, Miller, and Co.'s yard also, though none were under 13, nearly one-fourth—61 in 254—were under 18. The proportion borne by the children in screw and bolt making is far greater; out of 73 persons employed in one manufactory, 17 were under 13, and 35, or nearly one half, under 18.

From a return furnished to me by the Chief Constable of Liverpool it appears that the number of "young persons" under 18 years of age in that town employed by iron ship-builders, ship-smiths, boiler and rivet-makers is 1,312. The number of lads from 9 to 15 years of age employed in making bolts and screws at Chowbent is about 200.

Hiring.

67. The younger ones, who merely help the rivetters, are engaged only from week to week, and generally hired on piece work, and paid by the principal a sum proportioned to their place in the set or gang, to which they belong, and to the work done. At 14 or so they are often apprenticed to rivetting, under a regular indenture, but only for three or four years. There are apprentices in the smithy; these and the ship smiths' apprentices do not begin work till 14. The bolt and screw makers are not apprenticed, but hired and paid a weekly wage by their employers. Each works independently of any other person.

Wages.

68. The rivetters' boys earn about 4*s.* 6*d.* a week; the apprentices have 8*s.* at first and rise to about 14*s.* at 18 years of age. The younger screw and bolt makers earn only 3*s.* and even 2*s.* a week. The peculiar position of the village of Chowbent, which is the chief seat of this manufacture, and the little demand for children's labour there as compared with many other places, account for their small rate of wage.

State of place of work.

69. The shops of some screw and bolt makers are very dirty, low pitched, and crowded; very ill adapted to the use of steam power recently introduced into the trade.

70. Much of the rivetters' work is in the open air; that of those in the ship building yards wholly so.

Nature of employment

71. The rivetters work in sets or gangs, five to each, two are adults; they are rivetters proper, and hammer down the end of the rivet on the outside. A third is the holder-up, and is generally a young man; he "holds up" the head of the rivet inside, while the other two men hammer it. Besides these there are two boys, one to blow the bellows at the furnace and heat the rivet, and the other to hand the red-hot rivets to the holder-up, for the latter to push through the hole towards the rivetters. When they are rivetting masts, the holder-up and hander have to get inside, and the heating boy throws the red-hot rivet up the hollow of the mast to the hander, seizing it with a pair of pincers. The boy inside picks it up in the same way, and hands it to the holder-up. Holding up requires considerable strength, as the first blows of the rivetters have to be resisted to prevent the rivet being knocked back out of the hole.

72. As these hotting and handing boys grow up, they are generally taken on and apprenticed to some part or other of the work. When they are regularly bound, the rivetter will admit them to learn how to strike for rivetting, but they will not allow them before that. The work of the apprentices in the smithy and elsewhere does not differ materially from that which has been already noticed in the case of engineers, &c.; as is also the case with the screw and bolt makers. There is also a class of older boys, about 14 or 15, who are called liners. They let a piece of iron in between the bar and the plate in the sides of the ship, and fasten it temporarily, leaving it for the rivetters to complete.

Hours of work.

73. The usual hours for rivetters are from 6 a.m. to 5.30 p.m., with the Saturday half-holiday after 1 p.m., but it is not unusual to go on till 7.30 p.m. The time-keeper at Messrs. Vernon's (No. 60) calculates that there are throughout the year always 5 or 6 sets or gangs out of the 60, which is about the total number of sets, working till 7.30 p.m., and one or another set till 9.30 every night. At Messrs. Cato and Miller's this overtime (till 7.30) was put at three months as the outside, and never more than a fortnight consecutively. "Whenever a ship is nearly ready for launching there is a push for a few nights" (No. 58).

74. Ship-smiths' apprentices work from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. for perhaps one month in six, taking one year with another; sometimes this continues for more than a week together. "There certainly always is a "terrible bustle about getting a ship ready" (No. 66).

76. Screw and bolt makers work from 6 to 6, or 58½ hours in the week, leaving off at 12 on Saturday; but, when there is a press of business, for a month or two they go on till 8.30 p.m. even in the larger establishments, where they can work to stock. Mr. Carr thinks 58½ hours "quite enough," and is generally in favour of some regulating measure (No. 67).

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C.

77. Ship-smiths' apprentices may now and then have to work through the night. This does not occur more than half a dozen times in the year, and "after it they are fit for nothing next day" (No. 66). Night work of whatever kind is generally adults' work. Rivetters do at times work through the night; when that is the case the boys, who help them, go on as long as the men, but such occasions are very rare.

Night-work.

78. I heard of no case, in which meal hours were curtailed. When work is prolonged till 8 p.m. half an hour for tea is allowed, besides the ordinary hour for dinner and half hour for breakfast.

Meal hours.

Holidays.

79. The screw and bolt makers in the Chowbent district have New Year's Day, Good Friday, and Christmas Day; about two days in Whit week, and one for the fair or "wakes."

80. In ship-building yards Good Friday and Christmas Day are universally observed, and Monday and Tuesday in Easter and Whit week are generally taken by the men; in addition to that, during a part, and sometimes the whole of the day on which a launch takes place, the works are closed. At Messrs. Vernon's there are about 10 launch days in the year (No. 59).

Treatment.

81. The remarks I have before made on this point are applicable:—"I do not think," says the Rev. J. Finlay, speaking of the bolt and screw makers, "there is any positive ill-treatment, but they use the "young ones rather roughly. It is as often as not 'a word and a blow' with them" (No. 70).

Accidents.

82. In bolt and screw making accidents are rare, and not very serious. A broken wrist, the worst I could hear of, was caused by a boy leaning his arm on a cog-wheel in motion as he talked to another. Still, in Mr. Carr's words, "The possibility of such things occurring is a good reason for preventing "children from being employed very young or too many hours, for of course the younger they are the "more careless they are, and also the more liable to get over tired" (No. 67). What accidents do occur in ship-building yards arise for the most part from the boys falling from the stages on which they stand to work at the ship's side (No. 59).

Influence of employment on physical condition.

83. The employment is in all these cases rather a healthy one than not. Much is open air work. At all events there is no reason why such occupations, followed under proper regulation as to hours of work, age of workers, and cleanliness and ventilation of workshops, should not be the reverse of injurious to health.

Moral condition.

84. "As for education," says Messrs. Vernon's time-keeper (No. 60), "they are all poorly off. Some "can't even reckon their money at the week's end. Scarce one in fifty can read decently. It is just "the neglect of the parents. They could in most cases afford to give them schooling, if they chose." Similarly, the clerk at Mr. R. C. Miller's:—"At least 75 per cent. of our men could afford to send "their lads to school, and keep them there, till they had got a decent education, but as it is few can read, and not 5 per cent. can write their names." Of the screw and bolt makers, Mr. Carr, who is very desirous of having the half-time system made compulsory, says, "The great want, however, is "education. They have scarcely any been to day school, and cannot even read" (No. 67). The evidence of the Rev. J. Finlay (No. 70) fully confirms this statement:—"Our schools suffer, not so "much from their being taken away early, as from their not coming at all."

FORGES.

Forges.

85. I have thought it advisable to give a separate notice of the employment of children and young persons by iron manufacturers, partly because it is unusual for forges to be, as foundries are, worked by the engineers and machinists, who use the metal in their manufactures, partly because in the matter of night work they are conducted in most cases upon a system different from that followed in the former class.

86. I have received returns from six works, in which this manufacture is carried on. In two of them it is subsidiary to other manufactures,—in one case, that of railway carriages, in the other that of wire-drawing. The returns in those cases do not distinguish between the different employments on the same works, but from my own inquiries there, and from the experience derived from visits to other places, from which returns were not received, I am able to state, with sufficient approximate correctness, the number employed in the forges of the six works above mentioned.

Age.

87. Most of the lads had begun work at 10 years of age. I found none who had done so before 9.

Sex.

88. No females of any age are employed.

Number.

89. In the six works above referred to, 35 are children, 290 young persons, and 750 adults; or, in other words, nearly one-third of those employed are under 18 years of age.

Hiring.

90. They are generally hired and paid by the men; at the rolling mills, where the youngest work, the practice is for one man to be paid at so much per ton, and to hire and pay six or seven assistants of various ages, the older ones receiving a wage proportioned to the work, the younger ones generally being paid by the week; they are not usually apprenticed to the trade. The puddlers also hire and pay their own assistants, being themselves paid by the ton, but those are for the most part young men of 17 and more.

Wages.

91. Wages are high in all works of this class. I met with none, however young, who were earning under 4*s.* a week. At scrap cutting a boy earns 5*s.*; furnace boys from 4*s.* 6*d.* The catchers and hookers at Messrs. Johnson's earn 1*s.* and 1*s.* 6*d.* for their eight hours work, and those that help the coilers 8*d.* 1*s.* a-day is often earned by a boy of 13 at forge work.

State of place of work.

92. The furnaces and rolling mills are under cover, but open generally on all sides to the air.

Nature of employment.

93. Lads of 10 and 11 are employed in sweeping up, cutting up scrap-iron for remelting in the furnace, and turning over the rods with plyers, after they have been rolled, and laying them to straighten and cool. When the finer rods are rolled for wire-drawing, three processes,—catching, hooking, and coiling,—are substituted for the turning over.

94. The ordinary forge work is of three kinds—hammer work for shafting, &c., bar or rod rolling, and sheet-rolling. It is in bar-rolling, and especially in the wire-rolling above mentioned, that children are employed. In that case the iron is brought from the puddling furnace in a red hot mass to the steam hammer, a strong boy of 14 or so generally drawing it on a small cart; from the hammer he takes it to the rolling mill, where the men thrust it under rollers of various sizes in a diminishing series. The "putters-in," who assist the men in this operation, are frequently youths of 17 or 16; they insert the iron into the rollers, when it is somewhat reduced from the thick bar state to rod-like dimensions. If the metal is not intended to be used for wire, it remains in the rod state, and the only further employ-

ment for children is the turning over above mentioned; but in wire-rolling the rollers of the mill are set so as to produce rods of a far greater degree of thinness. These in the final stages of rolling issue from the mill in the form of a red hot elastic rod, becoming at each succeeding division of the roller longer and thinner and more wire-like. The catchers and hookers have at this point of the manufacture to assist to pass the metal through the smaller rollers. For this purpose they seize the rod with their hook or their plyers, and run very fast with it, either to draw it through, or to bring it back to the mill, before it has time to cool. When the rod has been reduced under the rollers to dimensions suitable for wire drawing, the coiler winds it on an iron wheel; he is sometimes a lad of 17 or 18. When so old as that, he has no helper; but if he is only 14 or 15, he in most cases is assisted by a younger one of 10 or 12.

95. Lads of 14 and 15 have also to wheel small barrows or carts containing the slack from the hammers for re-working; others, "pullers up," lift the furnace doors by means of a chain. As the process of sheet rolling is more arduous, the lads engaged in that department are rather older; the youngest among them help to carry the sheet to the shears, where the ragged edges left by the pressure of the rolling machine are cut off.

Hours of work.

96. In most cases the work is done in night and day shifts, or turns of 12 hours each, there being five night and six day turns in the week; the set that has the night work for one week taking the day turn in the next. In some cases there are only five turns day and night, the work not beginning till Monday night; in most, however, they begin on the morning of Monday. Saturday is generally a short day, work being over by 4 p.m. and sometimes 1 p.m. Overtime is under these circumstances impossible, except in individual cases, when the place of an absentee is supplied by another, who has completed his own turn. Such cases, however, are rare. In one instance, to which I shall presently revert, night work has been wholly discontinued and the hours, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., had been very rarely exceeded, and never to any great extent. In another, three shifts of 8 hours had been adopted instead of two of 12, the work commencing at 6 a.m. on Monday, and ceasing at 1 p.m. on Saturday.

Night-work.

97. In the preceding paragraph, I have noticed the usual practice of working night and day shifts. "The boys in the night shift," says Mr. Lambert (No. 71), "often get to bed soon after 5 a.m.; then "they have four or five hours' sleep, get some breakfast, and go to school for a couple of hours; then "have their dinner, and sleep again before they come on to work." At Messrs. J. Webb and Co.'s forge (Bury) I was informed that the work used to be conducted, as it still is in most places, by relays night and day, but that considerable additions to their machinery had rendered such a system unnecessary, and it being also, in their opinion, both for their own and their work-people's interest to do away with night work, they had for six years wholly discontinued it. This had been followed by very satisfactory results. The health both of men and boys had improved. The work, being under their own personal inspection, was better done, and they could get better workmen to stop with them. (See Mr. H. Webb's letter, No. 79).

98. Another exceptional form of night work is that, which has existed in Messrs. Johnson's wire-rolling mills for two years and a half. The work there continues day and night from 6 p.m. on Monday to 1 p.m., on Saturday. The 24 hours is divided into three parts, a different set both of men and boys working in each part, so that no set works longer than 8 hours in the 24, except the set that comes on first in each week, which works 12 hours for the first turn in order to change their hours of labour for the coming week. By this means the set which worked from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. on each night in one week would be on from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. in another, and from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the third. This is considered to work successfully. Much time formerly wasted, or lost, out of the 12 hours' turn is now saved. More is got out of the workmen, and they are better pleased, for they can earn as much as they need with less fatigue to themselves, and have more time at their own disposal.

Meal hours.

99. As the supply of metal from the furnace to the rolling mill cannot be exactly timed, no fixed time is allowed for meals in the 8 or the 12 hours. At Messrs. Johnson's I found the practice to be to take a rest for about five minutes in every three-quarters of an hour, and also to have a break of a longer time at the end of the fourth hour generally speaking. During this break, which was often as long as half an hour, the men and boys take the provisions, which they bring or which are brought to them. And in forges generally the meals are taken during the rests of from 10 to 20 minutes or more, which occur seven or eight times in the 12 hours at the intervals after working out one "charge" or "heat" in the furnace, and before the fresh charge is ready to be used.

Holidays and treatment.

100. The remarks which I have made upon the subject of holidays and treatment of lads in foundries, &c., are equally applicable to the case of forges.

Accidents.

101. What accidents occur to young persons, and they are not frequent, arise from the presence of heated metal rather than the use of heavy machinery. In wire rolling the catching and hooking boys get their fingers burnt, but not seriously. In other forges the injuries to lads are generally occasioned by heedlessness, as for instance, by jumping on a bar or mass of metal, before it is sufficiently cool. (Nos. 23, 80.)

Influence of employment on physical condition.

102. Except so far as the night-work may be injurious the occupation in itself seems healthy, if boys have not to begin too young. "None but a strong lad would be of much use at a forge, and you may "be sure we don't have boys, who are of no use. * * * For lads that do not come to it too young, "and are not of weakly constitution, it is a very healthy occupation. I have worked myself at it, "and intend my three lads to get their hands in. My father, who is 68, is at the hammer still, and "my grandfather was at 78" (No. 71). And as to night-work, the same witness says, "You wouldn't "think they got very tired, if you were to see them, as they often do on a bright summer morning, go "off for a walk in the fields, before they go home to bed."

103. That many do come too young is, however, undoubtedly true. The stunted growth of many of the boys at Messrs. Johnson's, to which my attention was drawn by the foreman, before I had remarked upon it, was attributed to their being brought by their parents to work so young as 10; and yet at those works they were engaged for only 8 hours of the 24.

104. I have no evidence of injury attributable to the night work beyond that, which is implied in the statement made by Mr. Webb, that his workpeople have been more healthy, since they had discontinued it. It is probable that this particular kind of night work is not more injurious than night-work of any

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other kind. This certainly was the opinion of the medical gentlemen, whom I consulted; their objections were to night work in general, and of any kind whatever, but more especially directed to that, which went on under gas-light in close ill-ventilated rooms, conditions the reverse of those, which exist in forges.

106. I regret to say that the moral condition of persons employed in forges is still very low. At the Ashbury Railway Carriage Works, for example, where every incentive is offered in the way of reading rooms, library, &c., to promote moral and intellectual improvement, I received the following account: "In spite of all this, many of them, men and boys, are very backward to use all the "advantages in their reach, and some are almost brutish still: I should say that out of the 300 hands "in the forge, for instance, not 20 use the room even for reading." (No. 49). The instances which you will find at p 196 of the evidence, fully bear out this statement; as examples of ignorance they are in no way behind those which I cited under the first head (p. 6 C).

107. At Messrs. Johnson's rolling mills, in spite of the obvious opportunity for school attendance offered by the eight-hour turns, which I have mentioned, I found none of the lads then at work availing themselves of it, and was informed that but very few had ever done so. The master of the National schools told me that the witness Jones (No. 86), and the three boys referred to by him, were the only ones, who had attended them during the year, for which he had held that post. Similarly the stock-taker and foreman of the forge at the Ashbury Works (No. 59) stated that many of their boys did not appear to know good from bad, and that a great number had either had no instruction, religious or secular, whatever, or were at all events unable to answer the most elementary questions in either branch of learning. This opinion the evidence (at p. 11 c) selected from that of some 30, to whom I put questions at their work, is calculated to confirm, seeing that these are specimens, the worst indeed, of classes of lads alleged to be superior to the forge lads; of these last I had no opportunity of examining more than two or three, and from them could get nothing whatever.

WIRE MANUFACTURES.

108. Besides the rolling of the metal into thin rods for making wire, an occupation which falls under the last head, the drawing, galvanizing, and weaving of wire furnish employment for some few children, and very many young persons. Wire drawing and galvanizing are in most cases carried on together, either on the same premises, or at all events by the same employers.

Age.

109. It is very rare for children under 12 years of age to be employed on wire-drawing and galvanizing works. I visited four such works in Manchester and at Warrington, but found only five or six under 13 and none under 11. In wire weaving I found two of 10, and one of 11 years of age, at one establishment, but at two others none under 12. None under 13 are in the wire-drawing departments.

Sex.

110. In one case adult women were employed in drawing light fine wire. There appears to be no reason why, with proper supervision, and arrangements for hours and place of work, they should not be so employed. In Yorkshire, I am informed, such occupation for females is not unusual (No. 93).

Number.

111. In two wire-drawing and galvanizing works, from which I had accurate returns, the total number was 372, of whom only 2 were under 13, the young persons numbering 63. At another similar place I found 58 lads under 18. In a wire-weaving establishment at Warrington 4 were under 13, and 6 between 13 and 18, out of a total of 24; and at a wire-fencing manufactory in Manchester, where the whole number was 28, 2 were children and 12 young persons. Of the two classes last mentioned I did not meet with works sufficiently large and numerous to be enabled to speak of the general condition of the trade.

Hiring.

112. In the galvanizing department the men are paid by the piece, and generally hire and pay their boys by the week, except those who "open" the wire for welding, they being paid a weekly wages by the principal. In slack times they are frequently discharged, as no special training is required.

113. The lads employed in wire drawing are all apprentices. There is nothing in the nature of the contract that calls for observation.

Wages.

114. The earnings of the lads, who are in the galvanizing department, vary from 4*s.* 6*d.* to 10*s.* a week; even the "openers" may earn as much as 7*s.*; the average wage for a lad is 5*s.* a week. In each branch of the trade labour is highly paid.

115. In the wire weaving the boys are paid about 2*s.* 6*d.* or 3*s.* a week, and in the fence making 4*s.* or 4*s.* 6*d.*, the difference being attributed mainly to the locality of the work in the former case furnishing less employment for boys under 13 years of age (No. 96).

State of place of work.

116. Beyond the need of improved ventilation, especially in the galvanizing shops, where the heat is considerable, and the smell unpleasant, I have nothing to notice under this head.

Nature of employment.

117. In the galvanizing department, where by far the greater portion of the lads under 18 are employed, their chief work is to watch the lines of wire, as each passes through the zinc bath, and winds itself on to the blocks or wheels. When a block is full, one of the boys has to unload it, and put the coil on one side to be removed. Others have to open the coils of wire, which are sent from the drawer, and leave them ready for the men to weld end to end, so that a long continuous line may pass through the baths. The machines are moved by steam-power; each has about 6 or 8 lads to it. Their work is not continuous, and they often have time for play, but all may be required at the same moment. For most of these operations strength is required, as the half-blocks and coils of wire, which they have to carry, are frequently very heavy. For the same reason,—the heavy weights, which have to be removed,—none but stout lads are apprenticed to wire drawing. There is nothing in that process, which requires special description. The wire is reduced to the proper thinness by being drawn by power through holes in metal plates covered with some lubricating matter.

118. Wire is woven both by hand, and by steam-power, at Mr. N. Greening's works in Warrington (No. 98). He informed me that steam-power was used in only one other place in England for that purpose. The boy who helps the power-loom weaver has chiefly to wind the wire on the needle or shuttle, which the weaver uses, and to assist in odd jobs. The hand-loom weaver is helped by his boy in a similar way. Messrs. Greening and Co. of Manchester (No. 96) use heavy machinery for making wire fencing of some sorts, but the motive power is a wheel worked by hand. Wire netting is hand twisted. Boys assist the men in various ways, chiefly in holding and carrying things, and learn to twist.

Hours of work.

119. Galvanizers work night and day in 12-hour turns from 6 on Monday morning to Saturday at midday or 1 p.m. The boys, who open the coils for welding, are day-workers, their hours being from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., but sometimes they go on till 8.30 or 9 p.m. (No. 33). In wire drawing the hours are from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., in some cases from 6.30 a.m. to 7 p.m.; it is said that these never need be exceeded. (No. 92). In some establishments, however, when there is a press of business, an extra quarter of a day is frequently made. The apprentices, generally speaking, work the same hours as the men. The women at Messrs. Cook, Williams, and Co. come at 6.30 a.m., half an hour later, and leave at 5.30 p.m., half an hour earlier than the men; they do not make overtime.

120. Mr. N. Greening (No. 98) states that at his weaving works 2 children work about twice a week from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., and once a month till 10 p.m. At Messrs. Greening's wire fencing works the hours are 57½ in the week, and when overtime is made, as is the case to the extent of two hours a night, especially in March and April, the lads are sent home at 6 p.m. (No. 96).

Night work.

121. In the galvanizing department, where the majority of workers are under 18, night work is invariably adopted, the night set of one week taking the day turn for the following week. Mr. T. G. Rylands states that the nature of the vats renders it necessary to go on day and night, for the contents would become solid if left to cool, and then could not be remelted; that it would not answer to keep the fires on all night without working, and that the orders could not be got through fast enough (No. 92). So Mr. Williams (No. 94). "It is not absolutely necessary to work continuously, but it would be very "costly, if we did not. If we were prevented from working lads under 18 in the night time, we should "have young men over 18, and pay them more, and raise our price according. The parents and the "lads would suffer, but we should not."

Meal hours.

122. The galvanizers in some cases (No. 88), work through their meal times, and are paid for the hour and a half as overtime. They sit down and eat their breakfast or their dinner, watching the machines, as they do so. In all the other departments work ceases for meals. When they stay until 8 p. m., half an hour is allowed for tea, besides the breakfast half hour, and dinner hour.

Influence of employment on physical condition.

123. The smell, and indeed the taste, of the sulphurous and other vapours given off from the zinc vats in the galvanizing room, is exceedingly pungent and unpleasant to a stranger. Being myself invariably affected by a choking sensation in the throat, and frequently by smarting in the eyes and nose, while making my inquiries in such places, I took particular pains to learn, if any result prejudicial to health could be traced to that cause; but workmen, employers, and the lads themselves all declared that they did not suffer from it. No medical men, whom I consulted, had had their attention specially drawn to this matter; but Mr. T. Glazebrook Rylands, in whose judgment and candour I have reason to place every confidence, both personally and by letter assured me that the vapour from the zinc vats is not injurious to health. With regard to the "lifting and heavy work," the same gentleman states that his experience, so far as his own works are concerned, is that none of the work is too heavy to be healthful, but that it rather tends to develop muscular strength. He remembered no case of a lad engaged in the manufacture of the heavy kinds of wire, who had left through ill health (Nos. 92, 93).

Moral condition.

124. The apprentices to wire drawing are rather superior to the other lads; but "all, men and boys, "would be better for some more learning" (No. 88). By way of example, a lad of 15, who could read, and attended Sunday school, could not tell me how many Gospels there were, nor the name of any who wrote them (No. 89). Another, of 14, knew nothing about "Testament" at all. He could not read (No. 90). A third, also 14, able to read tolerably, and attending Sunday school, could not say the first or any other commandment—did not, in fact, appear to have heard of them,—and could not tell me who betrayed Christ, nor who Judas Iscariot was, though I put the two questions to him consecutively (No. 91). Another of 14 did not know his letters, and several had to take all words of more than one syllable letter by letter, and could not read one line of a hymn correctly (No. 95).

125. "All the men," says Mr. Williams (No. 94), "are, with few exceptions, ignorant and improvident, "and careless of education. Few parents can read; they are more alive than they were to the "advantage of their children being educated, but they don't care to sacrifice any indulgence of their "own to obtain it."

126. So Mr. Greening* (No. 96), states, that at his wire fence works, out of 14 lads under 18, 8 could neither read nor write, and only one could read and write well. At Mr. N. Greening's wire weaving works, one boy of 15, whose father was stated to be a man of some little property, could scarcely read at all (No. 98).

FILES, WATCHES, AND WATCH MOVEMENTS.

127. Although the manufactures of files, and of watches and watch movements, are very dissimilar, both in the processes and in the produced articles, the conditions of employment are in many respects so similar as to make it convenient to treat of them together.

128. The files manufactured in Manchester and Warrington are for the most part of the smaller and lighter kind; the hand-saw and frame-saw file, and the watch and clock-maker's file, not of the heavy sort made in Sheffield. The machinery of the Patent File Machine, &c. Company is adapted for cutting flat files of any size. Theirs, I was informed, is the only place in England, where steam power has been applied to this end.

129. Of the very numerous portions, which go to make up a watch, about 40 are made in Prescot, near Liverpool, and then sent to Liverpool or London to be finished and put together.

Age.

130. In the manufacture of files, and of watch movements, children are rarely employed. I heard of one or two, who had begun at 10, but very few as a rule begin much before the age of 12 at either occupation, and even then for the first six months or more they would be errand boys about the shop, doing odd jobs now and then.

Sex.

131. In watch-movement making at Prescot women and girls are said to be employed, when work is brisk; this has not now been the case for several years. In file manufactories young women are employed occasionally to clean, and in some cases to cut files, working side by side with the men. At the company's works they also tent the machines.

* Upon the general question of education I received a letter from this gentleman, which will be found at p. 17 c of the evidence.

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132. In ordinary file cutting by hand the proportion of young persons employed is very large. In one establishment, which I visited, there were 45 cutters under 18, and only 6 adults. Much is still given out in the neighbourhood of Warrington to be done at home. The largest shops of watch movement makers in Prescot are stated to have 18 or 20 men, and 9 or 10 apprentices. About three-fourths of the working population of that place is so employed; one-half of the work being done in the masters' shops, the other taken home by "outsiders." The total number employed in Liverpool is not large.

Number.

Hiring.

Wages.

133. Those who cut files by hand, or make watches or watch movements, are regularly apprenticed for seven years. The company's machine tenters, and the dressers and others of that class in file manufactories generally, are hired from week to week, and paid by the day or by piecework, according to circumstances.

134. Boys of 12 or 13, who "dress" files, earn about 3*s.* 6*d.* a week. Apprentices begin at about 2*s.* 6*d.*, and rise 1*s.* or more in the year; in some cases they keep what they earn beyond 14*s.*, amounting to 3*s.* or 4*s.*, after two or three years. The wage in Manchester is higher; 5*s.* after the first year is not rare. Scourers, who are often women, are paid about 8*s.* a week. Those who tent the machines earn from 9*s.* to 12*s.*

135. Apprentices at Prescot earn from 2*s.* 6*d.* or 3*s.* to 8*s.* and 9*s.* a week; sometimes they are also permitted to keep a quarter of their earnings. Clothes are also found or money is allowed, 2*l.* or so a year in lieu of them. In Liverpool they are paid 5*s.* a week, and keep one-third of their earnings, which frequently amounts to another 4*s.* or 5*s.*

State of place.

136. The smaller shops in both trades are often exceedingly hot and ill-ventilated; they are also frequently overcrowded. In one small watch-movement makers' shop, a kind of "lean-to" like a hot-house, with glass on two sides, on a level with the bed-room of the cottage, to which it was attached, there were stools and sets of tools for seven persons. The amount of cubic feet of air for each person was 172. The windows could open but a little; the trap-door, the only mode of entry, was kept closed on the warm summer day, on which I visited Prescot; and the room was so narrow, and the small fire-place so ill-contrived, as to be within four feet of the back of one or two, and to give out no heat when needed to the rest. In some file-cutting shops the grates used for softening the files are in the same room as the cutters, and almost close to some. The shops are kept very warm in winter time, as neither file cutters nor watch-movement makers can work with cold fingers (Nos. 107, 114).

Nature of employment.

137. Each file cutter has in most cases a separate block to himself; sometimes, however, two lads work together, the older cutting, while the younger edges. The block consists generally of a solid stone, with a piece of iron let in. The cutter works with a small hammer and chisel, holding the file down by means of a strap passing over it, and pressed by his foot. Occasionally the end of the file has to be held up by a strap passing round the cutter's neck. At intervals, which are variously stated (Nos. 104, 106), but which may be taken to mean once in every two hours, the cutter leaves his block, and goes to the centre of the room to file the file, which he is working on. This process, during which the cutter is standing, lasts for 20 minutes or half an hour each time, and affords a great relief from the long stooping over the block, though it is heavy work, while it lasts.

138. The younger boys dress or scour the files, and help the men, who heat and shape the metal in the furnace. The women also scour. Those who work at the cutting machine merely put in the piece of metal under the knife, and take it out, when properly roughened.

139. It is impossible for me to give a detailed description of the delicate manipulations involved in labour so extraordinarily subdivided as that of watch-movement making. In Prescot alone, where only the "rough" work is done, 40 branches of the trade or more are said to exist, each one being a separate art, learnt and practised to the exclusion of all the rest. The finest work is filing watch hands. Steam power is not used. All the occupations are sedentary and require very close attention and suppleness of finger. The Liverpool work consists chiefly in watch-making proper, that is, in finishing and putting together the component parts of the watch.

Hours of work.

140. Among file-makers in Manchester the usual hours are from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., and in Warrington from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Overtime is not so frequent in the latter as in the former place, though even in Warrington it appears that work till 9 p.m. occurs in some places with such frequency as to give rise to complaints on the part of the parents (No. 108). In Manchester, however, the hand cutters "work on "till 9 p.m. for fully three months in the year, men and lads alike" (No. 101). "Perhaps," says another witness, "twice a week all the year round we may go on till 8 p.m., and occasionally, perhaps "half a dozen times, till midnight and after that" (No. 99). So a girl of 18, who had for some weeks been scouring files from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., said that she got very tired by that time (No. 103).

141. The ordinary hours of watch-movement makers are from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., beginning at 9 a.m. on Monday, and ceasing at 5 p.m. on Saturday. Some years ago, when trade was last brisk, working till 9.30 and 10 p.m. was not uncommon in Prescot (No. 114). It was stated that the hours had in some shops been lately reduced to 13, 6 a.m. to 7 p.m., but at the same time my informant admitted that the reduction was attributable to the dullness of trade rather than to a general determination on the part of employers to diminish the ordinary hours of work (No. 112). In Liverpool the ordinary hours of apprentices to the trade of watch-making are from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.; these are rarely exceeded in either small or large shops (No. 117).

142. The hours usually observed at Prescot are considered "too long even for the men" (No. 112). "It is shameful work I think" (No. 116).

Holidays.

143. File makers have usually the same holidays as other operatives in the metal manufactures of the district. Among watch-movement makers at Prescot Christmas Day is the only one universally recognized; the apprentices, however, usually have Good Friday or Easter Monday, sometimes both days, and in the first week of August, the club week, many masters do no work for one or two days.

Treatment.

144. I have nothing special to notice under this head. "The days of cruel treatment of apprentices," says Mr. Jolley (No. 104), "are gone by."

Accidents.

145. The only case, in which accidents are said to occur in ordinary file making, is in the slipping of the file, when being filed, out of the "cross pegs," or wooden stock, in which it is placed for that purpose. The "tang" or sharp point, which fits into the handle, when the file is finished, may then run into the hand, or possibly the breast of the filer, and cut it severely (No. 108). I heard of no case, in which the breast was cut.

146. The attitude of a file cutter at work would seem likely to cause contraction of the chest, inasmuch as he sits stooping over his block with rounded shoulders. Among the cutters themselves, however, I found no opinion prevalent to that effect. Metal Manufactures of Lancashire.

147. The dust also of the filing is said to produce consumption; some, however, attribute the prevalence of this disease to the habits of the people, instancing their going out of the cutting shops, which are kept at a high temperature, into the cold air of winter in their shirt sleeves (No. 107). At 50 a file cutter is said to become nervous and to be of no use for cutting, but they are not especially short lived. In the case of the watch and watch-movement makers also the great warmth of the shops, especially when lit by gas at night, and the sudden change of temperature in leaving to go home, or for other purposes, are considered more hurtful than their work is (No. 112). The intemperate habits of the watch-movement makers are said to tend more than anything in their occupation to shorten life. Mr. H. W. Lord. C. Influence of employment on physical condition.

148. I have no evidence with regard to the effect of the pressure of the stock or vice in filing against the filers' chest, such as to warrant me in alluding to that as a source of injury. It may be that in 1842, when Mr. Austin reported on the file cutters in Warrington, a different system was pursued in this respect. Now, however, filing does not occupy more than half an hour out of every two hours or more, and though the pressure of the cross-peg is spoken of by one witness as likely to be injurious to any female, who had to file, I neither saw nor heard of any lads, who suffered particularly from that cause. At the same time filing is allowed to be very hard work for a lad, even though he be over 13, and the working till 8 p.m. and later, whether at dressing, cutting, or any other part of the business, was considered by all to be bad for the young ones. "I should like, "said one master," to see it stopped "for them" (No. 99).

149. The brass dust in filing and turning frames for watch wheels is said to turn the roots of the teeth, the hair, and even the clothes and seats green (No. 112). One young man told me that he frequently "spat brass" of a morning after filing. (No. 115.)

150. The remarks, which I have already made on the subject, are equally applicable to many file cutters, dressers, &c. "Many of the boys are very ignorant, particularly the dressing and helping boys; "two or three of mine I know can't even read. They have often not been to school at all, and yet the "parents of many of them could afford it easily enough if they chose; it is drink, not poverty, that "keeps them from school and sends them too young to work" (No. 99). In Nos. 100, 102 of my evidence you will find instances of parents' neglect and children's ignorance equal to those already cited by me. Moral condition.

151. The apprentices at Prescot seemed tolerably well educated, and but for the example of their elders in their indulgence of the prevailing vice of intemperance, would be likely to grow up useful members of society. But, in the words of a witness who deals gently with them, "In good times they earn "high wages, and their sedentary habits and confinement in close rooms lead them to seek a "stimulus "(No. 112).

PINS, NAILS, HINGES, &c.

152. I must also briefly call your attention to some points in the various metal manufactures of a miscellaneous nature, on which I have received evidence to lay before you. Under this head are included the manufactures of pins,* nails, clog irons, locks and hinges, tinned hollow ware, "Lancashire tools,"† bullets, and gas-burners.

153 In watching the pin-making machines, which have now almost entirely superseded hand labour, and in sheeting the pins, children of 10 and even 9 are employed. Children of 8, and even 7, are said to be employed by wrought nailers in little smithies holding three or four persons. At 12 years old or younger they manage machines for making cut nails. At 10 they wire up clog irons; at 11 punch holes in them. They begin to make hinges before 11 and to clean them at 8. In connexion with the other employments above-mentioned boys of 12, and occasionally of a younger age, are not unfrequently employed. Age.

154. Girls work at pin sheeting, and at cut nail machines; young women sometimes clean or drill holes in hinges. Women also in some cases pack and store in the warehouse or stock rooms. Sex.

155. At one pin manufactory, out of 23 females six were under 13, and six more between 13 and 18. At the same place there were 23 boys under 13, and only four or five young persons and adults engaged in pin making. At a cut nail and clog iron manufactory out of 89 males 14 were under 13, and 44 between 13 and 15, and of 7 females 4 were young persons. At a tinned hollow ware manufactory the numbers were stated to me roundly as 40 children, 60 young persons, and 250 adults. So in making gas burners 11 were under 13, and 18 between 13 and 18. Hinges, wrought nails, Lancashire tools, and clog irons are for the most part made in small smithies in country places, a young boy working with, perhaps, one or two older lads, and an adult. Number.

156. In all these trades the children are, in the first instance hired by the week, being paid sometimes by the piece, and sometimes by day work. Lads are bound apprentices in the tinned hollow ware, the lock and hinge, and the Lancashire tool making. In the first mentioned they are bound to the man, under whom they work, and not to the principal; this is frequently the case in the lock and hinge trades also. Hiring.

157. Pin sheeters earn from 2*s.* to 4*s.* 6*d.* at piecework; pin-machine tenters are paid a weekly wage of 2*s.* 6*d.* or 3*s.* 6*d.* Cut nail machine workers have from 4*s.* 6*d.* a week at 13 to 8*s.* and 10*s.* at 17 or 18 years old. Little boys who wire clog irons have 2*s.* 6*d.*; punchers from 4*s.* 6*d.* to 6*s.* The hinge-making children are paid 2*s.* 6*d.* or 3*s.* and up to 4*s.* 6*d.* a week. Gas burner makers from 4*s.* 6*d.* to 6*s.* Rifle bullet makers from 5*s.* 6*d.* to 8*s.* and under. Wages.

158. The workshops of the small masters are very small, close, dirty, and often damp. In very few, which I went into, whether great or small, was ventilation duly cared for, and in some the machinery was much too crowded for security. State of the place of work.

159. The girls, who sheet pins by hand, sit at a long table with trays of pins and strips of paper before each; the pins are caught up by a kind of comb, the paper folded by the hand, and pressed between two flat pieces of steel working on a hinge with one side fixed along the edge of the table. These hold the sheet, while the pins are thrust in and forced home by a small metal bar, which is attached to the top of Nature of employment.

* The pin trade is said to have nearly abandoned Warrington, Birmingham being now the centre of that manufacture.
† *i.e.*, watch and clock maker's and armourer's tools (No. 104).

the hinge. In many cases a machine worked by a treadle is now used for sheeting pins. This resembles a large coffee mill, having a funnel with one side open, placed aslant. It is worked by two girls; the elder sits and works the treadle; the younger standing on a stool, shovels or brushes the pins down the incline, till they fall into nicks, which lead them to the sheet below. The boys, who mind the pinmaking machines, merely put the coil of wire on the frame at one end, and, after a time, pick up the pins at the other. The machines, though moved by steam power, are very light; and the boys, each of whom looks after one machine, have to stop them when anything is wrong, until one of the two or three overlookers can see to it.

160. In making cut nails also steam power is used. Each boy or girl sits at a separate machine holding a strip of cold iron, the breadth of which is the length of the nail to be cut. The strip is pushed under a knife in the machine, at each fall of which a rapid turn of the wrist presents alternate surfaces of the strip to be cut. The nail is cut, headed, and pointed by one operation, and falls complete below.* When the nails do not require heading, the turn of the wrist is not needed. In that case the strips, which are much longer, are laid by the children in rows along grooved shoots, or inclines, sloping down to the knives, and are cut as they slide on.

161. Clog irons are sometimes punched by "power;" the boy in that case merely moves the iron under the punch. If the punch is hand-worked, a lad over 14 is generally employed.

162. In hinge making, boys of 11 or so, besides cleaning, file the hinges, and hammer rivets. "It's "middling hard, is their work" (No. 123).

163. The tinned hollow ware work seemed to be foundry work with rather more than usual smoke and dust. Gas-burners pass through various hands in the process of making; one boy will cut the bar, another drill the hole, and a third put the slit in, and so on, each at an independent machine worked by steam power.

164. Besides casting rifle bullets and making lubricating wads, and projectile cases, &c., boys of 13 and upwards use machinery for cutting off the ends of the bullet, for taking off the "firs" left by pressing, and for other purposes.

Hours of work.

165. Among all the trades above mentioned the usual hours of daily work are, with one trifling and two conspicuous exceptions, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Saturday half-holiday is in most cases adopted. In the pin manufacture and some others, work on that day continues until 3 or 4 p.m. The exceptions to which I refer are those of the lock and hinge, and the Lancashire tool makers. The former trade is carried on in one particular neighbourhood, Ashton-in-Makerfield, the hours of the ordinary day's work being from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. The latter trade, in which also those hours (6 a.m. to 8 p.m.) are recognized as the rule, is carried on in various country places within 10 miles of Warrington, often in cottage workshops, never by more than six or eight hands of all ages in one establishment. Even where the usual hours are so long as from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., "the work goes on till 9 p.m. and past sometimes, for boys "and all" (No. 123). In nail-cutting and gas-burner and pin making overtime is not made; in the rifle-bullet manufactory work frequently goes on till 7 p.m.; and the hollow ware makers are said to make 2 hours overtime for perhaps one month in the year. This liability affects workers of all ages.

Influence of employment on physical condition.

166. Some of those employed in casting lead bullets seem to have suffered from sickness; much, however, depends on the proper ventilation of the casting shops. The fumes were allowed to be very injurious in the absence of due precaution in this respect (No. 133). As I had observed a quantity of very fine brass dust on the pin making machines, I made very special inquiries of both boys and men regarding the effect of the occupation on their health. They did not think, however, that any harm arose from it; one of the men, who had begun to tent such a machine at 13 and had continued 14 years working and over-looking others at that work, told me that he had never lost a day from sickness, and heard no complaints of it.

Moral condition.

167. The boys who tented pin-making machines were among the most ignorant that I have met with; none could read, and few even spell; some of the hand-sheeting girls were no better than the boys in this respect; those at the sheeting machines had received some elementary education. The boys employed in making gas burners (No. 129) were, and in the hollow ware manufacture were said to be (No. 126), very uneducated. The children employed in the smaller smithies in Ashton-in-Makerfield are, taken as a class, more destitute of training, religious or intellectual, than any in my experience. In each succeeding smithy, in a row of a dozen or more, as I entered and enquired, I found boy after boy, who could not read, had never been even to a Sunday school, and was unable to answer the simplest question of Bible history.*

168. Of wrought nail makers I heard a very similar account. In Ashton-in-Makerfield and at Chowbent, the centres of the two employments, which I have already noted as among the most conspicuous for the ignorance of the children, that of screw and bolt, and of lock and hinge making, the wrought nail makers were spoken of as something still lower in the scale, in the words of the curate of the former place, "the very wastrels of the trade." (See also No. 70.)

GENERAL REMARKS.

169. Before concluding my remarks upon the metal manufactures of Lancashire, I wish to advert to some matters contained in the accompanying evidence, which either do not properly fall under any of the foregoing heads, or can be better noticed apart from them.

1. As regards any half-time system, it seems probable that all under 13 who are employed at large works and in large towns, such as Messrs. Platt's, Messrs. Hetherington's, and the like, would—and could easily—be dispensed with, seeing that in fact they are few in number, and are for the most part "smuggled in" without the knowledge of the employer, and almost against his wishes, by the favour of the gate-keeper or the foreman, often being children of persons employed on the works (Nos. 29, 24, 42).

170. It is not the nature of the work, which the children are put to, that is likely to furnish an obstacle to the adoption of such a system, but simply the disinclination on the part of employers to have the trouble of enforcing the attendance at school, and, added to this, the knowledge that they can in most cases do without them.

* The occupation is varied by collecting the nails, when a certain number have fallen under the machine. Rests also occur every hour or two, when the "knife" is ground.

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171. In smaller works, however, and in country districts, that system would seem to be not only applicable, but, in the opinion of some employers at all events, who, regretting the tender age and ignorance of many children in their own employ, have considered with care the whole bearing of the question, even desirable. Mr. Carr's evidence on this point is very clear: "I think that our trade (screw and bolt "making) would admit of the half-time system, and I should be very glad to see it applied to us. . . "What I want is to have work and school combined; they would grow up more reasonable men, and "better to deal with, if they were educated young, and yet might be expert at the work they were "put to" (No. 67).

172. Inasmuch, however, as the number of children employed in the metal manufactures, even in country districts, is not large, it is rather in other trades that any general desire to adopt a half-time system is to be expected.

2. The limitation of the hours of work for young persons to 10½ in the day is regarded with much stronger, and more general feelings, of disapprobation than the scheme of relays, inasmuch as lads from 13 or 14 up to 18 form a very large proportion,—one-fifth I have before said,—of the total number of hands in many, if not in most works of this kind. Such lads are said to be employed, generally speaking, on preparatory work of one kind or another necessary in order to keep the adults supplied with materials on which they can themselves operate, yet such as an adult would not condescend to do himself. Any restriction upon their hours of work would therefore, it is asserted, in effect restrict the men also; or would need, as Mr. S. Walker puts it, an extension of rooms and an increase of the number of lads and of tools to one-fifth more than the present state of things requires. You will, however, observe that Mr. T. Hetherington, a member of a firm of long standing and extensive connexions, employing nearly 600 hands, deliberately records his conviction that the hours between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. are the utmost needed, and that on the whole 57½ hours in the week (or 10½ a day with the half day of Saturday) would be the best to be generally enforced (No. 1). The time-keeper, also, at the largest works of the kind in Lancashire, Messrs. Platts of Oldham, speaking with a very just enthusiasm of the size and capacity of a recent addition to buildings and premises already immense, as quite getting rid of any need to work overtime, says, "We find that those on piecework make as much in 10½ hours as "they do when they know they have two hours longer. If they have been working their full time "well, they haven't the energy left to get through much more at the end of it. Work limited to the "factory hours is the most useful both to us and to themselves" (No. 24).

173. In another branch of business, that of iron mast and tank making, Mr. Wainwright of Liverpool considers work after 6 p.m. to be never needed, including ship-building yards with works similar to his own, in the general remark that "Bad management and carelessness is the source of all overtime. When "they work on till 8 p.m. they get wearied, men and boys. There is quite time enough from 6 a.m. "to 6 p.m. for a man to do all he can do satisfactorily" (No. 65). So Mr. Carr, whose evidence I have above referred to, states his own feeling to be that 58½ hours a week is quite enough. Again Mr. Ryder (of Bolton) says, "In my opinion the Factory Act should be made general or some measure like it. The "Bleach Works Act would suit us best, as our trade (roller and spindle making) does fluctuate, and "all we should want would be to be able now and then to work till 8 p.m. to finish some pressing "order" (No. 39).

174. My own observation has left no doubt in my mind that some such general limitation would be attended with great benefit to the young persons and with little inconvenience to their employers.

3. In spite of the acknowledged improvement in the social and physical condition of the factory operative, and in spite also of the equally acknowledged influence upon other trades in Lancashire which that improvement has exercised for good, there yet remains, so far at all events as education is concerned, much cause for disappointment, and much need of more comprehensive measures than are provided by the present Factory Acts. I found a very general feeling among employers in favour of adopting some educational test enforced by law as a condition of employment of young persons. Mr. Hetherington is confident that in ten years after the introduction of some such system of ensuring the possession of the rudiments of education by a lad of 14 or 15 there would be a marked improvement in the adult hands, which would be very valuable both to the men and to their employers. Mr. Tatham of Rochdale felt sure that no employer would dislike such a restriction; and by many employers in manufactures and trades of all kinds, including owners of mills at present under the Factory Act, a similar opinion has been expressed to me. The difficulty, which naturally suggests itself in this matter, is the want of means on the part of the parent to provide education for his child. That such cases must exist in all places no one can doubt; you will, however, observe that the evidence on this point, derived from very various sources, shows uniformly that in the great majority of instances the poverty of the parent, though the most frequent excuse, is the rarest cause, of a want of elementary education in the child. From all that I have seen and heard during my enquiry I am convinced that so long as any trades exist, in which a child can be employed for full time, and consequently without going to school, so long will parents continue to seek such employment for their children up to the age, at which they are allowed to work as full-timers in regulated trades;* and so long as young persons are not required to show some proficiency in education, before they can be employed as full-timers, so long will there be a succession of adult operatives, either wholly careless of any knowledge beyond that of their craft, or striving painfully, and often unprofitably, in after years to gain what might have been acquired with little trouble, and retained with less, while they were also learning the special art, by which they should earn their livelihood for the future.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient Servant,

H. W. LORD, Assistant Commissioner.

* Wherever in metal manufactories I found a boy, who had not begun to work in a foundry or some such place till 12 or 13 years of age, he had almost invariably been in some other employment before. (*See* No. 55.)—H. W. L.

EVIDENCE on METAL MANUFACTURES, LANCASHIRE, by Mr. H. W. LORD.

MACHINE MAKERS, MANCHESTER.

Messrs. John Hetherington and Sons.

1. *Mr. Thomas Hetherington.*—I am a member of the firm. We are chiefly makers of cotton machinery and engineers' tools. You may take ours to be a fair sample in all respects of the general character of such works, both in the hours of labour and ages of those employed, and also in the nature of the employment. Ours is light work, comparatively speaking, in producing small and delicate portions of the spinning machines, for instance.

We have 563 hands now in our employ, 13 of whom are boys under 13, and 110 lads between that age and 18; there are also three females, they are girls under 13. I believe ours is the only place in the trade where girls are at all employed, and the work they have to do is peculiar; they set pins into gauges for the combs in cotton-combing machines; boys used to do it for us, but the girl's touch is more delicate; they are quite by themselves apart from the other sex, and have their meals at a different hour. We used to have them at a cottage of ours off the works, but that was inconvenient; they are now under our eye, but still as separate practically from the rest as if they were in the cottage; they never work overtime; it is fine work, and cannot be done by gaslight. Their earnings are high for their sex and age, 6*s.* a week; the best of them gets 7*s.*, that is for 44 hours work.

I am surprised to find that we have so many boys under 13. There is one only nine years and eight months old, but he is, as you see, bigger than several who are older than he is. These younger ones are generally brought in by their father or some relative to assist them, and the foreman takes their word for the age. I would never have any under 15, they are of no use to us before that; these will be all outsiders, so to speak, and most of them will be either dressers, or in the foundry assisting the moulders by filling in the sand. The employment of the latter, as you will see, is not constant; they often are standing about, waiting and doing nothing. The dressers chip and file, taking the rough part off the casting; here they work under a shed in the open air, but we shall probably have a closed shop before long. Those next above them in age will be the skimmers in the foundry, who keep back with a piece of iron or wood the skim or dross on the surface of the molten metal from coming forward, as it is being poured into the moulds.

Then will come the apprentices, they will be chiefly turners, smiths, or fitters; pattern makers, joiners, and moulders also go through an apprenticeship; not that any are legally bound to us, that practice is now rare in the trade; but the name is still maintained and applied, whenever the lads are being taught any process, that involves using their hands, except as common labourers, and results in skilled labour as opposed to working with a self-acting machine, such as a plane, for example, which they have merely to watch; but none of them are bound to stay with us, and when trade is brisk, they change about a good deal. It is rather provoking to lose them just as they have learned their trade, and are beginning to be of use to us; that will be when they are nearly 20; moulders will then earn about 18*s.* to 21*s.* a week; turners and fitters from 12*s.* to 14*s.*, but apprentices were always too much trouble, so they are very generally given up now.

One great cause of our having just at present an unusual number of lads is that we had a strike in the foundry, and have no club men; where they are employed, not more than one in four, as a general thing, may be a lad, and no adult member of the moulder's club is allowed to take less than 34*s.* wages, so we have now more than the usual proportion brought in by their fathers, who are glad not to be prevented by such rules from having them to help.

Some portions of our work are unhealthy; in some works the grinding and glazing are done in cellars, where there is no free current of air as here; but wherever they are done, the emery and iron dust are bad; so too I imagine is the charcoal dust, which is shaken from a bag over the moulds to give a skin to the hot metal in the moulding; the boy often has that to do; and the frequent kneeling about in the damp sand must also be bad in moulding. I know that the rules of the moulders' benefit society admit no one over 45 years of age; that looks as though they were considered short-lived; many of them, however, are hard drinkers, and it may be that much is attributed to the nature of the work, which really is caused by the habits of the men. The brass turning is also unhealthy, but that is only occasional work.

Our usual hours are from 6 to 6 for four days; from 8 to 6 on Monday, and 6 to 1 on Saturday. Half an hour is allowed for breakfast, and one hour for dinner; sometimes, but very seldom, those that are working self-acting tools, sit down and eat their meals, while they watch the machine, in order to lessen or avoid the overtime they might have occasionally to make.

As to the matter of overtime, if the men would always begin in good time, there would be no need for it. I don't remember working ever after 8½ P.M. since 1855; we were then in a smaller place. It is difficult to say what is the extent of our liability to overtime; we always work to order, and never to stock, so everything depends on the state of trade, and that varies very much. I will give you a short outline of the last 12 years so far as I recollect now: In 1849 we were on short time generally; I call from 8 A.M. to 4 P.M., or 44 hours a week, short time. In 1850, on full time. In 1851 we discharged a good many hands, but kept on full time with the rest. In 1852 there was the strike, that stopped us altogether for three months, so we had to make that up. In 1853 we made an hour overtime four days in every week the whole year round, and in some months 2½ hours. In 1854 we fell to ordinary full time. In 1855 we discharged some hands again. In 1856 we worked overtime in the summer months. Then in 1857 the trade became very bad, but got gradually better year by year, until last year, when we were working full time again. This year it is worse than ever, we are making 44 hours to the week. In some departments it happens that we are now working longer; the planers are working at meal-times, watching the machines, as they sit and eat, that is, and commence an hour earlier; we prefer that to their staying late, and having gas burned for a section only of the hands; but ordinarily all the various branches should be working overtime, if any are.

We would have no overtime if we could help it; certainly we would never keep them on till 8½ P.M., there is no benefit in that; working till 7 P.M. four nights a week, instead of 6 P.M., is the arrangement out of which we get most. Indeed I should not regret being under factory regulations as to hours. It would be a benefit on the whole to be limited to 57½ hours in the week. If there were much to do, we should keep orders longer on our books, which would be a good thing, and if pressed for time, the only thing would be to buy plant, which to any one possessed of capital is never a very bad investment.

We pay by piecework generally, in all cases in fact, where we can get a fair measurement of the work produced. The men, who are paid by the piece, pay

the boys, who help them, but we pay those who help day-workers.

If we employed children under 13 in any number, and had by law to work them in relays, we should turn them off, and not be bothered with them ; we could, as it is, do without any under 15, and had rather. The effect of forcing that relay system on employers in towns, at all events, will be to get rid of children's labour altogether.

I think some limitation of age, and some test of proficiency in education, before employment of any under some greater age than that limited should be lawful, would be most likely to work well.

You will find the hands generally very poorly taught, if at all ; even our foreman of the foundry here never went to school ; and it is not for want of means that the children, at all events of men in this business, get no schooling ; the average earning is high, yet you will find few among the lads, who are working for their fathers here, have been for any time to school, before they begin to work. Most, though they come to us at 14 or so, have been in some other trade before, and, if they ever went to school at all, were probably removed too early to get any permanent good by it. One of those moulder's boys, whom you were just now examining, is a fair instance of what I have said ; he is 14, and can't read, you say ; now, his father works for us ; he made 2*l.* last week, and that was a bad week.

On general grounds I am very glad that this matter is receiving proper attention from the authorities, and, as regards our own trade, I am sure that an Act, limiting the hours of labour on the factory principle, might be worked successfully, if vexatious inspection of machinery, and such things, be avoided. As to that, accidents of course happen with us, and occasionally they are serious ; the worst, about 13 years ago, caused the loss of an arm, but in 25 years we have never had any one killed. In no case would any amount of fencing have prevented them. Our driving gear is all overhead, and every precaution is taken that can be, but I believe it is generally allowed that engineers and machinists may be permitted to take care of themselves.

In any case, they ought not to be allowed to come so young as even many of our own seem to have been. If the law forbade it, we should of course insist on the foreman being careful to ascertain that they were not under the prescribed age. If some compulsory system were adopted rendering reading and writing, for instance, a necessary qualification for all entering our trade at a certain age, in 10 years time we should find a very marked improvement in our adult hands, which would be very valuable both to ourselves and to them.

It is in putting straps on, and in the grinding, that accidents chiefly occur. We have been so singularly free that we have not kept any record of them. The way it happens in grinding is often this :—In front of the stone, you know, there is a bar placed across so as to give a purchase to the grinder. Suppose him to be grinding a tool for a lathe, his left hand will be holding it below the right, and close to this bar ; if the stone is unequal, the tool may slip down, and unless he is on the look out, his hand or arm is crushed in a moment. We have our stones ground once a week. The speed, at which the stones work, is also a fruitful source of accident. Sometimes they are worked cracked, and they fly ; some are much better than others in that respect. The spindle grindstone, which is smaller and harder, is much less liable to fly. With regard to the speed, at which we work ours, you shall have a copy of our answer in 1854 to a letter making some inquiries of us on that point. I do not know that any speed beyond what is mentioned there is unsafe ; but that at least is safe, for we have never had an accident from that cause, since we adopted it.

Extract from Letter above mentioned.

"The size of stone we usually put in is 7 ft. diameter ; this we drive at 128 revolutions per minute, giving 2,816 ft. per minute. As the stone works down, we alter the pulleys, say, at every 6 inches of stone less, so that when it is 5 ft. 6 in. diameter it makes 166 revolutions per minute. The grindstones we use have a square hole in them, as we have a square on our shaft, and we have also large cast-iron cheek plates, which come up each side of the stone."

Extract of a Letter from T. R. Hetherington, Esq.

17th September 1863.

It would depend very greatly on the state of trade at the time of the holidays in question, whether any attempt was made to fetch up by overtime the production lost by play. In good times this (overtime) would no doubt be very generally worked, and, on the other hand, in bad times the employers would only be too glad of an excuse to pass on time. The usual holidays are Whitsuntide, four days or a week, according to briskness of business, and the same time at the new year, two days at Easter, and a day in the autumn for a cheap trip in the country ; and on Shrove Tuesday the boys take french-leave at 11 o'clock for the remainder of the day ; the men however remain at their work.

You may consider that if an attempt was made by the employer to fetch up time lost by holidays, that the lads would have to work as well as the men.

2. *Nathaniel Shaw.*—Am 14 years old ; have been here 17 months working at grinding iron ; began that work at 10 years old, not here, at another place ; the dust makes my chest bad at times. Father used to grind here, too ; he died of it ; he was 35, when he died. Can read a bit ; not so much.

3. *John Wood.*—Am 13 ; have been two years here working in the smithy ; "cropping" is what I do. I put these bolts under that sharp edge, which comes down, and slices the end off. Was two years at factory, before I came here ; went to school then ; can't read.

4. —— —— Am 16 ; began here five years ago ; am now turning ; used to work in a paper mill* in the hollow at eight years old ; have worked there for three weeks at a time every night till 10 and 10½ P.M. from 6 A.M., and all the night on Friday. Once worked all night here greasing ;† have worked here till 8½ P.M. for three months from 6 A.M. ; was turning then. Can't read much ; was quite tired after that.

5. — *Harvey.*—Am foreman of the foundry ; have been in the trade from 13 years old ; knocked about in most places, where any iron work goes on. The foundry boys are very uneducated, but I think they are improved from what they were 35 years ago, when I entered the trade ; there is room for much more improvement yet. There is a boy of mine, an apprentice I mean, 20 years old, and a capital workman for his age ; he can scarcely read, and I can't get him to learn. Many parents, who earn a large amount, drink away their earnings, and have to bring their children to work here instead of sending them to school ; that is how they come so young, too. The father of that boy you were speaking to just now won't let him know what his real age is ; that is not uncommon ; the object is, that he may be able to say he is 21, and so earn journeyman's wages when he is only 18 or 19.

6. — *Scrimgeour.*—Am foreman of the turners

* *i.e.* paper-staining works.—H.W.L.

† That occasion Mr. T. Hetherington informed me was altogether exceptional. A vessel carrying machinery had been lost, and as the need was urgent, the firm had undertaken to supply a fresh order in the shortest possible time.—H.W.L.

Metal Manufactures of Lancashire.

Mr. H. W. Lord.

c.

in this room. These three are turning brass; that hurts the lungs, but machinery brass has more copper than the yellow brass; the sulphur dust from that is very bad; it turns you all yellow.

[7. I examined about 20 lads employed in the various departments of these works; among the dressers and foundry lads, several of 14 years of age, were unable to read; the turners and fitters were rather in advance of those, but among them two or three so old as 16 said that they could not read the newspaper, and one 15 years old could not read at all. Many had begun to work in this trade at 11 years old, some before that; and those, who had not been employed in iron works at so early an age, had invariably been engaged from a much earlier period of their life in other trades, so as to have had little schooling at any time, and none since they had begun to work.]

Messrs. Parr, Curtis, & Madeley, Chapel Street.

8. *Mr. W. Madeley, jun.*—The business of the firm is that of machine-making, including an iron and brass foundry. The chief portion of the machines we make are for the cotton manufacture.

We have fewer hands than usual now at work; there are 44 boys under 13; 254 between 13 and 18; and 701 adults; we do not employ any females.

The youngest of them are the boys who "rub off" in the foundry; they help the "fettlers," taking off the sand from the castings with a brush or an old "reed," and removing the rough edge with a file. Very few of those have any education, I should say.

The boys who help the moulders come next in age; they are probably superior as a class to the last, for moulding is better paid than fettling, and the fathers generally get their sons into their own line; a fettler can't often get his son to moulding. The moulding is done under cover; some of the fettlers are, as you see, in the open air.

There are also some lads in the grinding and glazing shed; they will be older, 15 years of age, I dare say; that is unhealthy work, but not nearly so bad as the cutlery grinding in Sheffield; still, for the reason of its unhealthiness, they are the best paid of any. We do what we can to ventilate the place by leaving these spaces, as you see, but the men don't seem to like it, they would not let us put a fan there to get rid of the dust. We shall probably be able to supersede their labour to a great extent by self-acting machines; that has been done in some degree already, so far as the kind of grinding, which we require, is concerned.

The lads, whom we have in the manufactory, are chiefly employed in polishing, or making bolt heads or the smooth upper rollers for the "drawing" machines; there are some young ones there who act as errand boys for the foremen of the shops, but most of the others are over 14. The errand boys get about 3*s.*, and the bolt makers 6*s.* a week on an average. All the mechanics are paid by the piece, and we settle every seven weeks with them. You will find them generally intelligent, and more or less educated. Each lad has a machine to himself, and there is one man to every six of them to look after them, whom we hold responsible. The straps are all overhead; accidents will occur from time to time, but they are such as no fencing would prevent.

Our usual hours are 57½ in the week; from 6 P.M. to 6 P.M. on four days, with 1½ hours for meals; on Saturday we leave off at 1 P.M., and on Monday we work from 7 A.M. to 5½ P.M. We occasionally have to work one or two hours overtime for four days in the week, but the extent of that varies very much from year to year. For the last three years we have been generally working overtime with all hands, especially in the last eight months, when we had to regain the time lost through a fire which burnt us out. For the three years preceding those we made no overtime to speak of, and, so far as I can see, shall be making none for the three to come.

Of those 44 under 13, about one-half we let go in time to go to a night school, whether we are working overtime or not.

The probable effect of any limitation of work to 10½ in the day would be to prevent the execution of orders, as men and youths work in sets, and the work of one is dependent on that of the other.

[9. I examined about 30 boys of ages from 11 to 16 in these works, and found that Mr. W. Madeley's estimate of the extent of education among the different classes of them was generally correct. The following instances taken from the fettlers' boys are the worst:—

John Barswell, 11; has never been to school; can't read.

John Macilwan, 14; been here two years; can't read.

Isaac Miller, 13; been here six months; was at school for three months before that; didn't learn to read.

Thomas Murphy, 13. Father is fettler here; never sent me to school nor taught me anything; can't read.

Edmund Ryan, 11. Father, brothers, and sisters all in work; never went to school; can't read.]

10. *Mr. Curtis* on a subsequent occasion told me that relays might be applicable to the fettlers' boys, but that he feared they would not come for half their present earning. He thought that in any scheme for making some proficiency in elementary knowledge a condition of all employment of young persons under a fixed age there was great danger of perpetuating ignorance by preventing any lad rising through work out of an idle and uneducated class into something better; and that, so far as his own experience went, the overhours being in their works only occasional, and not during every day in the week, were not objectionable.

11. Messrs. Whitworth, Chorlton Street.

The ordinary hours of labour here are 57½ for the week, or 10½ a day, allowing 1½ for meals; the work is not unfrequently continued till 7 P.M. from 6 A.M., and young persons may work until 9 P.M. for a week or more taking the year through. The average of the overtime after 7 P.M. made in the last five years was 4·46 weeks for each young person in the year; it ranged from 1·58 in 1859 and 1863 to 8·80 in 1860. This is made clearer by the accompanying extract from a letter received from Messrs. Whitworth on the subject:—

"This was arrived at in the following way:—The total number of occasions or days, on which our youths worked from 7, to 9 P.M., in each year was ascertained, and this was divided by the average number of youths employed in the same year, the quotient giving the numbers of weeks, which would have been worked, had each youth been obliged to work that time continuously. To make the matter still clearer, which may be done by multiplying the weeks mentioned by six (the number of working days), omitting the decimal fraction of a day; thus, in the year 1859 the youths worked during nine days out of the 365

days between 7 and 9 P.M.; in 1860, nearly 53 days; in 1861, 51 days; in 1862, 10 days; and as far as we had then gone in 1863, 9 days. The average would thus be about 27 days out of the 365 days in each year."

12. *Mr. Hulse*, the managing partner in this department, informed me that he had gone round the works, about four years ago, and told every apprentice, whom he found unable to read and write, that he would give them six months to learn, and that, if they could not do so at the end of that time, he should send them away. The threat, however, was sufficient, for all could afford it, if they chose.

13. — *Hulme.*—Am past 12 a bit; not so much; go errands for the moulders, and help; am blowing bellows for this furnace now; work from 6 A.M. to 7 P.M.; have never been later; have been here two or three months; was a ruler at a printing place at 9 years old; went to school before that; can't read so well.

[This boy knew only his letters; he could not tell what g-r-e-a-t spelt, in a book I showed him, and hesitated over G-o-d. His father was a joiner on the works, and his brother, of 15 years of age, worked in the mechanics' shop.]

14. *Wm. Heywood.*—Am 12 years old; work at machine for cleaning shot boxes in the moulding shop; sometimes carry the boxes about, and do errands; have been here four months; am staying at work now as late as 9 and 10 P.M.; have done so for some time. Was a lurry boy at Carver's (carrier's) before I came here; went there at 9 years old; work longer hours here than there, but like this better; can earn more; can read and write; went to day-school before going to work at Carver's; go to Sunday-school now.

Evidence taken at St. Andrew's Sunday School, Manchester.

15. *C. Priestley.*—Am going in 13; work at Pinmill forge; night and day turns from 6 to 6; night one week, day the next. There are 14 furnace lads there, most older than me; one or two younger.

16. *Thos. Duffield.*—Am 11; was at Phœnix works last winter; was going in 10 then; had to polish from 6 A.M. to 6 P.M.; 7 and 8 P.M. sometimes.

17. *W. Halls.*—Am going in 15; have worked at a brass presser's for the last five years; our hours are 6 A.M. to 6 P.M., not later.

18. *W. C. Broadhurst.*—Am going in 12; am at wire works; go at 6 A.M., and leave at 6 P.M. or 8 P.M.; more often 6, but have stayed till 10 P.M.

19. Mr. John Tatham, Rochdale.

At these works only five were under 13, all of whom were over 11 years of age. The number of those between 13 and 18 was stated to be about 100, most of whom would be of the class of apprentices, though none were formally bound. The adults numbered from 500 to 600, 50 of whom would be between 18 and 21. The ordinary day was one of 10 hours, with two hours for breakfast, dinner, and tea, from 6 A.M. to 6 P.M. Work was very seldom prolonged after 8 P.M., and then only with the adults. The number of occasions upon which all or most would stay till 8 P.M. varied one year with another; such practice might be continued for six months together, and might not recur during two or three years for more than one month in all at different times.

20. *Mr. Tatham* stated that he did not want any under 14, but he did not object to them, when the men had brought them in. He felt sure that no employer would dislike a restriction, which made a capability of reading and writing the condition of employment of all under a certain age. He believed that there was a general desire on the part of the masters to avoid overtime, but as it was absolutely necessary in some cases in order to complete a sudden order, he should not like to be fixed to the 10½ hours for young persons. With regard to the few under 13, and such as were a little older, but engaged in similar occupations,—the errand boys, rubbers-off, and dressers,—they might always be dismissed at 6 P.M., if it were necessary, for them to go to night schools. He thought that all the lads on his works had been to school and could read and write. [This opinion, so far as I was able to test its truth, was quite justified; all whom I asked to write their names for me did so very well.—H.W.L.]

21. *James Sugden*, foreman.—I have been here 11 years, and have worked in other places also. The business of a machinist is by no means unhealthy, except where the grinding and glazing is. I could pick you out 40 or 50 men here, who have not been ill for a day since I have been here, except so far as drink may have kept them away now and then. There are no young ones at the grinding and glazing; none under 18. We are going to have a fan put there; that will carry some of the dust away; but it is often the fault of the men themselves, they will not have what ventilation they can.

Brass-founding is certainly very unhealthy; of course some have to be brought up to that. We have a moulding shop in another part of the town, and found brass sometimes; there is no lad under 15 in the brass foundry. When the molten metal is poured out, they all have to leave the shop to avoid the fumes, and when they work, they tie a handkerchief round their mouth and nostrils. I wouldn't be a brass-founder for any money.

Our stopping on till 8 P.M. is very uncertain; when it goes on, as it does for weeks sometimes, it is very tiring, especially for the lads. I contrive to send them away, whenever I can, and do without them; but, as the work they have is not a man's job, but still is needed for the men to go on with their own proper work, they must stop as often as not. I think 10 hours a day is enough for any one, man or boy, at our work; I would rather have it 8 than 12; still I don't know of any special harm having come to any of them from the long hours, beyond getting very tired.

Accidents with mechanics arise chiefly through letting the tool slip at the grindstone, and so catching the finger between it and the rest; it is always the fault of grinding carelessly and improperly; but there's not a mechanic reaches 21, but has the top of a finger or two taken so; my own little finger, for instance, was broken so. The grindstone I am now speaking of is the ordinary one for sharpening, which you see in each room, not one of those, which I spoke of before, for the heavy tools and for polishing. The boys have light tools, and fettle their own. Accidents in the mills are chiefly caused either by cleaning, while the machine is in motion, or through being caught by a strap and pulley; no mechanic would be so foolish as to do the first, and it is the women and girls chiefly, who suffer in the second way, from their hair or dresses hanging about. In smaller shops, where the lads and men are closer together, and confined for room, accidents are more likely to occur than in a place like ours. What serious accidents we have, come from things falling on the men; they are very rare.

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[22. At Mr. Davenport's (Mason's) Works, Rochdale the general features of employment were very similar to those above described, their hours being 10½ for the four middle days of the week, 10 for Monday, and 6½ for Saturday. There were 8 boys under 13; 79 between that age and 18; and 529 adults. The youngest two were between 10 and 11, one the son of a widow, the other, of a labourer on the works, earning about 15*s.* a week, and having other children. These had been to school. Most had had to write their names before being employed.]

Messrs. Platt, Brothers, and Co., Oldham.

23. *Mr. Palmer.*—I am a partner in the firm, and have the management of a great portion of our business. I believe we have more hands in our employ than any other firm in our trade throughout the country. On these premises at Werneth we have 2,781 persons, 375 of whom are between 13 and 18 years of age, and 55 boys under 13.

We have other works similar to these at the further end of the town, besides spindle works and a forge. We also have works, where bricks are made by machinery, but as there are only three persons in them under 18, and but one of those, the errand boy, under 13, you will not want returns, I suppose, of them. No females work for us. Exclusive of the brick works, our total number is 4,471, of them only 115 are under 13; there are 778 between the ages of 13 and 18. The youngest in either the spindle works, or the machine works are over 11. Our rule,—it is not very carefully observed,—is to have none under 14; and certainly the effect of introducing the half-time system would be that, so far as any under 13 are concerned, that rule would be put in force. There is always a great deal of trouble with them, and if the number were doubled, so would the trouble be. Most of the small accidents we have arise from the boys playing about or getting into mischief. For example, only yesterday, at the forge, a boy's foot was badly burnt. He was playing about, and jumped on to a mass of iron which looked cold, but was all but red hot. However, perhaps, a greater objection after all is the inspection; and the number we have under 13 bears, you see, so inconsiderable a proportion to that of the rest, that we could easily dispense with them altogether. As to education, our skilled mechanics all earn wages high enough to send their children to school and keep them there, but with the labourers, who do not have more than 12*s.* or 14*s.* a week, it is a harder matter.

With regard to the limitation of all under 18 to 10½ hours, that, in effect, is limiting adults as well. By far the greater part of what may be called the preparing work,—drilling, planing, slotting, and turning, and the like,—is done by lads under 18. We have often been delayed in "making," because the preparing portion was on an emergency insufficient. The summer months are our busiest time, but we scarcely ever work after 7.30 P.M., even then. We should never resort from choice to overtime, for it is costly and unsatisfactory in several ways; still we should not like to be debarred from it altogether.

24. *Mr. John Ward*, timekeeper.—Mr. Platt has built new premises lately, which will quite get rid of any need to work overtime, for we can always get extra hands for a pressure, if we want them, and there is the whole of that new mill unoccupied. We have not worked overtime for two years, and shall not do so again. It is very expensive, and we find that those on piece work make as much in 10½ hours, as they do when they know they have two hours longer. If they have been working their full time well, they haven't the energy left to get through much more at the end of it. Work limited to the factory hours is the most useful both to us and to themselves.

There is nothing in the nature of the work these younger ones do,—the doing errands, painting, and filing off the rough castings, or brushing the sand from the mouldings,—which would prevent their coming as half-timers; but the fewer boys the better; they are always in mischief. We like them to be 12 years old at least, but many are brought at 11 by their fathers; they earn about 3*s.* 6*d.* a week. They are put to turning and drilling as they get older. None are apprenticed. In the spindle works the young ones chiefly polish, that is by machinery. There are not many accidents of a serious kind. We have an accident club, and so few calls were made on it that they had to divide out some of the money, and had a dinner and supper out of it. The object of the fund is to pay so much per week to a disabled member, not to pay the doctor's bill; that is done by the firm. There is no sick club; it isn't wanted.

[25. Many of the boys at Messrs. Platt's works could read tolerably well. Two of the painters, however, who were between 11 and 12, could not read at all, and several of that class, and of the filers, knew little beyond their letters. The errand boy at the brick works, who was a singularly well-grown lad of 11, could not manage more than monosyllables, as was also the case with one of 14 in the carpenter's shop. At the forge there was one of 16, who could not read at all. The rest there were above the average of forge lads, and could read easy words without difficulty. One or two read well.]

26. Messrs. Dobson & Barlow (Bolton).

At the time of my visit to these works 1,489 persons were employed there; out of that number 58 were under 13, and 254 between 13 and 18 years of age; two of the boys were between 9 and 10; six between 10 and 11. The greater number of the young ones were engaged in rubbing off and dressing small castings; those a little older, in plate-moulding; and the rest in various occupations connected with roller and spindle making, as well as with the manufacture of cotton machines, in all of which branches of the trade this firm is concerned.

Both of the partners accompanied round me their works, and gave me every facility for inquiring into the condition of those whom they employed, and every explanation and assistance in their power.

The ordinary hours of labour were 10½ a day, there being half an hour for breakfast and an hour for dinner allowed between 6 A.M. and 6 P.M., so as to make, with the half-holiday on Saturday, 58½ hours a week. These hours the children seldom exceeded by more than half an hour, or an hour, now and then, and the average extent of overtime up to 8 P.M., even for the adults, was stated not to be beyond a month in the year, taking one year with another.

Most of the lads could read, more or less; comparatively few could write; many, however, of the "rubbers-off," and some even of those in the mechanics' shops,—boys of 13 and 14,—could only spell out easy words, letter by letter; they were encouraged to attend night-schools, but few of whom I made the inquiry had been going at all since Christmas. Sunday-schools seemed to be generally attended.

I found four lads of 13 and upwards polishing on grindstones; this, however, was being done in the wet-grinding shed; in the dry-grinding no lads were employed.

27. *Mr. Dobson* pointed out to me that the employment of children in plate-moulding was practically limited by the weight of the plates, which they must lift from the ground, stooping for the purpose. For that reason they preferred to employ labourers, of 18 and upwards, for any but the very light plates. The advantage of plate-moulding, where it is applicable, is that the whole pattern is upon one plate, and lifted at once, making one impression in the sand, by which the skilled manipulation of the moulder, and the care and judgment required in laying a pattern, which consists of many pieces, are, in the case of simple and recurring forms, dispensed with.

In the smithy, where spindles were being forged by machinery, some young boys of 13 years old were exposed to considerable heat through standing at the mouth of small, but very hot, furnaces heating the rods, which they handed from time to time to the men to "draw down" at the machines. Mr. Dobson informed me that he was about to adopt some means of protecting them.

In the brass foundry one boy of 12 was employed in "magnetizing," or separating iron from brass filings by means of a magnet; his business was also to skim the molten metal, when they poured it from the crucible. He was not, however, conscious of any bad effects, and, though Mr. Barlow spoke of brass founders being affected by tightness of the chest, and, he believed, with a disease of the jaw or neck, one of the brass founders, who had been working all his life in it, and seemed healthy, declared that he had never heard of such disease; he knew two or three brass founders over 80 years of age, and believed that, if the men would take care of themselves, and not drink, they would live as long as other people. At the same time, he admitted the tightness on the chest, but treated it as a little matter, which a taste of rum would always set right.

Mr. Barlow also drew my attention to the bad effect produced by the naphtha used in French polish for the woodwork of the machines. One man was said to have died in consequence of perpetually inhaling it at his work. We found, however, on further inquiry, that he was always considered "asthmatical" (*i.e.*, consumptive). Still, one of the polishers stated that it caused great dryness and smarting in the eyes and the muscles of the throat, and that he had known men blind for three days with it. A boy of 13, who had been two years among it, told me that it did not hurt him.

Messrs. Tuer & Hall, Bury.

28. *Mr. Robert Hall.*—If times were good we should have as many again; as it is, there are 207, of whom 40 are under 18, 13 being under 13; only one is under 10, and one more between 10 and 11.

We don't ask their ages; if a boy looks from his appearance up to the work the foreman lets him come on. Many will begin at about 11 years old, some before that. They "rub off" for the fettlers first of all; and those that are at all sharp get promoted to the machine-room, and become screwers, drillers, turners, and so on. They are apprentices, but there is no formal binding now.

The rubbers-off earn 2*s.* 3*d.* a week and upwards; apprentices, from 3*s.* to 10*s.*, according to age; the moulders' helpers from 4*s.* to 10*s.* All ours is day work; they are so often taken off from one job to another, that we could not pay by the piece.

I should say most of the apprentices can read; but probably there are many of the rubbers-off and moulders' boys who cannot. It is not poverty nor want of schools that keeps parents from sending their children to school here in Bury.

Our ordinary hours are from 6 A.M. to 6 P.M., but they are often prolonged, when times are good, till 8 P.M. for two months, taking the year through, and occasionally till 9 or 10 P.M. We may have to work all night, perhaps, two or three times a year, when the machinery in a mill breaks down, to get it ready to start in the morning.

29. Messrs. Walker and Hackney, Bury.

At the time of my visit 602 persons, all males, were employed at these works; 116 were between 13 and 18, and 11 under 13; none were under 11, and only 3 under 12. The foreman informed me that no boy under 14 had any business there at all; all that were below that age had been "smuggled in" by the parents or overlookers. Whatever their age and length of service, they were not recognized as having any position in the place, and were put on the footing of an apprentice till they were 15, that is, would receive only 3*s.* a week, the wages of an apprentice at 14; that payment was raised gradually up to 12*s.* The apprentices were not formally bound; their chief work to begin with was, as usual, tapping (or putting the screw into nuts), screwing, and making bolt heads.

Some, it was said, came from the factories, after having worked as half-timers there, for although a lad, as a throstle doffer for example, might earn 7*s.* a week at about 14, and only 3*s.* in the machine-room, still the adult's wage in the latter was considerably higher than a spinner or weaver, averaging 27*s.* and more.

It was thought that a limitation of the labour of the young persons under 18 to 10½ hours a day would not work well, for the men would be at a stand-still, when, as was very common, they worked on for 12 hours, if the boys did not work equally long to keep them supplied with the articles they wanted. Such a restriction would involve an increase of tools, of room, and of young persons to one-fifth beyond the present state of things, and would thereby be extremely distasteful to the adults, who by their rules limited the number to one lad for three men.

Mr. S. Walker informed me that they had been in the habit, until recently, of paying a surgeon 20*l.* a year for looking after the small accidents, such as scraped fingers, but that nothing serious had happened, and it was given up. He considered the younger ones were more bother than they were worth, and intended for the future to insist on the observance of their rule that none should be taken on under 14.

SPINDLE AND FLYER MAKERS, MANCHESTER.

30. Messrs. Francis Preston & Co., Ardwick.

From the answers to the tabular form of queries, which I sent to Mr. Preston, and from conversation with the clerk, to whom that gentleman intrusted the duty of making them, I learned that the number of persons then employed at these works was 345, all being males, of whom 7 were under 13,

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and 87 between 13 and 18 years of age; that their usual hours of labour are from 6 A.M. to 6 P.M., with an interval of half an hour for breakfast and an hour for dinner; in busy years the working hours, however, are prolonged till as late as 9 P.M. so often as 80 or 90 times, or, in other words, for three months or more in the year. The meals, which are never curtailed, are taken on the premises, generally speaking; the doing so is optional. There is no place set apart for the purpose; but, as there are necessarily fires in different parts of the works, those that wish warm their victuals at them. The witness Caldecott, at the desire of Mr. Seed, a partner in the firm, showed me through the works, and answered any questions which I put to him.

31. *James Caldecott.*—Am the foreman of the tool makers here; have been 20 years in these works; began, like any of those boys, at about 12 years old, filing and cutting; was a half-timer in a mill at about 7 years old, and had to go to school for some time, two years, I dare say, but I soon forgot all I ever learnt there, for, when I left the mill, I didn't go to school any more. What I know now, I got at night-school and mechanics' institute, when I had grown up. I don't think my previous schooling made learning afterwards come easier to me, except so far as just knowing my letters, perhaps. It isn't with us, as it is in the case you put of yourself, seeming to have forgotten all about some foreign language, which soon comes back to you, when you get abroad and try to talk it. You are always among learning from the beginning one way or another; but when we leave school early and go to work, there is nothing to keep up in us, what we learned there, and it is as completely forgotten as if it never had been; I am sure it was so with me.

I think the boys, that work here, are worse than boys were 20 years ago; they are worse mannered and more ignorant. The language they use is certainly worse than it was, when I was a boy; it is the parents' fault, all of it. So far as these works are concerned, they are a great deal larger than they used to be, so more has to be left to the foreman, than was formerly; that I think makes a difference. When we were all immediately under the master's eye, it was better in that respect.

We have boys in most of our shops here; some are filing bands for bayonets; they are the youngest, probably; others shave and cut the bayonets and rings; others polish rollers; eight or nine will be heating the metal for spindle forging; their age will be from 12 to 14; but just now the spindle and flyer part of our works is slack, because of the dulness of cotton. We have however large orders from the Government for bayonets, which keep all hands working—indeed, we are making overtime every day. We have several different manufactures here, and when one is slack another may be brisk. Taking one year with another, I should say that all will make more than a month overtime every year.

We find no difficulty in getting as many boys as we want; I cannot say how far any relay system is likely to succeed. In some of the work, heating for spindle forging, for example, some judgment and experience is required to know exactly how long it should be left in the furnace. The filing is simpler, certainly; and in the cutting machine for the bayonets, all the boy has to do is to put it in at one end, and take it out at the other.

We have not so many young lads in proportion to the adults, as they have at works, where they are continually producing the same thing over and over again. Such work requires less judgment, and when a boy has got into the way of it, a machine can be left to him, at all events with a man to look after him and several others now and then.

It would be a good thing for boys, after they are over 13, to have to work full time and no more, and be obliged to go to night-school sometimes, for a many of the boys' work, being at machines, which are more or less self-acting, is such as to give them plenty of time in the day to be thinking over what they would learn the night before; and it's the thinking that's most wanted after all. I mean, that as most of their work is mere standing and watching, with now and then putting something in, or taking something out, their heads won't be wanted for that, and will be sure to be filled with something else, which may as well be learning as not.

32. *William Henley.*—Am 14. Can read a bit. Haven't had much school; no day-school, since I was 8. I went then to work at Bank Edge wire works; used to "shore up." Here I am filing bands.

33. *Richard Rushton.*—Am 15. Can't read. Never went to any day-school; go sometimes to Sunday-school. Have been working from 6 A.M. to 9 P.M. for the last two months; those long hours are tiring; but the work itself isn't.

34. *John O'Brien.*—Am 15. Was at the dye works, before I came here. Went to day-school for some months; but can't read now.

35. *Andrew Courtnay.*—Am 12 next month. Have been here some months. Was at the Phœnix foundry before; went there at 10 years old. Was at day-school for four months before that. Don't recollect much of what I learned then; can read a bit, but not write; go to Sunday-school; went there last time two months ago. Am filing flyer presses.

Mr. Lamb, Jersey Street.

36. *The Cashier.*—I have been here 19 years, and can give you all the information you require.

We have 51 hands now in work; 3 under 13, 8 between that age and 18; all are males; the youngest of those under 13 is 10 years and 5 months old, the other two are over 12. If we were in full work, we should have one-third more.

Our usual hours are from 6 A.M. to 6 P.M., with 1½ hours for meals, which they take here or not, as they please; all our lads go home for dinner. When we are very busy, we work on till 8 P.M., but we do not do that for more than one month in the year, and that not consecutively; that is, we do not work till 8 P.M. on more than 30 nights in the year.

The boys' work is chiefly drilling holes, or roughing out wharves; some will "tap" throstle flyers, and others centre the spindle, give them a point, that is to say; some will have to grind and glaze, as part of their work, for perhaps an hour in the day, that is the only unhealthy part of the work, and for them it does not last long.

We pay them by the week, the youngest will earn 3*s.*, and from that to 8*s.* We have quite given up apprentices, they were too much trouble; we now take them under a contract with their parents to serve for three or four years, and sometimes for a shorter time, according to their age.

My opinion is that the children in our trade have improved in the last 20 years. The opportunities of education have much increased, and many parents are wise enough to avail themselves of them; most of our lads can read and write. There is a school in the very next street open two nights a week for a penny; they could all go there, some I know do.

37. *Joseph Taylor.*—Am going 13. I help a man upstairs; sometimes drill and sometimes grind. Have never been to day-school; go to Sunday-school sometimes; never learned anything; can't read or write, or do sums. Never heard of Edinburgh; don't know where London is; heard of the Exhibition; don't know anything about it; don't know it was in London. I

know about my own work, and that is about all I do know.

[With the above exception and that of one other, who could only read his letters, the boys, whom I examined at Mr. Lamb's, had received some slight elementary education. The witness Taylor, though ignorant, was not stupid nor ill-mannered.]

38. Mr. Cotton, Mill Street.

Mr. Cotton told me that the work of the boys, whom he employed, was very similar to that I had seen at Mr. Lamb's, consisting chiefly in roughing out the wharves and other parts of mules or throstles, which the men finished. He had given up all overtime for some years, as he was convinced that there was no good in it.

He still continues to apprentice his lads, as he found that in busy times those of 17 or so, whom he had taught to be useful, would leave him for another employer, who would give them 1*l.* as journey hands, whereas they were being paid only 12*s.* by him. Out of about 40 apprentices, whom he has had, only three have left before their time, or turned out ill. His indenture has no clause for the master to provide work or wages in any event. He took no steps to bring them back, but after a time they came and asked for work, still they again stayed for only a short time.

Their morals he considered very bad; he insists on inflicting fines for swearing, but that does not check them; they also gamble, when they can.

Mr. Cotton thought that all in his employ would be able to read, but upon his son's going round the shops with a slate and asking each person, it appeared that out of 88 there were 24 who could not do so; 10 of those were boys from 12 to 15 years old, and the remainder adults.

I examined two or three, who though 13 years old, and alleged attendants at Sunday-schools, did not know their letters well, and could not write or do sums at all; they appeared, however, decent in behaviour, and naturally intelligent. One lad of about 14, who could not read, was a son of the foreman of the works, whom Mr. Cotton informed me was a steady man, and a fair scholar himself; he said he could not make his son go to school, so he brought him to work to keep him out of the streets.

39. Mr. W. Ryder, Bolton.

We have 196 hands now; in busy times we should only have 30 or 40 more. Only 3 are under 13, and they are all over 12. I don't like having boys younger than that. We have labourers to polish instead of children, for it is hard work to hold the clamps on tight; it requires great pressure, and children are not strong enough; it isn't safe for such; the spindle flies sometimes out of the machine, that holds it for polishing, if they don't take care, and cuts their face, or hurts some one else.*

I have 45 between 13 and 18 years of age; more than 30 of them are bound apprentices. In my opinion the Factory Act should be made general, or some measure like it. The Bleach Works Act would suit us best, for our trade does fluctuate, and all we should want would be to be able now and then to work till 8 P.M. to finish some pressing order. We might do that, and yet not exceed the number of working hours in the month or three months, or whatever the period might be. As it is, we work till 8 P.M. perhaps for a month in each year at different times, taking an average of seven years. Our usual hours are from 6 A.M. to 6 P.M., or 58½ in the week. We don't work half-a-dozen times after 8 P.M. in the whole year.

Of course we should not have any under 13, if an Act were passed to govern us like the mills; we have too few at any time to make it worth our while. But I should like to see some amount of education made the condition of any lads, even over 13, being employed; such as that they should be able to read and write; I believe that would work well.

40. Messrs. Mitchell, Bury.

The foreman informed me that in good times the work for all is continued until 8 P.M. for five nights a week, month after month. He also stated that the boys, who polish spindles, sometimes have their fingers caught and badly hurt; one at their works had his arm drawn in by the strap through using some cotton waste to wipe the spindle, which he was polishing, while it was in motion.

Messrs. Wilson & Plant's, Stockport.

40*a*. *An Apprentice.*—Am going on 17. We never work overtime here; haven't since I have been here. The only thing in spindle-making bad for health is turning the wharves, where you have no fan, for the dust gets up your nose and irritates it. I never got any harm at brass turning, but then I have never been at it for more than two or three hours at a time.

Messrs. Dobson & Barlow, Bolton.

41. *Mr. Barlow.*—The men who "stretch,"—that is, straighten,—the mule spindles find their eye-sight suffer from the flash of light along the spindle; each sits facing a window with a dark cloth behind him. It is very delicate work; no young person under 18 is trusted to do that.

I also visited the works of Mr. Glasgow, Trafford Street, Manchester, Mr. Collier, Salford, Messrs. Bodden and Mercer, and Messrs. A. Lees, Oldham, and Messrs. Berrisford, Stockport, and there received information generally corroborative of the foregoing statements.

ENGINEERS, IRONFOUNDERS, &c., MANCHESTER.

42. Messrs. Sharp, Stewart, & Co.'s, Atlas Works.

The total number of hands employed at the time of my visit exceeded 1,240; all were male; and 150 youths under 18; of these 8 were under 13, the two youngest being 10 years and 10 months, and

* A case was mentioned to me, where a boy had his lip and nostril slit open nearly up to his eye by the spindle flying in this way.—H.W.L.

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11 years and one month respectively; these had been brought by their fathers who worked on the premises, and were at once admitted to be too young; Mr. Robinson told me that none under 13 were wanted.

The nature of the work produced being that of a very heavy kind, such as boilers and locomotives, the only work for the youngest is carrying rivets for the boiler makers, or doing errands for the foremen; those rather older may be turning, or minding a machine. Some of about 15 were driving a light steam hammer; these were generally pale and thin; the work, however, seemed not heavy; as they grow older, they are put to "striking" in the smithy.

The work is begun on Monday at 8.45 A.M., and on other days at 6 A.M., and is continued, with intervals of an hour and three-quarters for meals, till 6½ P.M. On Saturday they leave at 1 P.M. Boys are kept for two hours overtime occasionally; one told me that he had stayed as late as 8½ P.M. for three weeks together; this, however, was an exception; in the whole year they would probably not stay till 8½ P.M. for six weeks, and that at different times.

Both men and lads are of a superior class to those ordinarily employed in foundries, or even by machinists. The work requires greater skill and is more highly paid. I found, however, two among those to whom I spoke, one aged 14 and another 17, who could not read.

It was stated to me that I might properly regard the Atlas Works as a fair specimen of the heavier engineering works, both in respect of the proportion of hands under and over 18, and of the nature of work and extent of overtime, as also of the character and education of the hands.

43. Messrs. Beyer, Peacock, & Co.'s, Locomotive Engine Builders, Gorton.

Out of 1,040 persons employed on these works, only 5 were under 13. There were, however 120 between 13 and 18. The usual hours, 6 A.M. to 6 P.M., were exceeded to the extent of 2¼ hours for three months in the year, but not consecutively, and occasionally, but very rarely for those under 18, prolonged till 10.15 P.M.

Mr. Beyer informed me that he encouraged the younger ones to go to night-schools, and so far as he was able, insisted on it. He did not wish any to be employed on the works under 14; and in several cases, when parents had brought their children too young, had himself paid the school fees, until they were old enough, in his opinion, for the work they were expected to do. Notwithstanding this, I found several who had begun as early as 11 years old. Some of the younger ones had, for some months before Whit week, worked till 8¼ P.M. from 6 A.M.; these were carrying rivets for the boiler makers, or helping in the smithy. The youngest in the moulding shop was "going on" 15, and had been there for two years. He had, he told me, began work at a neighbouring foundry at 11, and several there then were no older, and some younger than he was.

Very few, whom I asked, had been at all regular in attendance at night-school; but in no case was fatigue from the day's work admitted or pretended by any of them as an excuse. One told me there was no night-school near his home, and was greatly amused at my getting out of him, by degrees, that it would take him five minutes to walk there from his father's door.

Several of 14 and 13 years old could only spell out their words syllable by syllable, and one of 16 in the erecting shop could do no better; others, however, read decently. All attended Sunday-school.

Everything appeared to be done by Mr. Beyer to provide for the health and comfort of his work-people. The works, which were ranged in two parallel lines, and extended over eight acres of ground, were all on the ground floor, very lofty and well ventilated. Once a year all the shops were white-washed. At the upper end of the open space between the two lines of shops, and in front of the designing-room and other offices, a plot of ground was laid out as a flower garden, the vegetation in which, judging from the appearance of the rhododendrons, in full bloom, and of other shrubs and grass, did not suffer from their neighbourhood of smoke and coal or iron dust.

44. Messrs. R. Walker & Brothers' Works, Rochdale Road, Bury.

No boys were employed here under 11 years of age; 10 were under 13; all of these were employed by men, to whom the work was let by weight, to rub the sand off the castings; they earned 3*s.* a week and upwards. These were chiefly children of labourers about the place. There were 40 between 13 and 18, and 228 adults. The cashier, to whom I was referred as being fully able to furnish all necessary information, told me that these were less than half their usual number. None of the lads were formally bound apprentices, though they were generally called so, and in the 18 years, during which he had been connected with these works, not more than three or four had left before the regular time of apprenticeship had expired. Their wage to begin with was 4*s.* a week in the foundry.

I was informed that the usual plan with their apprentices was for them to go for the first six months into the brass-foundry, and then be drafted into the iron-foundry. The fumes of the brass were said to be highly prejudical to those, who worked long in brass-founding. Evans the engineer stated that it was well known that brass-founders, did not, as a rule, reach 50 years of age, iron-founders, on the other hand, being rather long-lived. After the crucible, in which the copper, lead, and spelter (zinc), of which the brass consists, were fused, was lifted from the furnace, there remained, in the words of my informant, "a poisonous film floating about in the air." There did not seem to be any results immediately perceptible from the brass-founding, and three lads examined by me who were in various stages of their six months' course, assured me that they felt nothing from it.

The foundry apprentices, whom I examined, had all been to school, and wrote their names for me very well. I also examined five of the rubbing-off boys; they had all begun that work at about 9 years old, and one was just turned 8, when he did so; these, too, who were all 11 or 12, could read a little, and wrote me their names tolerably. A system prevailed here of making all persons, of whatever age, keep daily accounts of their work, and render them to the cashier, so that the writing, which they had been taught at school, where all had been, was to some extent kept up.

In busy times all would work till 8 P.M., another ½ hour being then allowed for tea. Messrs. Walker stated that they found in practice that many of the men, who work beyond the regular hours, are irregular in their attendance in consequence. They therefore resort to work after 8 P.M. only in the case of urgent repairs being required to be done in the night, in order to enable a cotton mill to go on as soon as possible. In such work young persons are employed, but not children.

The work being in execution of orders, and not in making articles for stock, was said to be necessarily irregular and uncertain; and any limitation of the working hours of young persons would be very inconvenient, inasmuch as the apprentices are engaged chiefly in assisting skilled workmen in operations, which the latter would not condescend to attend to.

44a. Messrs. W. and J. Marsden, Brass Founders, Bolton.

None of the lads employed here were under 13 years of age, 5 were under 18. The ordinary hours, 10½ a day, were occasionally exceeded to the extent of half an hour or an hour. Both the members of this firm considered brass-founding an unhealthy occupation, but were convinced that by attention to ventilation such as was given at their works, the harm might be materially lessened. They stated that this work was often carried on in cellars or garrets very low-pitched and wholly unsuited to such an occupation, where two or three men and one or two boys would be working together. One cellar was mentioned where, to their knowledge, five persons had been so employed at once. The arsenic used as a flux, and the sulphur, of which the yellow brass contains a large proportion, were looked upon as the causes of injury. Mr. Marsden described the effect upon himself of being in the foundry to watch, or assist occasionally, when the metal was being poured, as causing sickness and stupefaction, and making him "double down," and become quite salivated with the sulphur. At the same time a great deal depended on constitution; persons who were asthmatical always suffering more than others. One of their men, who, though not arrived at middle age, was very pale and sickly looking, told me that such was the case with himself, and mentioned symptoms similar to those described above. A boy of 15 who was in the same shop had felt a "little sick," but had never been away from work, from ill health, in the period, about 18 months, during which he had been employed there.

Mr. Marsden's gardener told me that all the leaves in his greenhouse, which was about 20 yards from the foundry, would curl up and shrivel whenever the wind happened to blow in that direction while they were casting.

45. Mr. S. Horton, Chandos Foundry, Warrington.

There were six boys under 13 here, six between 13 and 18, and 45 adults. One boy was only 10, and two others 11. The chief production here was of railway chairs, the boys as usual "rubbing off." They earned 3*s.* 6*d.* and 4*s.*, the older ones 7*s.* The 10½ hours a day was not now* ever exceeded. One of the boys aged 12, who had been for about 18 months at work, had attended day school, he told me, for some time before, but could not read. The rest of those whom I examined here could read easy words.

46. — *Barton.*—Am 14. Worked at Chandos' at 11. Often went on from 6 A.M. to 8 P.M.; once or twice from 5 A.M. to 11½ P.M.

47. Messrs. B. Hick & Son's, Bolton.

I was informed here that the business of the firm was confined to the manufacture of stationary engines, in which adult labour was almost exclusively used; there were, however, 50 or 60 apprentices, not one-tenth of the adults in number, all over 14, and a few, not half-a-dozen, boys under 14 dressing castings or carrying rivets for the boiler makers, the number under 13 being 68 out of a total of 622. The apprentices under 18 were only learning the early branches of the trade, and scarcely ever stayed, and never needed to stay, after 6 P.M. The fitters and others, who had to stay till 8 P.M. at times, were skilled workmen and adults; those who stayed later than that were invariably adults, generally employed in watching some self-acting machine, and not working with hammer or chisel.

48. Messrs. Forresters' (Vauxhall Foundry), Liverpool.

I was informed that their chief production was marine engines, though they also made other heavy machinery of some kinds. None under 13 were employed, and, out of about 700 hands, 100 would be apprentices from 14 upwards. They might work until 8 P.M. for a month, on an average, in the year. The men had to work all night at times, but the apprentices never.

The Ashbury Railway Carriage and Iron Company (Limited), Openshaw.

49. *Mr. Johnson.*—The secretary, Mr. Whittaker, has instructed me to fill up the forms you have sent, and to take you round the works and give you every information in my power. I think I can tell you everything you want to know.

We are the largest concern in this line of any in the kingdom; we make everything in railway carriages, but locomotives, and work up all our materials from the simple state of mere wood and iron, including trimmings, into the complete carriage or waggon. There are 1,367 persons at work on the premises; all male but 7; 23 are under 13, and 149 between 13 and 18 years of age.

We have none here under 11 years of age; the youngest of those will be errand boys, and as they grow up, we draft them into the drilling machines, where they can earn more. It is necessary for our purpose that the errand boys should read and write, and so it is that you find the boys at drilling better educated than some others in the smithy; drillers of

* *i.e.* in the hands of the present proprietor.—H.W.L.

Metal Manufactures of Lancashire.

Mr. H. W. Lord.

c.

13 years of age or so will earn about 6*s.* a week; they are paid, as nearly all our hands are, by the piece.

We employ some lads of 12 years of age in the foundry, and in the forge; in the former place they rub the sand off the castings and help the moulders; in the forge also they will be assisting at the fires; there they will earn 4*s.* 6*d.* a week; in the foundry, 6*s.* Some also are in the carriage trimming department; there they earn 4*s.* a week; it is in that branch of our works that the only females we employ are occupied; they sew for the trimmers.

Three or four boys of about 14 years old are pulling hair for the stuffing of carriages; the hair comes in the form of a kind of knotted rope, as you see, from the seller, and they have to loosen it and untwist it. Those two men afterwards card it with hand cards. The dust is certainly bad just now; the room is low, being on the basement, and they say they can't have the window open, for the draft comes right upon them, and the fire smokes, if they light it; but we have nowhere else to put them.

Of those between 13 and 18 there are 27 in the smithy, 34 in the forge, and 21 in the foundry; about 45 are turning, screw-bolt making, or in the wheel and axle making department. Some more are at the saw mills or on the woodwork part of the coach-making; those last have no machinery to look after.

Lad's work in all forges, foundries, and smithies is much the same everywhere. The only difference between one place and another is that of the age, at which they begin, and the hours for which they work. As to overtime with us:—It happens that we are celebrated for wheels and axles. Oftentimes we have the order for them only, for railway companies, that generally get their rolling stock made elsewhere, or make it, as is frequently the case, themselves; the consequence is, that we have to work in that department in day and night turns of 12 hours very frequently; we have done so for 10 months out of the last 12. That working by night-sets is of course always done in the forge; but whenever other departments are so pressed, as to have to exceed the ordinary overtime of two hours or so past 6 P.M., the night-and-day work is adopted; that, however, is by no means of frequent occurrence. Generally speaking, we exceed our usual hours of 6 A.M. to 6 P.M. by two hours for three or four months in the year, not consecutively, but at different times, so as to make up that average. In the foundry the overtime is not more than one hour in the day, I should say.

We have a large dining-room, with a hot stove and every convenience, for the workmen; it was built and fitted up by Mr. Ashbury, and is supported by the hands themselves, and managed, as is also a library and a benefit society in connexion with it, by a committee of the men themselves; each man pays 2*d.* a week, and each boy 1*d.*, and that subscription maintains the whole thing. There are over 1,100 volumes in the library, and they take in 200 daily and weekly papers in the course of the week. A man and his wife are there to look after the place and the cooking. The apparatus is sufficient for 500 dinners; we seated 800 to tea there at the opening. They bring their food in cans or other things, and leave them there before they go to work in the morning. Until this was so, they used to have to go to a neighbour's or to a beershop, for many live a long way off, and would have to pay ½*d.* each morning for hot water only (for we are obliged to shut them out of the shops, while meals are going on); and now they have all I have told you for 2*d.* a week. The room is open from 6 A.M. to 10 P.M.

In spite of all this, many of them, men and boys, are very backward to use all the advantages in their reach, and some are almost brutish still; I should say that out of the 300 hands in the forge, for instance, not 20 use the room ever for reading.

Many men, who earn large wages, bring or send their children to work much too early, and don't see that they go to school before that. There are, no doubt, many instances in which, from sickness or death, a family is left destitute, and the young ones have therefore to begin to earn something as soon as they can; but I am quite sure that it is, in the great majority of cases, attributable to the avarice, or the dissolute habits of parents, that children are set to work at a very early age. I can instance a case, which I found here a short time since, of a child a little over 10, whom his father had brought to work, though he was earning 28*s.* a week himself; and two other sons living at home were earning 6*s.* and 12*s.*, and he had only two other children. I sent that child off at once; he had only been three or four days on. Another there is, of a boy of 11, whose father earns 45*s.* a week, and has only three children. Openshaw has under 7,000 inhabitants, I believe, and there are from 40 to 50 beerhouses and three pawnbrokers' shops. Those numbers explain it.

We should be glad to have none under 13, and, certainly, if any Act were passed, should send off all we had under that age, and take no more on; as it is, their fathers bring them, and unless they are manifestly too young and weak, they stay.

[50. The stocktaker and foreman of the forge informed me that he had great difficulty in getting the ages of the younger lads in his department for the purpose of my inquiry; some, in his opinion, intentionally concealing their real age, others having been intentionally kept in ignorance by their parents.]

51. *Allan Whitehead.*—Am 14. My work is pulling hair for stuffing for seats; it is very dusty, and hurts my throat very much. I go to Sunday-school. Used to go to day-school two years ago, but wasn't there long; can read a bit; could do addition once. Don't know what an island is, nor where Scotland is. (Reads a little.)

52. *John Mac Ewen.*—Am 12. What I am at is "tapping" (putting the screw in an iron nut) with this machine. Have been here three years; was "pulling out" for one year at a furnace on the other side there. Went to day-school for a year, before I came to work here. Go to Sunday-school now. Can't read. Don't know who the Apostles were, nor what "disciples" means, nor who they were. Never heard of St. John. Don't know where Scotland is, nor what it is. Don't know what county Manchester is in. (This was a particularly well-behaved, and naturally intelligent boy, in spite of his ignorance. H. W. L.)

53. *James Alcock.*—Am 13. Have been here two years in the smithy; before that was working at rope walk. Went to that at 10 years old; used to work there from 6 A.M. till dark, that was till 8 and nearly 9 sometimes in summer. Have never been to day-school. Go to Sunday-school, but don't read; they read to us there; I don't know what it's about. Never heard of St. Paul.

54. *John Shirwell.*—I am 14. Work in foundry. Can't read, could 18 months ago a bit; used to go to day-school. Go to Sunday-school now. Don't know who St. Paul was. Don't remember ever hearing of him, or of the Apostles. Don't know where Lancashire is, nor what it is.

55. Mr. Benjamin Wallis, Master of the National Schools, Shaw, near Oldham.

I have resided here for nine years, and have always taken great interest in the condition of the children in the district. Their only employment here besides that in the cotton mills and fustian cutting, which you have already investigated, is in three or four small machinists' shops. There are 20 or 30 hands in each of them, when times are good, and a larger proportion of those are children than is usual in places of greater importance. The employers are rather fitters up for the neighbouring mills than machinists. I know of children as young as eight, and even seven, being employed there. I do not think they work there longer than the full

time of the factories. You will not find any there now, for they have nothing to do. A man who works in a machinist's place in Oldham itself, one where one or two hundred hands are employed, told me only a day or two ago that they have had children even there as young as that.

The state of education for all but half-timers is very low here. Parents do not send their children to school before they are eight years old, because they look upon it as something, which will be forced on them, as a matter of course, when they go to the mill, and that then the employers will pay. Consequently, the schoolmaster has frequently to teach a child of eight his letters; and if they get to fustian cutting, or these other places, till they are old enough to be full-timers, as they often do, they never learn at all. Scores of those, who pass through the surgeon's hands, and are certified as full-timers, don't know their alphabet, and very few care to come to night-school.

The millowners complain very much, and justly, of these unregulated trades carrying off those, that would be half-timers. I know several who do so, for I have nearly 300 half-timers in my schools, and am thereby, and also from personal acquaintance, brought into contact with their employers. There are about 800 half-timers in Shaw and Crompton. Their wage is 2*s.* 3*d.* or 2*s.* 6*d.* a week; but they may earn more than 1*s.* a day at other work.

I am sure that the millowners here are generally in favour of the half-time system. It was, of course, inconvenient at first, but now they have got into it, and I believe would not change back again if they had the power.

56. *R. C. Brown*, Esq., M.D., (Preston), after a personal interview, wrote to me a letter, from which the following extract is taken:—

"There has been only one fatal accident at Atherton's* during the last 20 years, and this arose from the sudden breaking into splinters of a grindstone. At Clayton's* a man was killed about five years ago by the fall of a heavy casting on his neck. As far as I can learn, nearly all the accidents, which occur at the workshops I have visited, belong to one of three classes:—

"1. Scalds and burns from melted metal or heated iron.

"2. Fractures arising from carelessness in passing straps on to wheels.

"3. Lacerated wounds and compound fractures of the fingers, owing to the sudden breakage of the chisel, whilst the workman is guiding its cutting operations with both his hands, and pressing against the tool with the whole weight of his body.

"It ought to be mentioned, however, that accidents of the third class seldom, if ever, occur amongst men under 18 years of age, because the management of a lathe is only intrusted to the more experienced workmen. The accuracy of the information I have obtained at the machine shops is confirmed by the reference I have made to the record of accidents kept at the dispensary. Considering the number of hands employed, and the dangers to which they are exposed, it is really wonderful that so few casualties occur."

57. Extract from a Letter from A. Thom. Thompson, Esq., M.D.

Oldham, August 4, 1863.

I find on reference to my books that the accidents treated by me† during the year 1859 from the works of Messrs. Platt Bros. and Co. numbered about 163; upwards of 70 of them were accidents to the fingers of the most trifling character, accidents which might have been treated on the spot without skilled assistance. The great majority of the remainder were crushed toes from falling weights, or slight burns of the foot from molten metal.

The most serious cases during the year were 11 in number, in all of which amputation of part of a finger was necessary. There was not a single case requiring a major operation, and only one fatal. Of the nature of the latter I have no note, as the man was dead before I saw him. My impression is that death was caused by falling through an open trap door or hoist.

I cannot give you any accurate information respecting the ages of those, who were injured; very few of them were boys or young persons.

IRON SHIP BUILDERS, &c. LIVERPOOL.

Messrs. T. Vernon & Son.

58. *Mr. Vernon.*—We have very few under 13 in comparison with the total number in our employ, for to 758 adults there are 20 under 13. Between 13 and 18 we have 193; many of the younger ones in that division do similar work to that of those under 13, that is, carry rivets. Ours is a fair specimen of all the iron ship-building yards in Liverpool, both as to the relative numbers and ages, and also the hours of work; they generally work from 6 A.M. to 5½ P.M., having half an hour for breakfast and an hour for dinner. They have not unfrequently to work till 7.30, but all on the works will not be necessarily working till that time, and that is only for the four middle days of the week; the Saturday half day is universal. I should say they don't average more than a week once or twice a year working till 9.30 P.M. There is no one period of the year more than another, during which we are liable to overtime; whenever a ship is nearly ready for launching, there is a push for a few nights; some of the men may then work all night, but very few of the lads after 9.30.

Iron has quite supplanted wood for building ships in Liverpool. The wooden ships we could build are too expensive; all the wooden ones now, which are used for commercial purposes, are American. When a ship is intended to stay away from port, cruising at sea for a long time, the case is different, but for an out and return voyage from port to port, iron answers best on the whole.

59. Extract from a Letter from Mr. Vernon, September 29, 1863.

"1st. The holidays observed at these works are Good Friday and Christmas Day, when our works are of course closed. Our works are also closed for either the whole or part of the days, on which we have launches, and of these launch days we have about 10 in the year.

"The men also observe Easter Monday and Tuesday, and Whitsun Monday and Tuesday, though our works are not closed on these days.

"2nd. Accidents do sometimes occur to the lads; they are nearly all by their falling off the stages, but we find that they are invariably the result of the lads' own carelessness.

"3rd. It is very seldom, indeed, that the riveters

* The two firms employing the largest number of hands in Preston, about 500 altogether.

† Mr. Thompson attends about one half and Mr. Morley the other half: the latter gentleman informed me that the numbers attended by him in 1859 was 177; that was above the average; they consisted of burns (in the forge chiefly), bruises, and crushed fingers, a broken arm or leg being very rare.

Metal Manufactures of Lancashire.

Mr. H. W. Lord.

C.

work all night, but when they do, the same lads who have been working with them in the daytime also work with them at night; but this working for 24 hours without going home to bed does not occur above three or four times in the whole 12 months, and upon each occasion there are not more than three or four sets at work.

"4th. The rivetters as a body leave off at half-past five in the evening, or earlier, but two or three sets work until 7.30 or perhaps 9.30 on certain occasions just to get finished off with difficult parts. Rivetters at piecework,—and most of ours are employed in this way,—leave off at about half-past 3 to 4 o'clock, having earned a day and a half's work from 6 in the morning to that time."

60. *Mr. Yates and Mr.* —— (timekeepers).—All is piecework; they work in sets, and each gets pay proportioned to his place in the set, and the amount the set gets through. Rivetters average 28*s.* a week; many platers get 35*s.*; holders up, who are also men, 22*s.*; and the boys, who "hot" the rivets, 4*s.* 6*d.* and more. Besides them there are 50 or 60 apprentices, who are regularly bound, but only for three or four years; they get 8*s.* at starting, and about 14*s.*, when they are 18 years old.

This is the best average we can give of the overtime:—Take 60 sets as the number we have, there will always be five or six sets working till 7.30 P.M., and one or another set till 9.30 P.M. all the year round; but it's all open air up to 9.30. The younger ones go on just like the rest, but they don't so often do the night work. We hadn't had any night work for five weeks till last night. They always take about four hours of it for rest and meals.

As for education, they all are poorly off. Some can't even reckon their money at the week's end. Scarce one in 50 can read decently. It is just the neglect of the parents. They could in most cases afford to give them schooling, if they chose.

61. *Edward Leonard.*—Am 16 years old. Carry rivets for rivetters; that's what most boys do here. Can't read or write. Don't go to Sunday-school. Was in a glass warehouse at St. Helen's at 11; that was the first work I did. Was for some years at day-school before; could read a bit when I left that.

62. *John Barclay.*—Am going in 12. Began work in a rope walk at 10; in Liverpool it was; used to work from 5½ or 6 A.M. to 6 P.M.; never was later than 6 P.M. Have only been here a few weeks. Like this best.

63. *John Cooke.*—Am going in 11. Began work at a tank maker's; was going in 10 then. Had the same work there as now, carrying rivets. A many boys were there like me.

64. *William Bilbury.*—Am 14. Was in factory at Manchester, both as full and half timer; was full-timer for a year, and was at factory school for more than a year. Like rivet carrying better than throstle doffing; don't earn so much yet, for used to get 7*s.* 6*d.* as full-timer, and have only been here a few months; but they would stop you off so much for one thing or another. Can't read S-u-n-d-a-y.

[I also visited the shipbuilding yards of Messrs. Cato, Miller, and Co., and Mr. H. C. Miller, where I obtained information generally corroborative of the above evidence.—H.W.L.]

65. Messrs. Wainwright, Iron Mast and Tank Makers.

We have about 40 lads under 18, 10 of whom will be under 14; those are helpers to the rivetters. We very seldom work as late as 8 P.M. It need never be done in our business, nor in ship-building either. There is quite time enough from 6 A.M. to 6 P.M. for a man to do all he can do satisfactorily. When they work on till 8 P.M., they get wearied, men and boys. Bad management and carelessness is the source of all overtime in my opinion. Employers don't like it; but they have the remedy in their own hands. All that is necessary, when you are pressed for time, is to get a few more hands, and not to neglect the work at the beginning, and put it off, till you really have not time to finish without overtime.

66. Clerk at Messrs. Clover & Co.'s, Ship Builders, Shipsmiths, &c.

Shipsmiths will probably work from 6 A.M. to 9 P.M. for one month out of the six, taking one year with another, not all at once, but for several days, and even a week or more now and then.

No lads under apprentices age, 14 that is, work for them. They will mostly work as long as the men, even when they work the night through. That doesn't happen more than half a dozen times in the course of the year, and after it they are fit for nothing next day. There certainly is always a terrible bustle about getting a ship ready.

SCREW AND BOLT MANUFACTURERS, CHOWBENT.

Messrs. Carr and Nichols.

67. *Mr. Carr.*—We have 17 boys under 13, and 18 more under 18; one of them is not 9, several not 10 years old. Our hours are from 6 A.M. to 6 P.M., beginning, however, at 7 A.M. on Monday, and leaving off at 1 P.M. on Saturday. They occasionally stay till 8½ P.M.; when they do, they have half an hour for tea besides the usual hour and a half for breakfast and dinner.

This year we have been rather short of screwing machines, and have consequently made more overtime than usual. But at any time, if we had a press of work, we should work for a month or two in the year till 8½ P.M. My own feeling is that 58½ hours a week is quite enough; ours is harder work than the cotton factory. We have not, however, an artificially heated atmosphere, nor is there any dust, as in a mill.

The boys chiefly put the worm in the nut, or the thread on the bolts, or "screw" as they call it. They won't stop at that work much after 15 or 16, for they think it beneath them then. I think that our trade would admit of the half-time system, and I should be very glad to see it applied to us. Children who come young to work do generally make the best workmen, but they they grow up shockingly illiterate, and the ordinary hours of work are for some of them probably too long. It would be a very good thing if regulations similar to the Factory Acts were brought to bear on the trade generally. We might have then to get girls and women, if we had not enough without them. In South Staffordshire they employ females in this work, and in Birmingham too for making joiners' screws. I don't like these little dots working here, but the coal pits attract the older ones away. These earn about 3*s.* a week. What I want, is to have work and school combined; they would grow up more reasonable men, and better to deal with, if they were educated young, and yet might be expert at the work they were put to.

We apprentice some in the forge, but not to screwing. Accidents are much fewer than you might expect; they never amount to more than a wrist sprained, or a finger caught and torn. The worst in all the district, within my memory, is a case of a broken wrist; that was through great carelessness; a boy leaned with his arm across the cog wheels to talk to another boy beyond his machine. Still the possibility of such things occurring is a good reason for preventing

children being employed very young, or too many hours, for of course the younger they are the more careless they are, and also the more liable to get over-tired. We always stop to clean at 12 on Saturday; each cleans his own machine.

In all probability the smaller shops will work longer hours at times than we, for we can afford to work to stock; they will only work to order, and so have alternately pushes and slack times. We do not force any of ours to work overtime. At the same time I must say, that if we wanted work in overtime, and some refused to do so, while others were ready to take their place, they would most likely have to go.

The great want, however, is education. They have scarcely any been to day-school, and cannot even read.

The wrought-nail trade is dying out here; boys begin that in their fathers' smithies at 7. They used to be very ignorant and rough.

68. *W. Smith.*—I work for Mr. Davies; he makes screw bolts. Am 10 years old; began at 8; work at fitting now, that is hand work; hope to get to screwing in a fortnight, when we are in the new shop; that will be machine work. Our hours are from 6 A.M. to 6 P.M., sometimes till 8 P.M. I get tired by that time. Can read a bit.

[69. In the absence of Mr. Davies I spoke to his foreman and his book-keeper. They gave me information as to the hours of labour, the age, and the ignorance of the children similar to that given by Mr. Carr. The younger boys earned 2*s.* or 3*s.* a week. They considered the work to be healthy, and accidents rare and not very serious. A broken wrist was the worst they could recollect. They stated that in smaller places, where only a few hands were employed, and the work was less regular, the hours were at times longer than their own.]

70. *The Rev. J. Finlay.*—I have been in Chowbent for many years as curate, and have regretted the low state of education among the children employed at bolt and screw making. There are probably from 150 to 180 lads so employed in this district at shops of various sizes. Their age is from 8 to 15 or 16. Our schools suffer, not so much from their being taken away early, as from their not coming at all. Our population is in round numbers 4,000, and the attendance at day-schools but little over 200, instead of 600 or more, as it should be. There is no other day-school than the Church schools in the place. They begin work at the screw and bolt shops between 6 and 7 A.M., and I often see some coming back as late as 8 P.M. I do not think there is any positive ill treatment, but they use the young ones rather roughly; it is as often as not, a word and a blow with them. Nine or 10 years ago all the screw and bolt work was by hand; now, I dare say, a dozen have steam power.

The wrought-nail trade is in a very languishing state, and very few are now employed at it; they frequently work in cellars, a man and a boy or two; they are even in a worse condition than the bolt and screw-making boys as to education and the conditions of labour, for the employers are all in a small way of business, and the workshops are small and unhealthy. In the nailers' smithies all is still hand work; they often have a little boy of 7 or 8 to blow the bellows; they do not work at the anvil till 13 or 14 generally. I have not, however, noticed any ill effect on the physical condition of the people, young or old; indeed it has much improved in the last 12 years; perhaps people are more alive to the advantages of good sanitary arrangements in their own homes, but undoubtedly this is in some degree the effect of the Factory Acts, not only on the factory operative, but by the indirect force of example influencing other trades in the same district.

FORGES.

Messrs. Platt Brothers, Oldham.

71. *Mr. Lambert* (manager of the forge).—None but a strong lad would be of much use at a forge, and you may be sure we don't have boys who are of no use to us. There are 112 adults; 26 between 13 and 18, and 12 under 13 here. The youngest are over 10. There are four between 10 and 11. Work here is forging and rolling iron and steel.

The youngest are only sweeping, or turning over the rods, as they lie there, after they have been rolled; that is not heavy work; but before long they will have to pull the carts about, wheeling the red hot mass of iron to or from the hammer or furnace, and so on, or lifting the doors, and all that requires strength. For lads that do not come to it too young, and are not of weakly constitution, it is a very healthy occupation. I have worked myself at it, and intend my three boys to get their hands in. My father, who is 68, is at the hammer still, and my grandfather was at 78.

They work in night and day shifts week and week about. There are only five shifts a week, for there is no start till the Monday-night shift comes on, and they leave off early on the Saturday. If there were anything very pressing we might have another shift, but it very seldom occurs. The boys in the night shift often get to bed soon after 5 A.M., then they have four or five hours sleep, get some breakfast, and go to school for a couple of hours; then have their dinner, and sleep again before they come on to work. You wouldn't think they got very tired, if you were to see them, as they often do, on a bright summer morning, go off for a walk in the fields, before they go home to bed.

They have no set meal-times, but they have rests of 20 minutes or more, as often as eight times in the 12 hours, that is, at the "openings" for fresh charges, after they have worked the charges out, and while the cold charge is heating in the furnace. In those intervals they take their meals, or play leap-frog, or anything else.

I think the men in our forge have improved of late years; that may account for what you say about the boys here being better than forge lads generally are. It makes a great difference to the boys, if they are with a better class of men. Many of these are the sons of men, who are working here and look after them.

We could never work the half-time plan in a forge. There could not be one fixed time for all to leave off. Each man has four or five others, on whom he depends to help him, and these sets will be in different states of progress at one time. They don't all leave at the same moment as it is, but vary within half an hour. The men pay the boys in most cases. They will get about 1*s.* a day.

Messrs. J. & J. Vicars, Pinmill Brow, Ardwick.

72. *Mr. J. Vicars.*—We start at 7 A.M. on Monday, and work on in sets or turns of 10 hours day and night, allowing about two hours out of each 12 for meals, till 4 P.M. on Saturday, making 57½ hours in the week with each set. They take their meals at their work. At all forges that I know of, they work in sets as we do. The boys are not always at work all the time. While the furnaces are heating, for instance, they are doing nothing.

Many of the younger boys don't work for us at all; are not engaged or paid by us; that is, they are brought by the men to help them, and then after a time we find them regularly established in the works, and so take them on ourselves, as we want them.

Metal Manufactures of Lancashire.

Mr. H. W. Lord.

c.

There are often some hanging about, like that little boy you spoke to, and they get into the work by helping the men. The men are paid by the piece. When we pay the boys, we generally pay by the week; from 4*s.* to 8*s.* their earnings will be.

73. *James Fly.*—Don't know how to spell my name, nor how old I am. Have never been to school at all. There are seven of us at home; I am the third. Father works at Crabtree's dye works. Am helping to put coals in the furnace. Don't work here or anywhere. Can't read or write.

[This boy appeared to be between 10 and 11 years old. He was an intelligent looking and nice mannered child.]

74. *Joseph Ellesby.*—Am 17. Can't read or write. Have been six years here. When I first came I used to carry the bands out for bundling iron.

75. *George Williams.*—Am going 12. Have been 12 months here. Am cutting scraps with shears. Can write a little and read a little too.

76. *George Sidebottom.*—Am 16. Have been working at Mr. Vicars' forge four years. Was for two years before that with a basket maker. Have never been to day-school, and don't go to Sunday-school now. Can't write. Know my letters. Can read a very little.

77. *Henry Brown.*—Am 17. Have been seven years here. Am "pulling up." I sit and pull this chain, which lifts the door of the furnace. Can't read or write.

78. Messrs. Joseph Webb & Co., Elton, Bury.

At the date of my visit to these works 31 male persons were employed there. The only one under 13 was 11 years and 4 months old; and 8 were between 13 and 18. Their usual business was of two kinds, "hammerwork for shafting, and the like, and rollwork for bars." The three youngest were "cutting scraps" of old iron for re-melting, their weekly wage being 5*s.*; they could all read. The work used at one time to be done by relays night and day. Two more hammers had however since that time been obtained, and for the last six years there had been no work after 6 P.M. to any extent. The youngest boy, Joseph Cartwright, told me that he had only worked two or three times after 6 P.M. during the two years, for which he had worked there.

Extract of Letter from Messrs. Webb.

September 16, 1863.

We discontinued nightwork, because having made considerable additions to our machinery it was not required, and again, because the work was not as well done, as when under our own personal inspection, the men in the night were apt to slight and neglect work; and again, we can get better men to stop with us; they prefer working six days every week to six days one week and five nights the other. The health of the men and boys, we think, is certainly better; but as regards morals we cannot speak well of them; we find it a most difficult thing to get the men to think their boys should have any education at all; we attribute this in some measure (of course there are other causes) to the work being hot, the men as a rule drink heavily, and this in its train brings wretchedness and misery.

Messrs. Nield & Co., Dallam Forge, Warrington.

80. *Mr. Nield* informed me that fewer boys were employed in sheet-rolling than in rolling the bars of rod iron. Their chief work is to lift the bars with plyers, and straighten them, and lay them to cool. They get their meals during the rests after one "heat" (the iron in one furnace) is finished up, and while the next heat is not ready for use. Often 10 minutes in half an hour is so occupied. The heat is greater, where bars are rolled, than where sheets are, because there are more furnaces together in the former case. In his opinion, there is quite as much drunkenness among the men, who are not exposed to the heat, as amongst those, who are in the midst of it. Accidents are very rare. He mentioned one, by way of illustration, in which a boy eager to see over the fence, had jumped on a piece of hot iron bar, and was severely burnt. Such are more common than any arising from the use of machinery. The man who "takes the mill" is paid by the ton by his employer, and he hires and pays his helpers, both boys and men.

Messrs. R. & W. Johnson & Co., Wire Rolling Mills, Bradford, Manchester.

16 boys under 13, and 41 between that age and 18, are engaged there in the rolling mills. The numbers of adults is 326, some of whom are employed in wire-drawing.

81. *John Carr.*—Am going 11. Have been here 12 months. Used to go to day-school, but have forgot reading; go sometimes to Sunday-school; the last time was a month since. Testament is about Jesus. Never heard of His disciples. Don't recollect anything about St. John.

82. *John Bache.*—Am going 12. Have been here two years. Began at "hooking;" that's what I am doing now. Never went to day-school. Testament is about our Saviour. St. Peter was a disciple. Don't know where Scotland is.

83. *John Davis.*—Am 13. Have been to day and Sunday school, but can't read or write. Don't know what Testament is about. Have heard it read. Don't recollect the name of anybody in it.

[The father of the last witness told me that he could not keep him to school, or do anything with him. The boy himself answered me civilly, and not stupidly.]

84. *Joseph Wild.*—Am 16 years old. My work is "putting in" the red-hot iron bar under the roller. I have been here 15 months; was at mill before. Never went to day-school. Know my letters, and no more. Learned them at Sunday-schoool; can't "sum." Don't know where Dublin is. London is south of this.

85. *William Thompson.*—Am 15. Can't write. Can read (not well). Testament is about Jesus. Don't know who St. Peter was.

[The evidence of the following witness, Edward Jones, I obtained at the National Schools, which I visited after leaving Messrs. Johnsons' works, with the view of learning, if any of the boys employed there were in the habit of attending.]

86. *Edward Jones.*—Am going 12. Used to work at the wire works seven months ago. My father didn't like my stopping there, so he sent me here to school instead. I was 10 years old, when I first went there. I began at "catching," and went on with "hooking," till I left. It was tiring work, when the wire was heavy, not generally.

I used always to come to day-school, while I was working, for some time, either morning or afternoon, so all the boys there might, if they choose; but of all that were there with me, those two Williamses and

Cooper are the only ones that ever came, and they used to come only one week in three.

I managed in this way. You know, we work in sets of 8 hours out of the 24; when I was on the night turn, that was from 10 P.M. to 6 A.M., I would go home after work, get my breakfast, and a wash, and then go to school from 9 a.m. to 12; then I would go home and have dinner, and go to bed from 2 P.M. to 9 P.M. Of course when I was working the turn from 6 A.M. to 2 P.M., or from 2 P.M. to 10 P.M., I could always go either to morning or to afternoon school every day, and go to bed in the night time too.

[87. I learned from the other boys, John and Henry Williams and Cooper, that they had begun working at about 10 years old, the two former at coiling the wire, the latter assisting his father at a furnace, and that they used to go to school in the afternoons in every third week, in which their working turn would be from 6 A.M. to 2 P.M. They said that they could all have managed as Jones did, so far as their work was concerned.]

I read the whole of the foregoing evidence and my notes over to Mr. R. Johnson, who told me, after hearing all, that he should for the future insist upon all the lads in his employment at Bradford attending some day-school. He considered the information which I had obtained to be entirely correct.

WIRE MANUFACTURE.

Messrs. Johnson, Mill Street, Manchester.

88. *Mr. James Beresford* (cashier of galvanizing works.—We have 58 lads there; only one or two at most are under 12; most of these watch the wire, as it passes in the machines through the zinc bath, and winds itself on to the blocks or wheels, and unload the blocks when they are full, putting the coil on one side to be carried off. These work in sets of 12 hours, day and night, from Monday morning to Saturday at mid-day; the nature of the bath renders that continuous work necessary.

They work through their meal-times, that is to say, they get their meals, while the machines, which they tent, are working, and are paid for the hour and a half as overtime; they are paid by the men, who work the machines for us. We pay the men by the piece, and they pay their boys by the week, about 5*s.* generally.

There is an unpleasant smell and taste too, as you observe, in this place, where the zinc baths are, but I never heard of any harm or complaint; none are ever absent from illness, which can be traced to the nature of the work. In another part of the process, where muriatic acid is used, the men have their hands burnt, and their clothes destroyed; no lads work there; but that is, I believe, a reason, why so few of our men bring their own boys here, for they know that, if they once begin, they generally remain, and get by degrees into the department, where this occurs.

About 14 of the lads have to open the wire, which is sent in coils from the mill, for the men to weld preparatory to its being passed through the bath; these are about the same age as the other lads. They are paid by us, and work only in the daytime, their hours being from 6 A.M. to 6 P.M., with an hour and a half for meals; they have occasionally to work as late as 8½ or 9 P.M.; they earn from 4*s.* 6*d.* to 7*s.* in the week.

Many of our boys are discharged in slack times, and taken on again when we want them, for no special skill or knowledge is required for their work; we have not been slack now for a year and more.

In our wire-drawing mill in Lees Street the lads are all above 14 years old; they are apprentices; that work requires a strong lad to lift the coil, when it is heavy, from the wheel. The education of all of them is much about the same; perhaps the apprentices to the drawing may be rather superior to those here, but all, men and boys, would be better for some more more learning; still most of our's can read, I think.

89. *Walter* ——.—Am 15; began to work at nine years old; was at the glass works then. Went to day-school before; go to Sunday-school now. Can read; read in Testament; don't know how many gospels there are, nor the names of any who wrote them. Think I have heard of St. John's gospel; am not yet in the Bible class at school.

[This last witness could read, and was not at all stupid.]

90. *John Prosser.*—Am 14; can't read; went to school for a short time a while ago; don't know anything about Testament at all, nor what it is about.

91. *Samuel Ridgway.*—Am 14; have been here a few months "tenting;" was at mill before. Went to day-school from 4 to 9 years old; from 9 to 13 stopped at home doing nothing. Go to Sunday-school now, and night-school; can't say the commandments; don't know the first; don't know who Judas Iscariot was; don't know what he did to Christ. Testament is about Christ and God; can't tell you who betrayed Christ.

[This boy could read tolerably, as, indeed, the greater number could of those, whom I tested in the Mill Street works.]

Messrs. Rylands Brothers, Warrington.

92. *Mr. T. Glazebrook Rylands.*—Our total number is 288, all are male; only two so young as between 12 and 13, and one of them says he has lost his birthday, so I have sent him to his mother to find it. [He stated on his return that she said he was 14.—H.W.L.] There are 46 between 13 and 18, some of them are apprentices to wire drawing; we get the strongest and biggest we can for that. Their hours are from 6 A.M. to 6 P.M., with two hours for meals. Nine-tenths of our adults are employed in that branch of our business. The rest of the lads are nearly all tenting the galvanizing machines. We hire and pay them, but they are the servants of the galvanizers; about 6 or 8 of them to each machine; some open the coils; some take the end of the wire to be welded; some take the coil off the block; even that requires a stout lad, for the half-block they have to lift off and on is tolerably heavy. They are paid by the week, their earnings varying from 4*s.* 6*d.* to as much as 10*s.*, according to their skill; the men, for whom they work, settle the amount. They all work in day and night sets alternate weeks, the day set working from 6 A.M. to 6 P.M., and stopping at 1 P.M. on Saturday, the night set having five nights, 6 P.M. to 6 A.M.; two hours are allowed them for their meals in either set. Their work is not continuous, but they may all be wanted to be doing something at the same time in different places, so we can't do with less, though they are often scampering all over the place.

We are obliged by the nature of the bath to go on day and night, for its contents would become solid, if it were left to cool, and then nothing on earth could melt them again. It would not answer our purpose to keep the fires on all night without working; indeed we couldn't get through our orders fast enough, if we didn't. In the wire drawing, however, no overtime is ever necessary. I am sure we have turned out more, and been more pressed than any one to complete orders, and we have never worked any overtime worth noticing. The men in our trade are well paid, by us at all events; they average 28*s.* a week; a labourer about our yard gets from 15*s.* to 18*s.*, and some of the drawers have as much as 2*l.* 15*s.* and 3*l.* Last week 2*l.* 19*s.* and 2*l.* 16*s.* were the wages of two of them, and

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there are several others, you see. Last week we paid our hands 352*l.* in wages. There is no objection on the part of the men to bring their own children. The smell of the tallow, where the fine wire is tinned, and of the stuff we use for lubricating some light kinds, is very nasty, and the vapour of the zinc bath smells and tastes, as you say; still their health is very good; there is nothing hurtful in a medical point of view; I have worked for five years as an apprentice in the worst of all, and never suffered any harm. The boys have nothing to do with the sulphuric and muriatic acid. I have seen men's hands half eaten away, you might say, with them, but after a time they seem not to notice even that.

If there are young girls employed in wire works, there ought not to be, nor indeed ought boys under 13; the one we have happens to be a stout strong lad; some of 16 are earning no more than he.

[My inquiries generally confirmed Mr. Rylands' statements. Several of the block-tenting boys could only read a bit, as they said, and few could write; they seemed healthy, and had tolerably clean faces, though ragged clothes.]

93. Extract of a Letter from T. G. Rylands, Esq.

"I have never suspected, nor can I find any one who believes, that galvanizing works are injurious to the health either of men or young people on account of the vapours from the baths. My opinion is that they are not so. As regards the "lifting and heavy work," the evidence on our premises has rather been that the lads, who are put to the heavy work, grow up into the largest and strongest men. I mean that there is no work on the premises, so far as I have observed for from 20 to 30 years, which is too heavy to be healthful. I have known several instances, where youths, having been put to the lighter work, and having remained at it formany months without signs of growth, have sprung up vigorously very shortly after being removed to the manufacture of the heavy kinds of wire. I do not remember a case of a lad put to this class of work, who has left us through ill-health.

"In the matter of women, my opinion is that there is no reason, why women and girls should not work in fine-wire mills with us, as they do in Yorkshire, if the works are in other respects well conducted."

Messrs. Cook, Williams, & Co., Warrington.

94. *Mr. Williams.*—We have none under 13; the only peculiarity with us is, that we have some women over 18 years old to draw wire; they only do the lighter sorts; they work from 6.30 A.M. to 5.30 P.M. The males, of whom there are 68, including 17 lads under 18, come half an hour earlier, and stay half an hour later than the women; that is to prevent the two sexes entering or leaving the premises together. The women work in a shop apart by themselves; that is all piecework. Men earn about 26*s.*; some boys, who "open" the coils of wire for the men, get 4*s.* and 5*s.* a week; they are paid by us. Most of the young persons are in the galvanizing department. The smell does them no harm, I believe, although it is disagreeable; it is the sulphur given off from the bath. We might have a funnel over the open bath to carry a portion away through the roof, but the men would be sure to object, as it would be more inconvenient for them. They are on piecework, and earn as much as 36*s.* a week; they provide the boys, who lead the wire to the wheels, and carry off the coils; all have the same, 5*s.*

In this department there are two sets working alternately day and night turns, one week with another. It is not absolutely necessary to work continuously, but it would be very costly, if we did not. If we were prevented from working lads under 18 in the night turns, we should have young men over 18, and pay them more, and raise our prices accordingly; the parents and the lads would suffer, but we shouldn't. In some galvanizing places they work all Sunday; for that there is certainly no need. Independently of any religious ground, the men want repose; they get exhausted after working every night for a week. There is nothing of that in Lancashire, as far as I know. The heat, I believe, is worse than the smell in the galvanizing places, but they do not suffer from either.

The men, with few exceptions, are ignorant and improvident, and careless of education. Few parents can read; they are more alive than they were to the advantage of their children being educated, but they don't care to sacrifice any indulgence of their own to obtain it. Last winter we had boys here, whose fathers were earning 25*s.* and 30*s.* a week, and had given them no schooling, so we made it a condition of keeping them then, that when the summer came they should be taken away and sent to school; they have left us now, but I can't say whether they are sent to school. As to improvidence, here is an instance; we have a man, with one grown son and two younger ones, who all work for us, and live together; they earn on an average 5*l.* a week, yet if they want to go to Liverpool or Manchester near the end of the week, they have to borrow 2*s.* 6*d.* to pay the railway fare.

[95. One boy here, aged 14, had only been to a day-school for three months in his life; he did not know his letters. His father, a workman in the place, said that he wouldn't stop at school; he had been at pin-making at 10 years old. Mr. Williams told me that he did his work very well, and would probably turn out a good workman. Some of the others could not read words of more than one syllable without spelling them.]

Wire Fencing.

96. Mr. Greening, 81, Oxford Street, Manchester.

We manufacture iron and wire fencing; some of the work is by hand and some by machine, but we do not use steam power. Mothers continually bring their children to us much too young for our work, and we have to reject them. The boys are paid at a higher rate in Manchester than in Warrington; they earn 4*s.* a week here, but there they can be got for 2*s.* 6*d.* Many of ours are very ignorant; of the 14 in our employ under 18, I find that 8 can neither read nor write, one can read, one reads and writes imperfectly, and one only reads and writes well; two of these are under 13. We have double that number in our employment sometimes, but the average of education is not likely to show better at any time. Our present number of adults is 14.

97. Extract of Letter from Mr. E. O. Greening.

Dear Sir, May 16, 1863.

I presume that the object of your labours is not confined to any single issue, but is intended to elicit the possibility of doing something for the elevation of the class you inquire about.

You are of course aware the parents, who send their children to work at an early age, are the very poorest of our working population, by whom the advantages of education are but dimly discerned, and it is therefore probable that a mere prohibition against the employment of the children would simply increase the number of those, who live in the streets.

Half-time prohibition would scarcely be of more avail. The number employed in each works is not so great as to make it worth the while of the employers to do, as many factory masters are doing, viz., provide a school, in which the children shall be educated near the mill. Nor would it, on the other hand, be possible for the master readily to find school accommodation for his hands from amongst the cheap sectarian schools now assisted by Government grants. These schools, even when they teach no doctrinal theology, cannot escape the jealousy, which is aroused by their known connexion with places of worship; for instance, one-half our own hands are Roman Catholics, and, were we compelled to see to the education of such as we employ, we fear the task of finding a suitable school for each section of belief, would cost us more time and trouble than we make profit out of the boys.

What is wanted is a good unsectarian public school in every locality (such as exist in Canada and the United States), at which the children of the poor shall be educated free of charge. Were such schools instituted, it would be possible to arrange with employers of labour to send their younger hands so many hours per day, and an understanding between employer and teacher would insure regularity of attendance.

It appears to me that such schools should be under local management, and supported by rates drawn from a somewhat larger area than obtains in the matter of poor's rates; a system of Governmental inspection might be desirable.

98. Mr. N. Greening, Warrington.

Wire weaving.

We make wire netting, and weave wire; for the latter process we have some hand looms, and some worked by steam power; there is but one other place in England, where steam power is used for that. The power-loom weaver has to throw the shuttle or needle, as we call it, with his hand; the business of the boy, who helps him, is chiefly to wind the wire on the needle. There are 24 persons in our employ; 4 boys under 13, and 6 between 13 and 18; the youngest is over 10; two of them may have to stay as late as 8 P.M. twice a week, and once a month till 10 P.M. The usual hours are from 6 A.M. to 5.40 P.M., with 1½ hours for meals.

[One boy here, aged 15, whose father, Mr. Greening stated, was a man of some little property, could scarcely read at all.]

FILE MANUFACTURERS, MANCHESTER.

99. Mr. Leech, Brook Street.

I have 10 or 12 working for me now, men and boys. Warrington is more the place for files than Manchester; there are about a dozen persons here, who employ about the same number of hands that I do; some more, as many as 20, may be; some less; but none, except the Patent File Company, are in any large way of business.

My usual hours are from 6 A.M. to 6 P.M., and on Saturday till 1 P.M.; that is a grand thing for every one, that Saturday half-holiday; and it is almost universal in Manchester now.

We have to work after 6 P.M. often in brisk seasons; perhaps twice a week all the year round we may go on till 8 P.M.; and occasionally, perhaps half-a-dozen times, till midnight, and after that. I shouldn't mind our having to do that more than we do, but it is bad for the young ones; I should like to see it stopped for them.

Some of the lads, the younger ones of 11 and 12, are just doing odd jobs, carrying things, or dressing the files; some work for the men, and some for the master. The apprentices to file-cutting are generally bound at about 14 years old; after about a year they may be getting paid 5*s.* a week and more; some might earn 11*s.* a week; that is piecework; they don't generally get paid by the piece, though.

The generality of file-cutters, I should say, begin at from 13 to 14 years of age; a many of them, however, are only 12 at starting; that is too young; but the work doesn't hurt their health that I know of. I have worked at it from a boy myself, and have not suffered; ask my hands, if they have. I don't understand about their chests getting hurt by leaning against the stock or vice; they don't lean against anything; in Lancashire they don't often even sit astride, as they do in Sheffield, but on an ordinary stool. In Sheffield they make much heavier files, and sit straddlewise to give a greater swing to the hammer.

Girls are not employed in Manchester generally at file-cutting; I don't think they ought to be at all. Some girls tent the machines at the company's works, there's no harm that I know of in that; but the hand cutting must be bad for them; and if the "stock or vice" you speak of means the crosspegs used in draw filing, there's another thing that would be very bad; the end of the peg would press on their chest, as they leaned over to file, and might hurt them very much. "Filing" is very heavy work, even for lads; but here, in Manchester, all our files are ground by machine,* so we don't use the pegs.

Many of the boys are very ignorant, particularly the dressing and helping boys; two or three of mine, I know, can't even read. They have often not been to school at all, and yet the parents of many of them could afford it easily enough, if they chose; it is drink, and not poverty, that keeps them from school, and sends them too young to work.

[100. One boy here, aged nearly 14, a "dresser," who had been more than two years at work, could only read large print letter by letter. He had begun lately to go to Sunday-school, and "heard them read the "Testament;" that was about Jesus and Moses; he knew the names John, Peter, and Judas, he said, as I mentioned them, but nothing of what they did, or who they were; he could not tell me anything that Jesus did, nor what became of him. This boy was naturally intelligent and well-behaved; Mr. Leech gave him a good character; he was earning 3*s.* 6*d.* a week; a younger brother, equally ignorant, was receiving in the same works nearly as much; and their father, who also was in the employ of Mr. Leech, was ordinarily making 30*s.* a week.]

The Patent File Machine and File Manufacturing Company, Limited, Lime Bank Street, Ardwick.

101. *Mr. Middleton*, (cashier).—We have none under 13; there are 18 males and 7 females between 13 and 18; 64 men and 15 women. Our machinery is peculiar of its kind; there is no other place in England, where files are cut by machines, and only two anywhere, one in France, the other in America. All the

* The files for fine and superfine work are filed after being ground in some cases.—H.W.L.

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round files have still to be cut by hand, except the under surface, when it is flat.

One or two of the younger boys help the men, who heat or shape the file; others are cutting by hand; in some cases they work in pairs, one older brother, it may be, cutting, while the younger edges; there are five or six such pairs here.

Some of the machines are tented by women; all they do is to put the piece of steel in, and take it out again when roughened; some, who do that work, are under 18; it is light work enough; one of those girls was a dress-maker, before she came here. We have been established for more than a year, and none have ever left us of those, who worked the machines. They earn from 9*s.* to 12*s.* a week, and never work longer than from 6 A.M. to 6 P.M., four days in the week; on Monday they begin at 9 A.M., and on Saturday leave at 2 P.M., making 57½ hours in the week. The meal times are an hour for dinner, and half an hour for breakfast.

The others, however, are all liable to overtime; they work on till 9 P.M. for fully three months in the year, men and lads alike. The rest of the girls and women either cut by hand, or scour the files with sand before oiling, to remove the coating, which the hot lead leaves in hardening. The scourers are paid by the day, and get 8*s.* a week; we tried piecework at first, but they didn't like it; most of our females are mill hands.

Our buildings are quite new and perfect in their kind, I think; all the shops are on the ground floor in the form of a quadrangle with one shop in the centre of the yard. There are two or three ventilators in the roof of each.

A copy of the rules, with the hours of work and for meals, in large print, is hung up conspicuously in several parts of the works.

102. *William Johnson.*—Am 13 years old; can't read; can't tell my letters; am carrying files to be scoured; sometimes help at furnace; used to work in brickcroft; have been sometimes to Sunday-school; no other; don't know what Testament is about; can't tell you the Queen's name. My work is easy; don't get tired.

103. *Mary Whiston.*—Am 18; have been here a few months; was at mill before times were bad; like this better; am "dressing" the files, scouring with sand, that is; can read a bit, not so well; learned at day-school, before I went to factory; wasn't a half-timer. Get very tired by 9 P.M.; have worked some weeks till then; all of us have.

[The majority of those whom I questioned at these works could read; some, however, there were besides the witness Johnson, who knew little more than he. All the arrangements for ventilation, cleanliness, &c. seemed very satisfactory.

Mr. F. Preston, the manager, stated in a letter to me subsequently to my visit, that the women employed there were mostly strong and healthy, and that he had not heard that hand-cutting was ever considered in any way unhealthy.]

WARRINGTON.

104. Messrs. J. & T. Jolley.

Nearly all our hands are apprentices; between 14 and 18 there are 34; and 11 more under 21. We have none under 13, and only eight adults, two of whom are women.

Three-quarters of all the files made about Warrington are the small hand-saw and frame-saw files; the rest are watch and clock files; many of these are still made at the homes of the workpeople, though there are several large shops like ours. The Lancashire tools, that is to say, all the watch and clock makers' tools, such as the lathe and mandril, all compasses, plyers, screw plates, armourers' tools, &c., are made in little shops attached to the cottages, where the workmen live, all about the country at distances from four to 18 miles off; all the family can help, more or less.

Our apprentices are all bound by formal indenture for seven years. We never have any trouble with them. Once we had to prosecute a lad of 19, who ran away twice; he was sent to the House of Correction for a month. In the two or three other cases we have had, we asked the Bench to give a severe reprimand, which had the desired effect. We have been in business for four years. The days of cruel treatment of apprentices are gone by; only lately we discharged one of our men for playing tricks on one of them; that was nothing more than splashing him with dirty water, but we had strictly forbidden anything of the kind.

So far as the parents are concerned, we might have the lads at any age, at 10, or younger, if we liked, for they come and beg us to take them. Those two* whom you spoke to, we don't consider to be in our employ at all; they are just knocking about at any job they can get; they are not quite 13; we recognize none under 14, and these are the only ones under. The apprentices are paid 2*s.* 6*d.* a week at first, and rise 1*s.* a year, besides keeping whatever they make over 14*s.* a week. They soon manage to earn 3*s.* or 4*s.* extra in that way. Each has his separate block to himself; it is of solid stone, with the iron let deep into it. They get no injury from stooping, because they are never "cutting" for more than three-quarters of an hour at a time; then they have to get up, and go to the middle of the room to file for perhaps half an hour preparatory to cutting again. I never heard of any accident from the file slipping, and running the tang into their chest, when they were at the frame. It must have been through the frame not being substantial enough.

The two women are called "scratchers;" they dip the files in charcoal and water, and clean them after they have been hardened. They earn about 8*s.* a week.

The room is rather hot in summer. We have an india-rubber tube, and water the floor now and then. There is a fire now in the place, where they are working. The grate used for softening is there; we are building a new shop for the purpose, and shall get rid of that out of the cutting-room altogether.

Our hours are from 6 A.M. to 7 P.M., with two hours for meals. The extra hour was put on to let them have the half day from 1 P.M. on Saturday. The only times, when we work them at all later, are for a few days before some holiday, as the races or Christmas; then they stay for another hour at their own request to make up the time, for which the shop will be closed.

Overtime is not general in our trade; there is no scarcity of hands here. The shops are warm and clean, and the wages fair, so that many are attracted. Many of our apprentices attend night-school; all can read, I think.

105. *James Greaves.*—Am 13. Go to Sunday-school. Testament is about God. Don't know anything about apostles or disciples. Began work at 9 years old, "flatting" at glass works.

106. *Patrick Meigh.*—Am 13. Began in ropewalk at 10.

[These two only knew their letters.]

* *See* next two witnesses.

Messrs. Stubs & Co.

107. *Mr. Marson.*—The dust in filing the files has been considered prejudicial to health, and is said to cause consumption; but it seems that all this side of Lancashire suffers from that complaint, whatever the special occupation may be. I think one great source of it is to be found in the self-indulgent and the careless habits of the workpeople. They are very inconsiderate. In winter, for example, as they are apt to get cold with sitting long, the shops are kept very warm, for they cannot work with cold fingers, yet they will often go out into the snow in their shirt sleeves, if they have occasion to leave the shop.

Few can cut files after 50; they become nervous. We have indeed one of 75, who still cuts, but he is an exception. I do not mean that they die sooner than other workpeople; on the contrary, one of our men is 82, and our foreman is 72; indeed I could pick you half-a-dozen from our own people over 60, but they find their hands are not steady enough after 50, and cannot be trusted to strike true. They generally begin by being apprenticed at 14.

Lancashire tools are always given out to be made. A man takes his material from us to his own home, where he has, perhaps, an apprentice or two, some of his own family in many cases, to help him.

108. Mr. J. B. Edelsten, Market Street,

Informed me that he had none under 13, and only one under 18 in his employ; that one was an apprentice. He had had more apprentices, but had given up taking them, and had adult labour. His hours were 6 A.M. to 7 P.M. Those were not exceeded in his works, but at other places he knew of apprentices being kept on often as late as 9 P.M. from 6 A.M., for only lately the father of one had complained to him about it. He stated that girls were not used in the neighbourhood of Warrington to cut files, and thought that it was a "beastly trade to put a woman to," not only on account of their working with the men, but because of the heavy nature of the work in most cases, especially in filing in the vice, and the danger of the file slipping from the wooden stock in the process of filing, and running the sharp "tang" into the hand or breast of the person filing. He said that the workmen's hands were frequently severely cut in this way. He did not think the pressure of the chest against the end of the wooden stock attached to the vice was ever continued long enough to be productive of harm, for the ordinary course was to cut for about two hours, and then to file for half an hour, and then to cut again for two hours more. He told me that there was nothing like ill-treatment of apprentices, at all events in file cutting, so much so, that a foreman could not moderately chastise one for faults without being brought before the bench of magistrates. I also learned from him that there were many who worked, assisted by their children in their own homes, softening in their house-fire the iron, which they received from their employer's furnace, and returned filed and cut to the warehouse.

Messrs. John Edelsten & Son, Pin and File Makers, Knutsford Road.

109. *Mr. Edelsten.*—I have been for many years in the pin trade, and had experience both as an employer, and working as an apprentice to my father. Pin making is quite different now to what it was; the general substitution of machinery for handwork has completely changed its character. A great part of the work formerly was given out to be done in the homes of the workpeople, but now hand-headed pins are nearly done away with, and quite out of date. A solid head is given by a machine, which at the same time cuts the wire, and points the pin. We still have a small shop at the other end of the town, where pins are headed by hand, but it is kept on as much for the sake of giving employment to some destitute persons, as for any profit to us. There are some few who still prefer the old pins.

We do not give out even our sheeting, but have that also done on the premises, some by hand, and some by a machine worked with a treadle.

We have 23 females and 79 males working on the premises. It is in the pin sheeting that the former are chiefly employed. There are 6 of them under 13, and 6 between 13 and 18. The youngest is 9 years and 9 months old, and the next 10 years and 2 months. Each hand-sheeter works independently of any other person; a number of them, females of different ages, under a female overlooker. They are all paid by the piece, and might, if they liked, earn 1*s.* a day, but they don't work very hard. Some, the younger ones, don't come till nearly 8 A.M. often, though 6 to 6 are our hours. They generally get about 3*s.* a week; the least will be 2*s.*; some get 4*s.* 6*d.*

Of the males, 23 are under 13, and 16 between that age and 18. The little ones will nearly all be tenting the pin-making machines. They are of the very poorest class; children out of the streets in many cases. They are paid by the week, 2*s.* 6*d.* or 3*s.* 6*d.* The machines are moved by power, and are self-acting; they are very light; all the boys have to do is to watch the wire uncoiling at one end, and the pins turning out at the other. They would stop the machine, if anything went wrong. There are two or three older hands in the shop to look after them. One is only 9 years old;* 9 of them are 10 or a few months more; probably few have ever been to any school. They stay here until they can get into some other trade, as they most frequently do. Some we take on to cut files. It is the best thing for them; they get habits of industry and regularity, which they would never have obtained.

There is no overtime with us; 58½ hours a week is our full time; 6 A.M. to 6 P.M. on four days, 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. on Monday, and 6 A.M. to 4 P.M. on Saturday, with half an hour for breakfast and an hour for dinner. They are not making more than 48½ hours in the week now.

There is much less overtime in all branches of our trade now, I believe, as compared with what was done 20 years ago; the fashion then was to work from 6 A.M. to 8 P.M. I used to work at 14 years old longer by three hours than any do here; that was at pin making. All those, who cut files here, are over 13 of age. I don't think that work at all prejudicial to health. My son has worked from 6 A.M. to 6 P.M. regularly, and has not suffered from it. The sitting with their shoulders rounded, and continually stooping might be bad, but they vary that by the standing up from time to time, and filing in a vice

[110. *Mr. Sheratt*, foreman of the file cutters, corroborated this statement, which the healthy look of the young men, whom I saw and spoke to in the shop, also supported. He considered file cutting to be very heavy work for a lad under 13, and hard work for older ones, and stated that he had no doubt that at other places they began younger, and worked longer than at his employers.]

* On a second visit Mr. Edelsten informed me that he had sent this boy away, as too young for the work.

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110*a*. Copy of a Letter from G. W. Hardy, Esq., Surgeon.

Dear Sir, Warrington, Oct. 7, 1863.

In reply to your inquiry respecting the effect of working in file manufactories on the health of young persons, I have to report that in no instance have I ever found injurious results from this particular kind of work. The position of the body appears to be a constrained one, but they soon get accustomed to it. The process of cutting is not laborious, and the mind being at the same time actively employed, we need not wonder that the occupation is found to be a more than usually healthy one. In considering this subject, we must bear in mind that the young hands are for the most part sons of file-cutters, who, from being in receipt of high wages, have the command of the best cottages to live in. They are well clothed and well fed, and generally speaking possess advantages which have a tendency to mitigate any evils that might incidentally arise from damp or overcrowded workshops, which happily do not exist here.

With regard to other trades in which young persons are employed (except fustian cutters), I am not aware that we have any here in which large numbers are engaged, except the manufacture of cotton. The Factory Acts have been a great boon to them, and I should be glad to see their provisions extended to every other manufacture in which children and young persons are employed; I believe it is much needed.

Yours faithfully,

G. W. Hardy.

H. W. Lord, Esq.

WATCH MOVEMENT MAKERS, PRESCOT.

111. *The Rev. L. W. Sampson* (Vicar of Prescot).—The manufacture of watch movements employs, I should say, three-fourths of the working population of Prescot. When I came here in 1850, the journeymen could, and frequently did, earn as much as 3*l*. per week, but they are not a saving class, and they are sadly intemperate in "good times." The sedentary and confined employment, and the long hours of work when business is brisk, combine with the high rate of wage to produce that result. They are very frank, pleasant people to deal with as a class. I think the drink tends more than anything in their occupation to shorten life. However, they live to a good age; I was speaking to-day to one who was 81, and had worked at the trade from 14.

I think they send their children to school, before they begin work. In my day-schools for girls and infants there are 460 of them; 189 may be taken to be male infants. They are drafted up to the endowed school for boys, as they become old enough. There the number is limited to 84, and that is generally full. The master also takes about 10 boys on his own account.

The bad thing in the trade for the lads is the length of the ordinary day's work. I can never get a meeting till after 8 P.M., because there are no men to attend before that hour. The places, in which they work, are frequently small and low-pitched, and become very hot in summer time through the quantity of glass required for light.

112. *Mr. Johnson.*—There are 40 or more distinct branches of the watch-making trade carried on in Prescot; the manufacture of each of the numerous parts, of which a watch consists, is a separate art, and an apprentice to one branch learns nothing of any other. For instance, the pillar, barrel, stud, ratchet, frame, pinion, balance, hand, and many beside, are each made by men and their apprentices, who never make any other portion. By this extensive subdivision of labour great rapidity of execution is acquired, and thereby the production of small pieces, costing only 1*d*. or 2*d*., becomes remunerative.

Probably about one half of the work in Prescot is done in the masters' workshops, and the other half at the homes of the men. Some masters won't have apprentices; others have nearly as many apprentices as journeymen. The largest shops here have about 18 or 20 men, and 9 or 10 apprentices; there may be three of that size. The boys are apprenticed at between 13 and 14 years old, for seven years; for some little time before that, 6 or 12 months, they will be doing little jobs, as errand boys about the shop; some begin before 12 years of age, I should say. The work done here is all in the rough, and goes to London, or Liverpool, to be finished. There is only one escapement maker here.

The recognized trade hours are from 6 A.M. to 8 P.M., with two hours for meals, but there is a growing tendency to shorten them, for they are certainly too long even for the men. In my own shop the hours are 6 A.M. to 7 P.M. in summer, and from 7 A.M. to 7 P.M. in winter. Some others have adopted the same; I must admit, however, that this reduction is owing to the present slackness of trade, more than to any general design to diminish the working hours.

None of our work here is so delicate as the putting together and finishing,—the watch manufacture, properly so called, which is done in London. The apprentices to that have to use the eye glass from the very first, but many of ours do not at all. The finest work done here is what you see in my workshop, the filing the watch hands; where any have had their eyesight affected as early as 30 at that, there has been some natural defect; you see these men are not even using spectacles; that one is 40.

The bulk of the men's work is paid for by the piece; the apprentices will have 2*s*. 6*d*. and 3*s*. at first, and rise to 8*s*. and 9*s*. a week in their last year. Indoor apprentices are very rare. Sometimes the masters find clothes; I allow mine 2*l*. a year for clothing.

Their health is very good; whenever they break up prematurely, you may trace it all to drink. In good times they earn high wages, and their sedentary habits, and confinement in close rooms, lead them to seek a stimulus.

We are very well off for education, on the whole; the Moss school, which is endowed, takes 84 boys for a nominal payment of 1*s*. a quarter.

Females used to be employed very generally here some years back, but now there is not enough work for the men. So far as the work, that is done in Prescot, goes, there is no part of it that women are not equally fitted and able to perform.

If my apprentices don't come in the morning at the proper time, I keep them to 8 P.M. sometimes, to punish them. I never knew any positively ill effects from the brass filing, but I have often noticed that the roots of their teeth become dark green, and their hair, and even clothes sometimes. Look at this wooden bench; it is quite green with the brass; the dust is very fine.

Many of the smaller workshops are very dirty and close, particularly when work is brisk; they require very little elbow room, and a great deal of glass, so that they are hot and crowded.

113. *Mr. Berry.*—I have 9 apprentices; we leave off at 7 P.M.; but in most shops the hours are still from 6 A.M. to 8 P.M. I don't think it is the rule to employ apprentices after 8 P.M. in brisk times; the hours are too long as it is.

114. *Mr. Wycherley.*—I don't think any one has more apprentices than I; there are 9 of them here. Our hours in the trade are from 6 or 6½ A.M. to 8 P.M.; they don't begin till 9 on Monday, and leave at 5 on Saturday. We don't take any apprentices much under 14; we give them 2*s*. 6*d*. at first, and after that 3*s*., then we rise up to 8*s*. in the last year; and besides that, we let them have a quarter of all they

earn. I found that by that plan they would get through as much work in the ordinary hours in a fortnight, as they did in six weeks, before I adopted that plan.

Business has not been brisk for some years ; when it was, working from 6 A.M. to 9 and 9½ P.M. was not uncommon. What the apprentices earned after 8 P.M. they kept the whole of, so they were ready enough for it. For my part I would rather be compelled to give over work always at 7 P.M., if others in the trade were under the same regulations, instead of working on, as they did, till 10.

There is only the brass filing, and turning the frames to hold the wheels, that could be unhealthy ; but it is more the confinement in small warm rooms with sudden changes of temperature, especially in winter, that does harm. The rooms must be kept warm, when the weather is cold, or their fingers would not be supple. They do not have to file the brass for more than an hour at a time two or three times a day.

[115. A young man here told me that he frequently "spat brass" of a morning after filing, but he said it didn't hurt him in any way that he knew of.]

116. *Mr. George Gleave.*—This is the workshop belonging to my house. We make pinions, and fasten them on wheels. I have had apprentices, but have none now. The usual trade hours are from 6 A.M. to 8 P.M. It is shameful work, I think. If watch making was as brisk now as it was a dozen years since, many would work longer than that, apprentices and all. My room is very hot. There are stools for 6 persons.

116*a*. Extract from Letter of D. Barrow, Esq., Surgeon, Prescot.

As a native of Prescot my opportunities have probably been greater than most of observing the effect of watchmaking (the staple trade of the town) on the health of the individuals employed.

In my opinion watchmaking taken by itself is not more injurious to health than any other sedentary occupation, nor do I find that the employées suffer from any particular disease caused by their avocation. The greatest evil that I can mention is the prevalence of apprentices working unusually long hours, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., or longer. There is a custom amongst the masters of closing their shops at 8 p.m. from the 29th of September to March ; but this is not strictly adhered to. Another evil exists, and that is, many of the shops are built over privies and other outbuildings, especially those that have been erected before the last few years ; some that have been built lately have avoided this evil. As a consequence several cases of fever of a typhoid character have occurred amongst the workmen in those localities above mentioned.

As a general rule dyspepsia and hepatic diseases seem to be more prevalent than others, though I do not consider in a greater degree than among persons engaged in indoor occupations which require much sitting. The manufacture of watch tools is also carried on in the town and neighbourhood ; on this I need make no remark ; the workmen employed are generally robust and healthy, except in two instances (which perhaps may be referred to a peculiar idiosyncrasy). The working in ebony, for the purpose of making the tool handles, has occasioned symptoms closely resembling pleurisy or asthma.

117. Mr. Stuart, Wholesale Watch Manufacturer, Hope Street, Liverpool.

Half the work in watch making is given out to be done in the country. No lads under 14 are employed in Liverpool in our business. I should say that the usual trade hours, 6 A.M. to 7 P.M., with two hours for meals, are rarely if ever exceeded by any master, whether in a large or small way of business here. They do not complain of any harm to their eyes ; that may be more the case in London or Coventry, perhaps. As a rule, their health is good, except so far as drinking, and unwholesome workshops hurt them. That is often in a great degree their own fault. Even with us they will sit upstairs in winter with the gas burning, and not a window open. I often speak about it to them. I do not think that even the small masters work their apprentices after 7 P.M. It is a difficult matter to get them, for the trade is, generally speaking, very fluctuating in the smaller establishments, and there are other employments more certain for lads here. Even we have felt a difficulty, though our trade being for home markets, and not for export, is more steady.

We give apprentices 5*s*., and one-third of their earnings, so that they may often have 10*s*. a week. The men average 30*s*.

CUT NAIL MANUFACTURE.

118. Mr. John Summers, Stalybridge.

I have 96 persons in my employ ; 7 are females, 3 of them adults, and 4 between 13 and 18 ; 14 boys under 13, and 44 between 13 and 18. We make clog irons as well as cut nails, but there is no other manufactory of either in this district. There are a few who make wrought nails quite in a small way, having a man or two, and perhaps a boy to help at a small furnace attached to their own house. Wrought nails are shaped when hot by the hammer. Cut nails are made from the cold strip of iron.

They are not put to that work, till they are 12 or 13 years old. When they first come they wire up the clog irons ; for that job they get about 2*s*. 6*d*. a week. At 11 years old, or so, they are set to punching holes in the irons ; that is also by machinery ; they merely move the iron under the punch ; their wage is from 4*s*. 6*d*. to 6*s*. After that they begin to cut at machine.

There is one man to every four or five machines. When heading is not needed, a different machine is used. The girl you saw has to feed the swivel, that means to lay the strips in those grooved shoots ; she is 14, and is earning 14*s*. 6*d*. Some will get 8*s*. and 10*s*. as they grow older, at 17 or 18. All are on piecework.

We have no apprentices for either nail cutting or clog-iron making. I think it better both for the hands and the employer that neither should be bound. I have never had any trouble with any of mine.

We work regularly from 6 A.M. to 6 P.M., with an hour and a half for meals, and leave off at 1 P.M. on Saturday, 57½ hours in the week. I have been 10 years here, and have not had to make any overtime.

The machines always stop for dinner ; most of the hands go home for that. The occupation of cutting is varied from time to time by their having to get up, and collect the nails that fall, as they are cut, under the machine. The knife also has to be ground about every hour. That is the man's work.

Most of them can read and write, and cast accounts too ; at all events they all know, how much is due to them at the week's end, and can tell you why.

Clog irons are made in great numbers by small men in the neighbourhood of Bury ; they work often till 9 and 10 P.M. in the winter there, young ones and all.

[119. Most of the children whom I asked could read, more or less ; one, who told me he was going in 12, said that he had been more than three years there. Mr. Summers had some doubt about this. I met with no other instance of a child in his works beginning before 9 years of age. A wrought nail maker, to whose furnace Mr. Summers took me, had his own son, a boy of 9, working with him, and this boy had been at the trade for a year. His father, however, sent him to day-school from time to time. He was intelligent and healthy.]

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120. Mr. Ellison, Salford.

We have only two under 18; they are stout lads. I don't approve of any under 13 tenting nail-cutting machines. These were with us before 13, but merely as errand boys. The women who work for us are over 18; there are 6 of them, and 15 male adults. We never work beyond our usual hours, 6 A.M. to 6.15 P.M.

The wrought nail makers in Lancashire have a furnace in a shed at the back side of their own cottage, and work with three or four children of their own as long or as little as they like.

LOCK AND HINGE MANUFACTURE.

Mr. Whitley, Ashton-in-Makerfield.

121. *Mr. Valliant.*—I dare say there are 50 or 60 boys employed directly or indirectly by us, for we give out nearly the whole of a certain class of work, the hinges, to be done by the workpeople at their own homes. You see a row of cottages, and behind them a row of smithies; there will be a man or two, and a lad or two, who clean the hinges and do light work in each. With regard to our own place we have about 12 lads, not more than one or two under 13, I should say. They are about the yard, or helping the men who are making locks and bolts. It is the chief trade of the place. The lads here are apprenticed, some to us, and some to the men, for whom they work. I do not think there is any ill-treatment of them. The usual hours of work are from 6 A.M. to 8 P.M., with two hours for meals. The market price is so low, that the men get as young ones to help them as they can.

[122. The boys here seemed to have begun the trade at 11 or 10 years of age. One who was 16 told me that he used the hammer at 10; he could not read, nor could another, who was 13.]

123. *Joseph Adamson.*—This is my father's smithy; he lives in one of Mr. Whitley's houses in front there. We work for him. What the young ones do is cleaning, and hammering the rivets, and filing the hinges. It's middling hard is their work; they often don't get any schooling. They begin the work at 11, and younger; I didn't till 14, that's quite soon enough. We haven't any apprentices; they go mostly to the "squares," like Whitley's or Billinge's, but there are some in a smithy down here. The regular hours in the trade are from 6 A.M. to 8 P.M., with about two hours for meals; but the men please themselves. The work goes on till 9 P.M., or past sometimes, for boys and all. They never begin till breakfast on Monday, 8 A.M. that is, and leave off again at 5 P.M. They mostly give over at about 3 P.M. on Saturday, so that they only work for four days a week from 6 A.M. to 8 P.M. They get 2*s.* 6*d.* and 3*s.* a week, and rise up to 4*s.* 6*d.* and more. Where the women work, they are always members of the family; they only clean the hinges, or drill holes now and then, as those two are doing; one is my sister, and the other my step-sister; they don't work regularly at it. That boy is no relation; he has no father; he has been about two years here; he is hammering; he says he is 13.

[This boy could not read at all, and did not attend even Sunday-school.]

124. *Henry Crotton.*—Am 13 years old; work with my father; am filing now; began at 8 years old; used to clean hinges then; don't know when I began to file and hammer, a good while since. Can't read. Never went to day-school. Don't go to Sunday-school.

125. —— *Wood.*—I am 63 years old. It hasn't hurt me, though I began it at 7. Why, I was a winder—my father was a silk weaver—at 5 years old. This boy of mine can read, and write his name, but there are not many of them like him. They work for their parents, and they don't care for their learning. They are off on the fuddle now, half of them; they don't mind its being Thursday. The boys like that well enough, for they do nothing then, except play about; but they grow up like those before them. In smithies like these they are not tied to an hour. They often won't start till 7 A.M.

126. Messrs. J. & W. Findley, Park Road, Liverpool.

Tinned hollow-ware.

Ours is the largest manufactory of tinned hollow-ware in the kingdom, but work of the kind that we produce is for the most part done in the Birmingham district. We have, in round numbers, 40 boys under 13, 60 between 13 and 18, and 250 male adults; besides these there about 25 young women in the warehouse. Our system is to pay one man by the piece, who hires and pays others to help him; in one set there may be a dozen men and boys in some cases. The boys' work is to carry things about, and to rub off the castings, as you see in foundries generally. The hours are 6 A.M. to 6 P.M., with the usual meal-times; perhaps for a month in the year they make 2½ hours a day overtime; that is caused chiefly through sudden orders for vessels. We have a large shipping business, especially to Australia.

At about 15 the lads are bound to the men for six years generally, to learn the trade; they pay their master 1*s.* 6*d.* a week out of their earnings instead of a premium. I should say that not one half of them can read; they are not in any way ill-treated, so far as I know.

Lancashire tools.

127. *Mr. Woodward* and *Messrs. Jones*, Lancashire-tool makers, Prescot, informed me, that although their own hours at the present time were from 6 A.M. to 7 P.M., the usual trade hours in all the small shops and smithies scattered up and down the district were still 6 A.M. to 8 P.M., with two hours for meals. Work, they said, was very dull, and few apprentices were being taken. The workshops were very ill adapted for holding the number of persons, who worked in them, when times were more favourable.

Clog-irons.

128. *Mr. Harrison*, Bury.—There are only four or five master clog-iron makers in Bury. They employ one or two men and a couple of lads; none of them are under 12, I should say; they punch the holes in the irons. There's not much learning among them, but these have been to school; most have in Bury. They take it easy at work. The hours are not very regular, but we don't work much after 6 P.M.

129. Messrs. Kendal and Gent.

Gas burners.

We have 11 under 13, and 18 between 13 and 18. The young ones are all making gas burners; each has a machine to himself, and does one particular step in the process. One makes the bars even for cutting, another drills the holes, a third saws, or puts the slit in the top, and so on. All the machines are worked by steam, and are small and light. Many of the boys are very poor and ignorant. At 14 a boy earns from 4*s.* 6*d.* to 6*s.* a

week; one, last week, earned 6*s.* 11*d.* There is a man to look after them. If they are sharp, we promote them to the machine shop; there they are bound as apprentices. They lose at first by that, for they only get 5*s.* a week for their first year. We don't work them over-hours, there is no use in it.

[130. Very few could read decently. One of 16 said he had forgotten all he had ever learned; one of 13 could only spell out short words; another of 15, who had been there five years, had had "no schooling to speak of."]

Metal Manufactures of Lancashire.

Mr. W. H. Lord.

C.

At the Manchester Ordnance and Rifle Company's Works.

Bullets.

131. *Barland.*—Am 16 years old; have been here 18 months; was in a factory before; have worked at lead bullet casting here; that makes some of them sick; they are not kept to it long, but are changed about; one had to be taken off, and put to other work; I wasn't hurt. Some boys could cast 3,000 a day, 10 at a run, that is. Am working till 7 P.M. now from 6 A.M.; have been doing so for some time; we scarce ever stop after 7.

132. *James Shelmerdine.*—Am 13; have been here two years; I make hexagonal and cylindrical projectile cases; they are made of thin stiff brown paper pasted; that is where the paste on my jacket front comes from. Am working till 7 P.M. now; we often do; have never been later; helped my father in making umbrellas at home before I came here; can read and write.

[133. Nearly all the lads employed at the works of the Manchester Ordnance and Rifle Company could read tolerably well. The foreman of the department, where the hexagonal bullets were made told me that 15 of the younger boys were engaged in casting and dressing, and in the various processes, in which machinery is used for preparing the bullet. They were paid by the piece, and a boy of 14 frequently earned as much as 5*s.* 6*d.* a week; one of that age, who made the lubricating wads, earned 10*s.*; he was a fast worker, and turned out 4,000 a day. He considered that the unhealthiness of lead casting depended chiefly on the amount of ventilation. The instance mentioned by the witness Barland was the only one that had occurred in the two years of the Company's existence. He was very delicate all along. But in some places, where the ventilation was not cared for, as it was on these works, the lead casting was very injurious. No system of binding the boys as apprentices was adopted here.

In addition to those above referred to, others were engaged in preparing the cartridge paper as "bullet wrappers" or "tube rollers;" the older ones were turning the hexagonal bullets.

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TWENTY-FIFTH REPORT

ON

PRISONS IN SCOTLAND:

BEING

(IN CONTINUATION OF THE REPORTS OF THE LATE GENERAL BOARD OF PRISONS)

THE THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE MANAGERS APPOINTED UNDER THE PRISONS (SCOTLAND) ADMINISTRATION ACT 1860.

TO THE RIGHT HON. SIR GEORGE GREY, BARONET,

ONE OF HER MAJESTY'S PRINCIPAL SECRETARIES OF STATE

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

EDINBURGH:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY THOMAS CONSTABLE.

1864.

[3266]

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THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE MANAGERS APPOINTED UNDER THE PRISONS (SCOTLAND) ADMINISTRATION ACT.

TO THE RIGHT HON. SIR GEORGE GREY, BARONET,

One of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.

11, Melbourne Place,
Edinburgh, 10*th February* 1864.

Sir,

We have the honour to lay before you our Third Report, under the provisions of Section 60 of 'The Prisons (*Scotland*) Administration Act 1860:—

Statutory directions for Annual Report to Secretary of State.

In that Section it is enacted, that 'the Managers shall, on or before the 15th day 'of *February* in every year, make and transmit to one of Her Majesty's Principal 'Secretaries of State a full Report of their whole proceedings during the year ending 'on the 31st day of *December* preceding, and an Abstract of their whole receipts and 'expenditure, classifying the separate articles thereof; and in the said Report, or in 'the Appendix thereto, there shall be set forth all new rules or alterations of rules for 'Prisons which shall have been made by such Secretary of State as aforesaid, any 'orders issued by such Secretary of State constituting a new Prison or altering 'the classes of prisoners for which a Prison is legal, and such information and statistics 'regarding Prisons in *Scotland* as such Secretary of State may require; and a copy of 'every such Report shall be laid before both Houses of Parliament within fourteen 'days after the 15th day of *February*, if then assembled, or if Parliament shall not be 'then assembled, within fourteen days after the next meeting thereof.'

The Managers.

The Managers consist of the Sheriff of Perth, the Inspector of Prisons for Scotland, and the Crown Agent in Scotland, all *ex officio*, along with one person appointed by Her Majesty to be Stipendiary Manager and Secretary to the Managers.

CUSTODY OF CONVICTS AND MANAGEMENT OF THE GENERAL PRISON.

The General Prison for Scotland at Perth is constituted for the reception of—

The Classes of Prisoners admitted to General Prison.

1*st*, Prisoners sentenced to imprisonment by the Courts of Law in Scotland. Such prisoners under sentence to nine months' imprisonment and upwards, are removed from Local Prisons to the General Prison, under the statutory powers of the Managers, unless the sentence should contain a clause specially declaring that the prisoner shall not be removed to the General Prison. Prisoners sentenced to shorter periods can be removed to the Prison by the Secretary of State under his statutory powers, should an occasion occur for their exercise.

Sentenced to Imprisonment.

2*d*, Convicts under sentences of transportation or of penal servitude. These are removed to the Prison by order under the hand of the Secretary of State.

Convicts.

3*d*, Criminal Lunatics, viz.:—(1.) Persons who have been placed at Her Majesty's disposal on the ground of insanity, either at the time when they committed the offence charged against them, or at the time of trial; and (2.) Prisoners who have become insane while undergoing punishment.

Criminal Lunatics.

App. No. VI.

Referring for more full particulars to the Appendix, the following Table sets forth the distribution of the accommodation at our disposal, and the manner in which it was occupied throughout the year.

GENERAL PRISON.

Penal Department.

I. Accommodation—	Males.	Females.	Both.
Cells,	346	377	723
Dormitories,	...	18	18
Average Occupation of Hospitals,	12	17	29
Total,	358	412	770

II. Occupation—	Prisoners Sentenced				Both.
	To Imprisonment.		To Transportation or to Penal Servitude.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
At commencement of the year,	239	123	...	283	645
Admitted during the year,	254	136	130	38	558
Total,	493	259	130	321	1203
Disposed of during the year,	232	128	56	104	520
In custody at the end of the year,	261	131	74	217	683
Daily average throughout the year,	252	131	60	240	683

Lunatic Department.

I. Accommodation—	Males.	Females.	Total.
Apartments for	33	13	46

II. Occupation—	Inmates.		
	M.	F.	Both.
At commencement of the year,	20	10	30
Admitted during the year,	2	2	4
Total,	22	12	34
Disposed of during the year,	2	...	2
Inmates at the end of the year,	20	12	32
Daily average throughout the year,	20	11	31

PRISON OF AYR.

(For Female Convicts only.)

I. Accommodation—	
Cells,	99

II. Occupation—	
At the commencement of the year,	...
Admitted during the year,	84
Total,	84
Disposed of during the year,	18
In custody at the end of the year,	66
Daily average throughout the year,	35

We append, according to the practice adopted by the late General Board, Reports by the chief Officers of the General Prison down to the close of the year, referring to them for information on the following particulars, viz. :— Reports by Chief Officers.

To the Governor's Report for information on— App. No. VI.

- The adjustment of the Staff, and the conduct of the Officers.
- The general Statistics of the Establishment.
- The Discipline of Prisoners.
- The Labour of Prisoners.
- The Industrial Training of Prisoners.
- The Exercise of Prisoners.
- The Conduct of Prisoners.
- The Receipts and Expenditure, and the relative Cost of the Establishment. App. No. XIV.

To the Chaplain's Report for— App. No. XV.

- The Religious and Secular Instruction of Prisoners.
- The Educational Statistics.
- The Prospects and Condition of Liberated Prisoners.
- Re-imprisonments and other matters bearing generally on the Moral influence of the Discipline.

To the Resident Surgeon's Report for— App. No. XVI.

- The Health, mental and bodily, of Prisoners.
- The Illnesses, and their Causes and Treatment.
- The Deaths.
- The Management of the Lunatic Department.
- The Management of the Hospital Department.
- The general Sanitary Condition of the Establishment.

The Appendix also contains—

1. An analysis of the ages and corresponding sentences of all the prisoners who were, during the year, in the Prison, exclusive of the Lunatic Department. App. No. VII.
2. Table of the number of prisoners received during the year from each county in Scotland. App. No. VIII.
3. Abstract of Returns as to character and conduct of male Juveniles liberated since 1st January 1848. App. No. IX.

In our last Report we had to state that towards the end of the year the health of the Governor was such as to render him unfit for duty. He died on the 26th February. You were pleased to appoint as his successor Mr. Frederic S. Parkyn, a gentleman of experience connected with the English Convict Service, who entered on his duties on 20th May. The only other change of importance among the Resident Officers was on the reception of male Convicts, to be afterwards mentioned, when a re-adjustment of the Staff of Warders became necessary. Staff.

During the year before last the qualifications of the Civil Service Commission were gradually extended to the General Prison, in the manner more fully stated in our last Report. In order to secure to the service officers so qualified, the scale of salaries was revised, and considerably enlarged in the subordinate branches. We have now had some experience of this joint change, and are able to say that it has raised the condition of the Officers at our disposal. At the same time, it has been difficult to bring under your notice as candidates for the service persons who are able both to pass the examinations of the Civil Service, and to perform in a satisfactory manner the duties of subordinate Officers. Civil Service Qualifications.

Since the death of the late Dr. Malcom in October 1859, the office of Visiting Physician had remained vacant. The late General Board recorded in their minutes the view that it would be expedient to obtain for that office the services of some eminent medical man not necessarily residing in Perth. We concurred in this view. Having every confidence in the skill and zeal of the Resident Surgeon, Mr. Thomson, we have felt it unnecessary that he should be under a medical superior attached to the establishment. At the same time, in a Prison, which is exceptional to all other Government prisons, not only in the variety of the classes of prisoners admitted to it, but in containing the National Establishment for the Criminal Lunatics of Scotland, we felt the importance of having the assistance of the highest medical and sanitary science obtainable. The object was not so much to obtain additional attendance within the Prison, as to introduce the medical element into the management, by the appointment of a professional adviser to the Managers. For this purpose we were so fortunate as to obtain, through your nomination, the services of Professor Christison, of the University of Edinburgh, Visiting Physician.

whose reputation renders it superfluous to make any remark on the efficiency with which the duties of the office are likely to be performed.

Premises.

During the year, new offices for the Governor, Steward, and Clerks were completed and occupied. Their erection was sanctioned by you on account of the old offices having been found deleterious to health. One of the airing-yards originally fenced off into separate areas, was converted into the open-airing circle for male prisoners, to be presently referred to. The conversion of the old Juvenile Department into an establishment for the Criminal Lunatics of Scotland, referred to at length in our last Report, was nearly completed at the end of the year. The erection of new houses for warders, contemplated for some years, has not yet been begun, as the final arrangements regarding them were contingent on the other changes just referred to being completed. At the end of the year, all the available premises were in thorough repair.

Hospital accommodation.

The hospital accommodation is distributed over six wards, being for the reception of the sick, the epileptics, and the imbeciles of each sex. In our estimate of the accommodation of the Prison, we do not count the total available room in the hospital wards, as we cannot calculate on their being filled, and by including space usually unoccupied, might convey a false impression of the numbers which the Prison could receive. But it is proper to include the average accommodation, as this represents the number in ordinary circumstances removed from cells which they render available for the reception of healthy prisoners.

Discipline.

The continued ill-health of the late Governor, following as it did the loss by sickness and death of the services of other valuable officers, rendered the condition of the discipline at the commencement of last year a matter of much anxiety. It is now, to the best of our belief, in a very satisfactory state.

Separation.

The discipline of prisoners sentenced to imprisonment, and of convicts during the first or probation period, continues to be the separate system. The method of it has been so fully set forth in the previous Reports of the series, that it seems unnecessary further to enlarge on it. The Managers have seen nothing to shake their belief that, for such length of time as Prisoners can be subject to it without detriment to their bodily or mental health, it is the best method of Prison discipline that has hitherto been tried, and they are confirmed in this view by the recent Select Committee of the House of Lords on the Prisons of England, who state that 'they consider that the system 'generally known as the separate system must now be accepted as the foundation of 'Prison discipline, and that its rigid maintenance is a vital principle to the efficiency of 'county and burgh gaols.'

Report from the Select Committee of the House of Lords on the present state of the Discipline in Gaols and Houses of Correction, p. 5.

In our last Report we referred to the specialty in the practice of the separate discipline, that while it could be made entirely effectual in suppressing contaminating communications, it was found unavailable to accomplish the object once expected from it, of preventing criminals from identifying each other as present in the prison. The minute precautions adapted to this end have consequently been one by one abandoned.

Open Airing-yard.

During the past year, one of the partitioned airing-yards, in which each prisoner occupied a separate small area, was removed, and circles were laid down in the open space, in which the prisoners walk, equidistant from each other, in single file. The change cannot fail to be beneficial to health. At the same time, under officers who are vigilant and fully understand their duty, the opportunity thus afforded of more thorough inspection enables them to carry out discipline with more satisfactory completeness than under an arrangement in which the prisoners were more or less out of sight during the time of exercise in the open air.

Female Convicts.

It has now been for some years an established principle in the Convict Service throughout the Empire, that convicts cannot with safety be subjected to the separate system beyond a limited period. It has been fixed at nine months for male and a year for female convicts. After that period, called the probationary period, means are taken to change the discipline at stated intervals. The recent inquiries into convict discipline, and other circumstances, seem to render it probable that the service may soon receive new instructions from you affecting the whole question of convict discipline. Hence we have not suggested to you any fundamental changes in the arrangements for varying the discipline of advanced convicts described in our previous Reports. The lapse of each year no doubt demands a special consideration of the discipline appropriate to those who were sentenced to long periods about the time when the Prison was opened for female convicts in 1855, since the treatment depends on a mixed consideration of the duration of the sentence, and the proportion of it that has to be undergone; but we have been able without any material deviation from the rules to deal with the specialties of this small number of cases. Among the means of creating hope and an interest in life among those who are in the later years of long sentences, through which they have con-

ducted themselves becomingly, we have found the permission to cultivate little patches of ground during the time of exercise beneficial.

Reception of Male Convicts.

For some years female Convicts only had been retained in Scotland, males having been immediately after sentence removed to the Convict Establishments in England. Early in the year you were pleased to communicate to us your desire that a portion of the General Prison should be placed at your disposal for the reception of male Convicts. Room was made for them by the removal of a portion of the female Convicts to Ayr, as elsewhere reported. As the female occupants of the Prison had hitherto always largely exceeded the male, it had been necessary to reserve for the former two Wings and a half out of the four Wings constituting the Main Prison. There was consequently a partition across one of the Wings, dividing it so that one portion of it was occupied by men, the other by women. In contemplation of the reception of male Prisoners, this partition was removed, greatly to the benefit of the structural condition of the Prison, which now consists of two Wings reserved for male and two for female Prisoners.

The first detachment of male Convicts was received on 23d February 1863. Among these some were Englishmen, who had been convicted and sentenced to penal servitude by the English Courts. Their reception forced on us the conviction that it would be judicious to restrict the small amount of accommodation at our disposal to Convicts sentenced in Scotland, for the following reasons :—(1.) If there is any remnant of the good influence of the domestic affections in the Convict himself, or his immediate relations, it is less likely to be extinguished when his conviction does not immediately carry him out of the country. (2.) When Prison Officers desire to obtain that knowledge of the character and ways of Prisoners, which so eminently assists them in accomplishing the purposes of Prison discipline, they are obviously more likely to be successful with their own countrymen than with strangers. (3.) The religious services of the Prison follow the form prevalent in Scotland; and lastly, we have found that English Convicts are dissatisfied with the food which satisfies, and is considered sufficient for the proper sustenance of Convicts who have passed the greater part of their lives in Scotland. On our stating these views you were pleased to inform us that it was your intention that the available cells in the General Prison should be occupied, so far as might be practicable, by Scotch Convicts only.

Distribution of Male Convicts.

After they have undergone separate confinement for a period of nine months, calculated from the date of conviction, male Convicts are removed to Public Works in England, unless the state of their health renders it necessary that they should be detained in the establishment for invalid Convicts. Although under no responsibility for the discipline to which these Convicts are subjected after their removal from Scotland, the Managers take this opportunity of stating their satisfaction in the prospect that some practical improvement may arise out of a suggestion by the recent Commission on Penal Servitude, to the effect that 'it would be desirable that Convicts should 'be divided into bodies, not exceeding from two to three hundred each; and that these 'bodies should be prevented from having any communication with each other.' The Managers hope it may be found practicable, in any such distribution, to keep in view the separation from other Convicts of those convicted in Scotland. The Managers cannot doubt that any arrangement by which these are associated with large bodies of criminals trained in London and other large towns, sends them back to Scotland more fully accomplished in the mysteries of crime than they were before. As an element in the important consideration connected with this question, the Managers cannot overlook the recent change which they have elsewhere to report in the tendency of the Prison statistics of Scotland—a change from a systematic and continuous annual decrease, to an increase which threatens to become equally systematic.

Report by the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the operation of the Acts relating to Transportation and Penal Servitude, p. 42.

Association of Male Convicts.

In some instances the state of accommodation in the English Convict Establishments has not permitted the removal of male Convicts at the end of the nine months, in which the existing rules require them to be kept in separation. Although the Department for male Prisoners is constructed for carrying out the separate system of discipline, advantage has been taken of some structural facilities which it offers, for the association of the small number thus occasionally left beyond nine months, because, being expressly told in the notices addressed to them, that if their conduct is good they are only to be kept for that period in separation, a deviation from the announcement would have an injurious effect on their discipline.

Dietary of Male Convicts.

In the reception of male Convicts the nature and quantity of their food became an object of important consideration. We were aware that the dietary of ordinary Prisoners would not suffice for Convicts, because the greater length of their sentences has a

depressing influence on their constitutions which requires to be counteracted; and to fit them for the labour of Public Works they require to leave the Prison not merely in sound health, but in a condition of bodily strength. We had, in considering this matter, the advantage of knowing the results of previous experience and inquiry in Scotland, and also of studying the information contained in the Reports of the Directors of Convict Prisons for England. With the assistance of these, and the advice of Dr. Christison and Mr. Thomson the Resident Surgeon, we formed an experimental dietary, which seemed to have the merit of being nutritious, without being in the slightest degree luxurious. Knowing how frequently mistakes are made in fixed dietaries, while we transmitted to you an early report of our experiment, we forbore, until we should be able to speak from further experience, requesting you to sanction the dietary in question as a permanent rule. We refer to the Report of the Resident Surgeon for the dietary itself, and for an instructive account of observations made by him, with the view of testing its soundness as a dietary for male Convicts in the probationary stage. The result of these observations appears to be very satisfactory.

Liberations on License or Tickets of Leave.

We append a Tabular Record of the circumstances under which 82 female Convicts were liberated during the year on order of license granted by you, under the Home Office regulations for remitting a portion of the sentences of those Convicts whose conduct in Prison has been such as to entitle them, in your opinion, to the privilege. In all these cases, with the exception of Nos. 12 and 41, the period of remission granted coincided with the recommendations in the special reports transmitted to you by the Managers, in terms of your instructions. In the performance of this function they have followed the principle commenced by the late General Board, and followed in the two previous years by themselves. Being under the impression that the exercise of any material influence over the length of the sentences of criminals, is not a function suitable to executive officers intrusted with their custody, the Managers have continued to take the longest period remissible in the Secretary of State's scale as the general rule, making any deduction from it only in the instances where the Convict has misbehaved and become amenable to punishment. On this principle it will be seen that the deductions recommended by us have been few and brief. In sixty instances, the Convict was allowed the full period of remission, and the largest deduction from the full period recommended by us in any case during the year was two and a half months.

§ 61.

Monthly Visits of Inspection.

In the Prisons Administration Act it is provided, that 'one or more of the 'Managers shall, once at least in each month, see and communicate with each Prisoner, 'shall examine the books, accounts, and documents kept in the Prison, shall inspect 'the Prison premises and stores, shall examine into the conduct of the several officers, 'shall investigate all complaints, and alleged or apparent abuses or deviations from the 'rules, shall inquire into the cause and nature of every punishment that has been 'administered, shall ascertain how far the health, education, and industrial training 'of the Prisoners are in a satisfactory condition, and shall make a report, in writing, 'under these heads, which shall be laid before and specially considered by the 'Managers.'

In carrying these directions into full effect, as we did throughout the year, we were naturally brought into close intercourse with the inmates of the Prison, and had opportunities of observing the effect produced on them by their sentences, and the discipline under which these were carried out. What chiefly struck us under these opportunities was the good influence which a feeling of security, as to their claims and prospects, exercises on the behaviour of Prisoners. When it has occurred, as it sometimes has, that a class of Prisoners can be told no more than the fact of their disposal being still under the consideration of the higher authorities, they have generally been found patiently to wait the issue. When, however, owing to any accidents in the rearrangements of the remission of sentences by license, Convicts had formed expectations which they find are not to be realized, they become restless and suspicious, and necessitate precautions against turbulence. In the case of associated Convicts the news of some such disappointment spreads suspicion among the rest, and more mischief may be done by a single instance, in which there is the slightest ground for pleading breach of faith, than the best devices of Prison discipline can repair.

Establishment for Criminal Lunatics.

In our two immediately preceding Reports will be found an account of the circumstances under which you sanctioned an alteration in the buildings of the General Prison for rendering the Lunatic Department more suitable than it had been, as an establishment for the reception of the Criminal Lunatics of Scotland. We expect the new works to be speedily completed; and with enlarged premises, and enlarged legislative powers for filling them, it will come to be, in some measure, a question how the classes of persons

to be admitted to the Department as Criminal Lunatics are to be defined. The question, of course, derives its chief importance in as far as it affects the placing under the control of responsible Government officers, the class of lunatics, who, for public reasons, ought to be under such control. A secondary importance attaches to it, in the fact that relations and local authorities are relieved from the maintenance of inmates of the Lunatic Department, who thus came to be maintained at the cost of the Treasury.

In the first place, all Prisoners becoming insane in the General Prison are removed to this Department. Their insanity, before transfer, is certified by two medical men, and there is a like certificate of recovery before they are restored to the Penal Department. By the Act of 1862, persons who have been placed at Her Majesty's disposal, on the ground of insanity, either at the time when they committed the offence charged against them, or at the time of trial, find their way, in the first place, to the Lunatic Department of the General Prison, whence they are removed only if Her Majesty should think fit otherwise to dispose of them. We have a discretionary power to remove to this Department any Prisoner under sentence, however short, in a Local Prison, on his insanity being duly certified. This function renders available, in the case of Prisoners who would not otherwise be transferred to the General Prison, that clause which empowers the Secretary of State to authorize the detention, beyond the period of his sentence, of an insane Prisoner in the General Prison. We, consequently, never order the removal of a Prisoner under short sentence to the General Prison, with a view of his admission to the Lunatic Department, unless we feel satisfied that the case is one in which we can apply to you for authority to detain him there after the expiry of his sentence. It is important to keep this in view, because some County Boards have pressed us to use the powers of the Act of 1862, to relieve them of troublesome Prisoners, merely during the period of their sentences. It may be the case that the Lunacy Laws of Scotland do not provide a sufficiently prompt remedy for such a difficulty, but the Lunatic Department of the General Prison was not intended for such a purpose, and, if it were, does not contain sufficient accommodation for giving effect to it.

25 and 26 Vict. c. 54, § 20.

§ 22.

§ 19.

We have again to record our thanks to Her Majesty's Commissioners in Lunacy for the valuable assistance they have given us in the management of this department.

The state of health of the inmates of the General Prison has, during the year, been eminently satisfactory. We refer for the particulars of its condition to the Resident Surgeon's Report. It will there be seen that the only serious outbreak of disease was in the form of gastric fever. It was of short duration, and did not spread beyond a small number of patients.

Health.

App. No. XVI.

The Industrial Department of the General Prison has been conducted during the year very much to our satisfaction. It is an object, as far as practicable, to preserve his trade to every Prisoner who has one, and to train in some tolerably remunerative trade those who have none. Notwithstanding some difficulties in the state of the markets, the sale of manufactured produce has been carried on with great success, through the energetic management of Mr. Cruickshank, the steward, in whose hands there has never remained during the year any considerable stock of unsold articles.

Industrial Department.

The Rules for the Government of the General Prison and the Management of Convicts in Scotland, are at present to be found, some of them in Acts of Parliament, others in 'The Rules for Prisons in Scotland,' certified by the Secretary of State in 1854, and others again in separate regulations adopted chiefly by the late General Board, with special reference to the discipline of Convicts. We had intended to embody all these scattered regulations into a compact code, to be submitted for your consideration; but an impression, confirmed by the appointment of the late Commission, that the whole system of Convict discipline throughout the empire is likely to be revised, induced us to believe that it would be desirable to postpone this duty.

Rules for the Government of the General Prison.

To facilitate the reception of male Convicts into the General Prison, as already referred to, you sanctioned an arrangement for the detention of female Convicts in the County Prison of Ayr. By their engagement the Prison Board of that county agree to maintain them at the rate of £26 a year for each. In adjusting this as the sum total, it was understood that about £5 of it might be held as representing the rent of the Convict's cell. The County Board bound themselves to give effect, so far as practicable, to the regulations for female Convicts in the General Prison; and for this branch of the service being properly carried out the Managers look to their agreement with the County Board, and to the powers conferred on them by the Prisons Act for visiting and reporting on Local Prisons. We append a Table of the Statistics of the Convict Department of the Prison of Ayr.

Detention of Female Convicts in the Prison of Ayr.

App. No. XX.

MISCELLANEOUS FUNCTIONS.

Statistics of Prisons and Prisoners.

In the preparation and correction of the large body of statistics appended, according to usual practice, to their Report, the Managers have to acknowledge the cordial and attentive assistance of the Local Officers, to whom the transmission of the necessary returns is committed. In a Circular Letter which was printed in the Twenty-third Report on Prisons, Secretary Sir George Cornewall Lewis, in reference to these statistics, informed each County Board that, while he would ever be ready to attend to such communications as were considered of sufficient importance to be specially referred to him, he thought it would be less troublesome, and more conducive to the public service, that the correspondence as to the supplying of these statistics should be conducted directly with the Managers, and expressed a hope that County Boards would co-operate harmoniously with us in rendering the Statistics of Prisons in Scotland accurate and complete.

This hope has been very amply realized, and in no single instance have the Managers yet had to apply to the Secretary of State to exercise the powers conferred on him by section 19 of the Prisons Act, or to take any other steps for remedying irregularities in the fulfilment by the Officers of County Boards of the duties enjoined on them by the Statute. Once only have the Managers been unable to obtain a return of any importance from the Clerk of a County Board; and this omission will be found noted in page 69 of the Twenty-third Report on Prisons, as rendering the valuable Table of Assessments there printed incomplete. The Managers had great difficulty in obtaining from the Clerk of the same County Board the returns necessary to complete the present Report, and they had just resolved to apply to you for assistance in the matter, when, after several unanswered applications, the returns were at last completed.

From the large Prisons the returns when received are generally complete and accurate. Those sent from the smaller Prisons, where the Officers are apt to be less precise and expert in the use of figures, sometimes require an interchange of questions and explanations to bring them to the proper point of completeness and accuracy. In the Schedules in which these statistics are returned, various entries, either directly or by calculation respond when accurate with each other, and thus afford a self-acting check on the accuracy of the whole. On some points the information is intended to show the number of persons who, in each county and throughout the country collectively, have been apprehended and put in Prison during the year; and in filling up this element care must be taken to exclude those already in Prison at the commencement of the period, and to count once only those who are passed on from one Prison to another. Other elements, however, such as the conduct of the inmates of the several Prisons, must include all who have been at any time within their walls. Thus, in No. 23 of Table III., which contains the summary of the record of the conduct of all the prisoners as 'good,' 'tolerable,' and 'bad,' the sum total, 25,583, will be found to correspond with that of the total number who have been in confinement in the several Prisons during the year, as contained in No. 4, while the total for each Prison will be found also precisely to coincide in the two Tables. In collecting the ages of prisoners, however, the object is of course to afford data for estimating the number and relative proportions of those who at each age are committed to Prison. Hence those who were in confinement at the commencement of the period are omitted, and those transferred from Prison to Prison are counted only in one of the Prisons they have occupied. Thus the total number received during the period, as enumerated in Table III., No. 3, is 23,304; of these there were removed to other Prisons 852, leaving 22,452, which is the total number accounted for in Table III., No. 14, where the number committed in each of five stages of life is given in detail. The two Education Tables (25), separating those who could not read, from those who could read imperfectly and well respectively, and making a corresponding division under ability to write, exhaust the same number, 22,452.

There is still a small element of inaccuracy which cannot be overcome without introducing into the Returns a laxness which might render them still more inaccurate. At the end of the year comprehended by them, there are always a few prisoners who are immediately afterwards removed to other Prisons. These having been enumerated in the Prison in which the close of the year finds them, are again enumerated next year in the Prison to which they are removed. In a comparison of one year with another, means will be found for rectifying the sum total of the whole, as well as the sum of each Prison, through Table III., No. 5, which contains the numbers of removals during the year, separating those of prisoners in confinement at the commencement from those received

during the year. It happens that in the present Tables, over a total number of 25,583 who occupied the Prisons during the year, 136 having been in Prison at the end of the previous year, have been included in the statistics of that year, and having been removed and admitted into other Prisons during the year ending in 1863, have been again enumerated in the Table of ages and state of education. The number of 136, however, is unusually large, and has been swollen by there happening to be in the Prison of Edinburgh, 26, and in the Prison of Glasgow, 37, prisoners awaiting removal at the conclusion of the present year.

One element in which the Managers have no means of testing the accuracy of the Returns until they are compared with those of the succeeding year, is the number stated to be in Prison at the end of the period. It will be seen, on comparing Table III., No. 2, which enumerates those in Prison at the commencement of the period, with Table V., No. 9 of the 24th Report, containing the 'number at the end of the period, viz., at midnight 'on 30th June 1862,' that they are identical, with the exception that there is a difference of a unit in the totals of the civil prisoners, arising from the keeper of the Prison of Dunblane having omitted to enter a civil prisoner in his custody on 30th June 1862.

Separation in Local Prisons.

Table III., No. 13, is of importance as a record of the extent to which the system of Separate Confinement is carried into effect in the Prisons of Scotland. The general rule on this point is, that 'as far as the accommodation of the Prison will admit, every 'adult untried prisoner, and every convicted prisoner sentenced to confinement for 60 'days or under, shall be kept in a separate cell, as shall every adult convicted prisoner, 'whatever be the length of his imprisonment.' Some years ago, when the average daily number of prisoners was about 3000 —in 1849, for instance, the number was 3143—want of accommodation much impeded the enforcement of this rule. In the year 1849-50, the daily average number not in separate confinement throughout the Local Prisons, was reported as in all 1689. When, during the subsequent 10 years, the daily average fell to about 2000, there was naturally more room for giving effect to the principle; and for the year 1859-60, the number not in separation will be found to have decreased to 322. The late gradual increase in the number of prisoners will naturally, in the districts where it occurs, cause some pressure on the separate accommodation. It will be seen that under Table III., No. 7, the total average daily number of prisoners was 2285, and this is the number accounted for in Table III., No. 13, under three heads, namely, 1st, 'In separate confinement;' 2d, 'Not in separate confinement but under immediate 'and constant superintendence;' and 3d, 'Neither in separate confinement nor under 'immediate and constant superintendence.' Under the two latter heads, as not in separation, the total number was 343, a slight increase since 1860.*

Rules for Prisons in Scotland, No. 68.

12th Report, p. 69.

22d Report, p. 43.

A confusing element is saved by limiting the above inmates to Local Prisons, omitting the inmates of the General Prison from the calculations. When there are not separate vacant cells there for the classes of prisoners for whom separation is the rule, they are not received. There is, at the same time, a considerable body of prisoners there as to whom association is the rule, viz., Convicts in advanced stages and Criminal Lunatics.

Statistics of Lunacy.

In any comparison between the Prison statistics of Scotland and those of other parts of the empire, it will be necessary to keep in view a special element in the enumeration of the Insane Prisoners, who during the year have been inmates of the General Prison. This Prison contains the Government Establishment for Criminal Lunatics in Scotland. The Tables therefore not only include those who during detention have become insane, and dangerous lunatics at large who have been committed to a Prison as a place of temporary safe custody, but also those classes of criminal lunatics permanently in the charge of the Government, for whom in England the Asylum of Broadmoor, and in Ireland that of Dundrum, are supported.

App. No. XVIII.

Average daily number in the Prisons throughout Scotland.

The following Tabular Abstract, constructed on the principles explained in our last Report, brings down to the close of the year 1863 the average daily number of inmates of the Prisons in Scotland, as furnished in preceding Reports. In comparing the numbers with those in the Tables printed in the Appendix, it must be kept in view that these latter cover the twelve months ending in June, while this Table brings the Abstract down to the end of December.

* The Managers observe that the Select Committee of the House of Lords who recently reported 'on the 'state of Discipline in Gaols and Houses of Correction,' have found in the Prisons of England and Wales 'association, or a mixed system of association and separation,' so prevalent as to demand an immediate legislative remedy. This state of matters so far bears on the attempts to ameliorate Prison discipline in Scotland, that however thoroughly these may be carried out, they have no fair scope to produce their legitimate influences on the condition of crime throughout Scotland, if the Scotch Convicts are sent back to the country after a companionship with criminals who have been accustomed to a system of discipline avowedly deteriorating.

Table of average numbers of Prisoners since 1840.

Average Daily Number of Prisoners in the Prisons of Scotland from 1840 to 1863 inclusive.

Period.	Civil.			Criminal.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
In 1840	98	10	108	1,264	676	1,940
1841	90	7	97	1,222	742	1,964
1842	88	6	94	1,557	865	2,422
1843	84	6	90	1,499	789	2,288
1844	83	5	88	1,492	766	2,258
1845	69	5	74	1,323	769	2,092
1846	54	6	60	1,359	848	2,207
1847	44	2	46	1,596	932	2,528
1848	51	2	53	1,928	1,041	2,969
1849	58	4	62	2,035	1,108	3,143
1850	68	1	69	1,974	1,016	2,990
1851	75	1	76	1,885	1,015	2,900
1852	78	4	82	1,915	1,004	2,919
1853	66	2	68	1,771	953	2,724
1854	55	4	59	1,742	924	2,666
1855	57	5	62	1,452	864	2,316
1856	69	3	72	1,239	971	2,210
1857	56	2	58	1,196	1,005	2,201
1858	70	2	72	1,119	995	2,114
1859	69	1	70	1,098	1,093	2,191
1860	62	2	64	1,044	1,057	2,101
1861	57	2	59	1,072	1,011	2,083
1862	68	2	70	1,211	1,014	2,225
1863	81	2	83	1,347	1,055	2,402

Increase of inmates of Prisons.

For twelve years the Annual Reports on Prisons in Scotland led to the satisfactory conclusion that crime, as far as it was represented by imprisonment, was each year steadily decreasing. This tendency turned suddenly in the year 1861. In the early part of that year the number which, as the above Table will show, had in 1849 exceeded 3000, had sunk below 2000. There was a distinct and rapid increase towards the end of that year, but the decrease at the commencement had been so large as to keep the whole year below the average of its predecessors. It will be seen that the increase has made steady progress during the two ensuing years. To ascertain the actual influence of the last number in the Table, it is necessary to make an allowance for male Convicts who in previous years were removed to England. The average daily number of these was 60, and this number deducted from 2402, the average daily number for the year 1863, gives 2342. As the number for the previous year was 2225, the actual increase is 117. This is rather a smaller increase than that of 1862 over 1861, which will be seen to have been 142. The increase continued down to the end of the year. For the quarter ending on 30th September, the nett increase over the numbers for the corresponding quarter of the previous year was 114, and the increase in the last quarter of the year was 200. The simplest means of obtaining a rapid view of the special classes of imprisonments out of which the elements of the aggregate increases and decreases above referred to have arisen, will be by consulting the general Table near the commencement of the Appendix.

App. No. II.

Suicide.

Under the directions of the Statute we have to state that one act of suicide has been reported as having occurred in a Prison in Scotland within the year. It was by an untried male Prisoner in the Prison of Lanark. He hanged or strangled himself by fixing his cravat to a hook for suspending a hammock on, not above three feet from the ground. There seems no reason to suppose that any Prison Officer was to blame for the calamity.

Escapes.

The following escapes have been reported during the year from Prisons in Scotland :—

1st, On the 21st of February a convicted male Prisoner, under sentence of sixty days' imprisonment, from the Prison of Tain, in the county of Ross.

The County Board having, by your desire, investigated the case, expressed their opinion, 'that little or no blame can be attached to the Keeper of Tain Prison, but that the

'Prisoner's escape was attributable to defective arrangements in the Prison buildings, 'which the Board was unaware of, and propose immediately to remedy.'

2d, On the 26th of July, a convicted male Prisoner, under sentence of twenty days' imprisonment, from the Prison of Greenock.

This Prison has long been pronounced insecure, and as its general condition is under your consideration, we did not recommend that any special inquiry should be instituted as to this escape.

On the 15th of June a formidable attempt to escape, accompanied by an assault on an officer, was made by three Prisoners in the Prison of Paisley. It appeared, from the discovery of false keys and other preparations, to have been preconcerted. A Warder, whose conduct appeared to have been culpable, was dismissed, and you expressed yourself satisfied with the investigation and other proceedings taken by the County Board on the occasion.

Closing of Prison of Cullen.

The Prison Board of the County of Banff having laid before you reasons for discontinuing the Prison of Cullen, you were pleased, after calling on us to report to you on the subject, to issue an order under Section 27 of the Prisons Act, rendering the Prison of Cullen no longer a legal Prison, on and after the 1st of January 1864. This order is, in terms of Section 60 of the Act, printed in the Appendix. App. No. IV.

Uncompleted Proceedings regarding Local Prisons.

We had the honour to be placed in communication with you on matters relating to the condition of the Prisons of Rothesay, Greenock, Falkirk, and Selkirk, but as these communications had not come to any practical conclusion at the end of the year, we think it unnecessary at present to report on their tenor.

Removal of Prisoners.

We have nothing of a special character to report on the performance of our statutory duties in superintending the removal of Convicts and other Prisoners from one part of Scotland to another, and of Convicts from Scotland to England. The usual Tabular Statement on the removal of Convicts will be found in the Appendix. App. No. XXVI.

Remedy of defects in the case of Removal.

We referred in our last Report to the expense, inconvenience, and risk of escape occasioned by the removal of Prisoners under long sentences from Circuit towns to their County Prisons, over ground which they would probably have to recross in a few days on their way to the General Prison, or a Convict Establishment in England. During the past session an Act was passed to remedy this defect, by providing that, unless in cases otherwise specially disposed of by the Bench, Prisoners sentenced at the Circuits to imprisonment for not less than nine months, or to penal servitude, shall remain in the Prison of the Circuit town, until removed in due course of law. 26 and 27 Vict. c. 109.

The opportunity was taken in this Statute to obviate another difficulty connected with the removal of Criminals from one Prison to another. It has been found that especially when removed in considerable groups, they become ungovernable before and during removal, under the impression that the authorities of the Prison they are leaving have no opportunity of punishing them for breach of discipline, and that those of the Prison in which they are to be received have no right to do so. It is now provided that a Prisoner may be punished in the Prison of reception for misconduct in the course of removal, or within twenty-four hours before it, as if the misconduct had been committed in the Prison of reception itself.

Receipts and Expenditure.

The Prisons Act requires us to report to you an Abstract of our whole receipts and expenditure within the year, classifying the separate articles thereof.

The only branches of expenditure in which the public money passes directly through our own hands are—The current expenses of our Establishment, for which the sum of £148 was voted, and the removals of convicts and other prisoners, for which the sum of £1000 was voted, both for the financial year 1863. Of our accounts for the issues to us during the year, under the votes, for these branches, as rendered to the Commissioners of Audit, an Abstract follows :— App. No. XXVII.

Current Expenses of our Establishment.

Charge.				Discharge.			
Balance due by Managers, .	£101	19	9	Expenditure during the year,	£145	13	7
Cash from Treasury, . .	100	0	0	Balance, . . .	62	6	8
Interest from Bank, . .	6	0	6				
	£208	0	3		£208	0	3

Removal of Convicts Sentenced to Penal Servitude.

	Charge.				Discharge.		
Balance due by Managers,	£73	1	3	Payments,	£743	19	7
Cash from Treasury,	800	0	0	Balance,	129	1	8
	£873	1	3		£873	1	3

Removal of Prisoners.

	Charge.				Discharge.		
Balance due by Managers,	£61	8	2	Payments,	£488	18	11
Cash from Treasury,	700	1	0	Balance,	272	10	3
	£761	9	2		£761	9	2

The Salaries of the Officers of the establishment are paid by the Queen's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer in Exchequer, and amounted last year to £1152.

The cost of the maintenance of the General Prison is defrayed by Parliamentary vote, the amount voted for the year 1863 being—

For current annual expenses,	£15,322	9	0
Special works,	1,525	0	0
Ordinary works and repairs,	970	0	0
Total,	£17,817	9	0

The issues on this sum are paid to the Governor on imprests, through the Remembrancer in Exchequer, granted on our Certificate. The Governor's accounts are audited by us before transmission to the Commissioners of Audit in London. An Abstract of them is printed in the Appendix. It shows the following results :— App. No. XIV.

Current Expenses.

	Charge.				Discharge.		
Receipts,	£24,439	5	6	Payments,	£19,902	9	2
				Balance,	4,536	16	4
	£24,439	5	6		£24,439	5	6

App. No. XXVII.

Special Works.

	Charge.				Discharge.		
Receipts,	£700	0	0	Payments,	£700	0	0

App. No. XIV.

Ordinary Works and Repairs.

	Charge.				Discharge.		
Receipts,	£1,986	4	1	Payments,	£1,986	4	1

App. No XXVII.

The following is an Abstract of the Accounts for the expense of maintaining Female Convicts in the Prison of Ayr :—

	Charge.				Discharge.		
Receipts,	£532	13	8	Payments,	£532	13	8

We have not been supplied for the present year with the usual Table of the Funds payable through the Exchequer for the maintenance of Prisoners in the Local Prisons. With this exception, the total expenditure of monies voted by Parliament for the Prison Department in Scotland for year 1863 stands as follows :—

Current expenses of General Prison,	£19,902	9	2
Special Works at do.,	700	0	0
Ordinary Works and Repairs at do.,	1,986	14	1
Salaries of the Paid Staff of the Managers' Department,	1,152	0	0
Miscellaneous Expenses of the Managers' Department,	145	13	7
Expense of removals of convicts and prisoners,	1,232	18	6
Expense of Female Convicts in the Prison of Ayr,	532	13	8
	£25,652	9	0

Assessments voted by County Boards.

By your direction, County Boards furnish us with returns of the assessments annually voted by them for the current expenses of their Prisons, and for building purposes,

with a statement of the portions to be levied on landward or rural and on burghal districts respectively. A Table of these returns, printed in the Appendix, shows the amount voted throughout the counties to have been as follows :— App. No. XXII.

For Current Expenses.		For Building Expenses.	
Rural, .	£19,489 15 5	Rural, .	£296 9 6
Burghal, .	12,681 6 6	Burghal, .	4 10 10
Total,	£32,171 1 11	Total,	£301 0 4

We have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your very obedient Servants,

EDWARD S. GORDON.

AND. MURRAY, JR.

J. H. BURTON.

HERBERT P. VOULES.

APPENDIX.

No. I.—A LIST OF THE PRISONS IN SCOTLAND,

With a reference to any Declarations by the late General Board of Prisons or Orders by the Secretary of State defining the purpose for which they are legal.

LOCAL PRISONS.

ABERDEEN—*Aberdeen.*—Legalized in 1840. Consists of two edifices, called the East and West Branches. Second Report, p. 18-20.

Peterhead.—Legalized in 1845. Certain classes of civil prisoners excepted. Period for convicted prisoners, not exceeding 60 days. Seventh Report, p. 10.

Huntly.—Legalized in 1847. All classes of civil prisoners excepted. Period for convicted criminals, not exceeding 10 days. Ninth Report, p. 16.

Fraserburgh.—Legalized in 1848. All classes of civil prisoners excepted. Period for convicted criminals not exceeding 10 days. Tenth Report, p. 15.

ARGYLE—*Inveraray.*—Legalized in 1848. Tenth Report, p. 15.

Campbeltown.—Legalized in 1847. Ninth Report, p. 16.

Tobermory.—Built and in use before the constitution of the General Board.

Fort-William.—Common to the Counties of Argyle and Inverness. Legalized in 1849. All classes of civil prisoners excepted. Period for convicted criminals not exceeding 60 days. Eleventh Report, p. 15.

Lochgilphead.—Legalized in 1850. All classes of civil prisoners excepted. Period for convicted criminals not exceeding 30 days. Twelfth Report, p. 16.

10. AYR—*Ayr.*—Legalized in 1853. Fifteenth Report, p. 24.

Kilmarnock.—Legalized in 1853. All classes of civil prisoners excepted. Period for convicted criminals not exceeding three months. Fifteenth Report, p. 25.

*BANFF—*Banff.*—Legalized in 1844. Sixth Report, p. 19.

Keith.—Legalized in 1844. Certain classes of civil prisoners excepted. Period for convicted prisoners not exceeding 10 days. Sixth Report, p. 19.

BERWICK—*Greenlaw.*—Legalized before the constitution of the General Board. Fourth Report, p. 17.

Dunse.—Legalized in 1843. Certain classes of civil prisoners excepted. Periods on warrants of imprisonment not exceeding 14 days. Fifth Report, p. 17.

BUTE—*Rothesay.*—Legalized before the constitution of the General Board.

CAITHNESS—*Wick.*—Legalized before the constitution of the General Board. Seventh Report, p. 12.

CLACKMANNAN—*Alloa.*—Legalized in 1853. Fifteenth Report, p. 26.

20. DUMBARTON—*Dumbarton.*—Legalized as enlarged and altered in 1855. Seventeenth Report, p. 16.

Helensburgh.—Legalized in 1843. Certain civil prisoners excepted. Period for convicted prisoners, not exceeding ten days. Fifth Report, p. 19.

Kirkintilloch.—Legalized in 1844 in the same terms as Helensburgh. Sixth Report, p. 21.

DUMFRIES—*Dumfries.*—Legalized in 1851 and 1852. Thirteenth Report, p. 21, and Fourteenth, p. 19.

EDINBURGH—*Edinburgh.*—Legalized in 1847. Ninth Report, p. 19.

The Court Buildings' Prison, legalized in 1857, is part of the Prison of Edinburgh, for criminal prisoners only, on the condition that none are to be detained in it beyond ten days at a time. Nineteenth Report, p. 12.

Musselburgh.—Legalized in 1840. Certain classes of civil prisoners excepted. Convicted prisoners not to be detained more than 30 days. Fifth Report, p. 21.

ELGIN—*Elgin.*—Legalized in 1843. Fifth Report, p. 21.

Forres.—Legalized in 1850. All classes of civil prisoners excepted. Period for convicted criminals not exceeding 10 days. Twelfth Report, p. 18.

FIFE—*Cupar.*—Legalized in 1844. Sixth Report, p. 23, and Fifteenth Report, p. 27.

Dunfermline.—Legalized in 1844. Sixth Report, p. 23.

30. FORFAR—*Dundee.*—Legalized in 1845. Seventh Report, p. 15.

Forfar.—Legalized in 1852. Fourteenth Report, p. 20.

HADDINGTON—*Haddington.*—Legalized in 1847. Ninth Report, p. 21.

Dunbar.—Legalized in 1840 and 1845. Certain classes of civil prisoners excepted. Period for convicted prisoners, not exceeding 10 days.

INVERNESS—*Inverness.*—Legalized in 1849. Eleventh Report, p. 19.

Lochmaddy.—Legalized in 1848. Period for convicted prisoners, not exceeding 60 days. Tenth Report, p. 20.

Portree.—Legalized in 1848, on the same conditions as Lochmaddy. Tenth Report, p. 20.

Fort-William.—Already mentioned as common to the Counties of Argyle and Inverness; it is under the management of the Prison Board of the County of Inverness.

KINCARDINE—*Stonehaven.*—Legalized in 1843. Fifth Report, p. 24.

KINROSS—*Kinross.*—Legalized in 1845. Seventh Report, p. 17.

KIRKCUDBRIGHT—*Kirkcudbright.*—Legalized before the constitution of the General Board. Fifth Report, p. 24. 40.

Maxwelltown.—Legalized before the constitution of the General Board.

LANARK—*Glasgow.*—Legalized in 1841 and 1853. Fifteenth Report, p. 29.

The Court Buildings' Prison, legalized in 1862 by Order of the Secretary of State, is part of the Prison of Glasgow, for criminal prisoners only, on the condition that none be detained in it longer than 48 hours at one time. Twenty-Fourth Report, p. 13.

Hamilton.—Legalized before the constitution of the General Board. Fourth Report, p. 23.

Lanark.—Legalized before the constitution of the General Board. Fourth Report, p. 23.

Airdrie.—Legalized in 1859.—Fifth Report, p. 25; Fifteenth Report, p. 24; and Twenty-first Report, p. 8.

LINLITHGOW—*Linlithgow.*—Legalized in 1853. Fifteenth Report, p. 29.

NAIRN—*Nairn.*—Legalized in 1846. Fifth Report, p. 26, and Eighth Report, p. 19.

ORKNEY—*Kirkwall.*—Legalized before the constitution of the General Board. Second Report, p. 49.

PEEBLES—*Peebles.*—Legalized in 1844. Sixth Report, p. 27.

PERTH—*Perth.*—Legalized in 1845. Seventh Report, p. 19. 50.

Dunblane.—Legalized in 1843. Period for convicted prisoners, not extending to 3 months. Fifth Report, p. 27.

Police Prison at Perth.—A legal place of confinement for periods not exceeding 3 days.

RENFREW—*Paisley.*—Legalized in 1853. Fifteenth Report, p. 30.

Greenock.—Legalized in 1857. All classes of civil prisoners excepted. Period for convicted criminals, not exceeding 20 days. Fifth Report, p. 28, and Nineteenth Report, p. 13.

Pollockshaws.—Legalized in 1846. Certain civil prisoners excepted. Period for convicted prisoners, not exceeding 10 days. Eighth Report, p. 20.

ROSS & CROMARTY—*Dingwall.*—Legalized in 1845. Seventh Report, p. 21.

Tain.—Legalized in 1846. Period for convicted prisoners, not exceeding 60 days. Eighth Report, p. 20.

Cromarty.—Legalized in 1847 on the same conditions as Tain. Sixth Report, p. 29, and Ninth, p. 24.

Stornoway.—Legalized in 1846. Period for convicted prisoners, not exceeding 3 months. Eighth Report, p. 20.

ROXBURGH—*Jedburgh.*—Legalized before the constitution of the General Board. Tenth Report, p. 23. 60.

Hawick.—Legalized in 1844. Certain civil prisoners excepted. Period for convicted prisoners, not exceeding 10 days. Sixth Report, p. 30.

Kelso.—Legalized in 1844 on the same terms as Hawick. Sixth Report, p. 30.

SELKIRK—*Selkirk.*—Legalized before the constitution of the General Board. Third Report, p. 24.

STIRLING—*Stirling.*—Legalized in 1847. Ninth Report, p. 24.

Falkirk.—Discontinued in 1847 as a Prison for convicted prisoners.

SUTHERLAND—*Dornoch.*—Legalized in 1844. Sixth Report, p. 30.

WIGTOWN—*Wigtown.*—Legalized in 1848. Tenth Report, p. 24.

Stranraer.—Legalized in 1848. Tenth Report, p. 24.

ZETLAND—*Fort Charlotte.*—Legalized in 1845. Seventh Report, p. 22.

THE GENERAL PRISON FOR SCOTLAND AT PERTH.

69. Declared by the Prisons' Act to be for prisoners sentenced to imprisonment, and for such convicts under sentence of transportation or penal servitude as may be sent thither by Secretary of State's warrants. The Act declares, that every prisoner sentenced to nine months' imprisonment and upwards may be removed to the General Prison, unless the sentence contains a clause that the prisoner shall not be removed thereto. Also a place of detention for the Criminal Lunatics of Scotland under 25 and 26 Vict. cap. 54.

* The Prison of Cullen, in the County of Banff, has been discontinued as a Prison on and after 1st January 1864. See No. IV.

No. II.—Comparative Statement of the Average Daily Number of Criminal Prisoners in the several Prisons in Scotland, in the two quinquennial periods ending 30th June 1856 and 1861 respectively. Also the number in each of the three years ending 30th June 1861, 1862, and 1863. *Compiled from the Reports on Prisons in Scotland.*

	Yearly number on an average in the five years ending		In the years ending		
	30th June 1856.	30th June 1861.	30th June 1861.	30th June 1862.	30th June 1863.
I. Number of Prisoners received in the year,	22,411	19,439	19,292	20,440	23,304
Deduct received by Transference or Removal from one Prison to another,	1,039	864	714	739	852
II. Total Nett Number of Commitments in the year,	21,372	18,575	18,578	19,701	22,452
III. Ages of the above :—					
Under 16 years,	1,887[1]	1,224	1,212	1,120	1,075
16 and under 18 years,	1,504[3]	982	967	966	1,070
18 and under 21 years,	3,018	2,357	2,282	2,468	2,924
21 and under 50 years,	13,585	12,657	12,732	13,580	15,527
50 and above,	1,377[2]	1,355	1,385	1,567	1,856
Total,	21,372	18,575	18,578	19,701	22,452
IV. Sentences of Prisoners convicted during the year, viz. :—					
1. To imprisonments for definite periods, viz. :—					
10 days and under,	2,715[3]	2,573	2,619	2,711	3,610
11 days and not above 60 days,	8,218	6,728	6,162	6,577	7,460
Above 60 days and under 6 months,	640[4]	499	450	619	487
6 months and under 1 year,	633[1]	417	406	393	380
1 year and upwards,	337[6]	265	229	291	263
Total imprisonments for definite periods,	12,545[3]	10,482	9,866	10,591	12,200
2. To imprisonment for indefinite periods, viz. :—					
1. Until caution found to keep the peace,	829[2]	555	551	526	665
2. Until or instead of payment of fine or penalty,	3,527[4]	4,198	5,052	5,853	7,095
Total imprisonments periods not definite,	4,357[2]	4,753	5,603	6,379	7,760
3. Juveniles to Whipping without Imprisonment,	103[2]	88	70	68	51
4. To Transportation, viz. :—					
7 years,	116[4]	...	.....	.....	.....
10 years,	26[3]	.....	.....	.....	....
14 years,	21[4]	2	.....	.....	.....
15 years,	17	4	.....	.. ...	.... .
20 years,	0[2]	.....	.....	.....	.....
21 years,	10[1]	4	.....	.....	.....
Life,	7	1	.....	.....	.....
5. To Penal Servitude, viz. :—					
3 years,	.....	19	18	31	41
4 years,	99[3]	105	79	95	61
Above 4 years and not above 6 years,	34[2]	12	.....	.....	.....
Above 6 years and not above 8 years,	3[4]	.....	.....	.....	.....
Above 8 years and not above 10 years,	0[2]	.....	.....	.....	.....
5 years,	.....	13	10	7	16
6 years,	.....	20	27	35	35
7 years,	.....	10	.....	2	6
8 years,	.....	16	35	34	22
10 years,	.....	19	21	21	15
12 years,	.....	.....	.....	1	.....
14 years,	.....	2	5	.....	.....
15 years,	.....	5	5	4	6
20 years,	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
21 years,	.....	4	1	3	.....
Life,	0[1]	2	3	4	1
V. Total Sentences to Transportation and to Penal Servitude,	336[3]	238	204	237	203
VI. To Death, including Sentences afterwards commuted,	3[4]	3	5	2	2
VII. Grand Total of Sentences,	17,346[3]	15,564	15,748	17,277	20,216
VIII. Previous imprisonments in the same Prison of Prisoners received, viz. :—					
Once,	3,316[1]	2,565	2,692	2,941	3,320
Twice,	1,656	1,253	1,135	1,400	1,593
Thrice,	956[3]	827	798	871	1,035
Four Times,	653	579	577	639	700
Five Times,	459[3]	435	443	449	567
Six Times and under Ten,	862[3]	924	957	1,045	1,206
Ten Times and under Twenty,	677	802	855	847	1,050
Twenty Times and under Fifty,	489[3]	515	598	703	783
Fifty Times and upwards,	76[3]	119	167	214	263
Total,	9,139[1]	8,019	8,222	9,109	10,517
IX. State as to Instruction of Criminal Prisoners on admission :—					
1. Reading,—Could not read,	4,368[4]	3,802	3,526	3,960	4,457
Read with difficulty,	10,440	9,254	9,374	10,874	12,597
Read well,	5,656	4,765	4,806	4,789	5,398
Total,	20,465[2]	17,821	17,706	19,623	22,452
2. Writing—Could not write,	9,655	8,371	8,194	8,972	10,415
Could sign name merely,	601	535	554	660	542
Write with difficulty,	8,290[4]	7,341	7,085	8,199	9,477
Write well,	1,917[1]	1,574	1,873	1,792	2,018
Total,	20,464	17,821	17,706	19,623	22,452
Had learned more than mere reading and writing,	304[3]	273	285	442	410
X. Average daily number in confinement,	2,666	2,159	2,055	2,189	2,285

No. III.

DIGEST of RETURNS from the PRISON BOARDS of the several COUNTIES, and from the GOVERNOR of the GENERAL the PRISONERS confined therein, for the Period beginning on the **1st Day of July 1862**, immediately after

	COUNTIES.	PRISONS.	No. of Prison.	1. Extent of Prison Accommodation.								2. In Prison at the					
				Criminal Department.				Civil Department.				Criminal.					
				Number of Cells or Rooms for Confinement, viz.—				Number of Cells or Rooms for Confinement, viz.—				Total.			Untried.		
				During Night, or Night and Day.		During Day only.		During Night, or Night and Day.		During Day only.							
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Tot.
1	Aberdeen	Aberdeen	1	100	44	15	...	7	1	1	...	30	29	59	9	5	14
		Peterhead	2	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	2	6	2	...	2
		Huntly	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Fraserburgh	4	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	Argyle	Inveraray	5	12	9	...	...	4	...	...	...	7	1	8	6	...	6
		Campbeltown	6	6	3	...	...	1	...	...	...	6	2	8	...	...	...
		Tobermory	8	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Lochgilphead	7	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	Ayr	Ayr	9	61	99	...	...	4	1	1	1	20	13	33	4	3	7
		Kilmarnock	10	10	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	4	17	4	3	7
4	Banff	Banff	11	12	6	...	...	1	...	...	...	3	1	4	...	...	...
		Keith	12	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Cullen	13	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	Berwick	Greenlaw	14	16	3	...	...	2	1	...	...	6	2	8	2	...	2
		Dunse	15	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	...	...
6	Bute	Rothesay	16	6	5	...	...	1	1	...	...	4	2	6	1	1	2
7	Caithness	Wick	17	8	3	...	...	2	1	...	...	3	4	7	1	...	1
8	Clackmannan	Alloa	18	14	6	...	1	1	1	...	...	2	1	3	2	...	2
9	Dumbarton	Dumbarton	19	20	9	...	...	1	1	...	...	8	5	13	2	1	3
		Kirkintilloch	20	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	4	...	...	...
		Helensburgh	21	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
10	Dumfries	Dumfries	22	31	14	...	...	1	1	...	...	18	3	21	5	...	5
11	Edinburgh	Edinburgh, including Court Buildings	23	234	202	...	...	13	1	6	...	162	198	360	19	14	33
		Musselburgh	24	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12	Elgin	Elgin	25	10	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	10	1	11	2	1	3
		Forres	26	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13	Fife	Cupar	27	34	15	...	...	1	...	...	...	19	1	20	8	1	9
		Dunfermline	28	13	7	...	...	1	...	...	...	8	1	9	...	...	...
14	Forfar	Dundee	29	66	82	...	...	6	1	2	...	41	47	88	10	6	16
		Forfar	30	27	8	...	...	4	...	1	...	11	3	14	6	2	8
		Montrose	31	8	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	3	...	1	1
		Arbroath	32	5	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	4	...	...	...
		Brechin	33	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
15	Haddington	Haddington	34	12	6	...	...	2	...	...	...	8	2	10	3	1	4
		Dunbar	35	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
16	Inverness	Inverness	36	19	10	...	...	2	...	...	...	6	3	9	1	2	3
		Portree	37	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Lochmaddy	38	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Fort-William	39	6	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	1	...	1
17	Kincardine	Stonehaven	40	8	3	...	...	1	...	...	...	4	1	5	1	...	1
18	Kinross	Kinross	41	4	2	...	...	1	1	...	...	2	...	2	2	...	2
19	Kirkcudbright	Kirkcudbright	42	11	3	...	...	1	...	...	...	12	3	15	2	2	4
		Maxwelltown	43	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20	Lanark	Glasgow	44	338	173	3	...	34	2	4	1	273	185	458	52	44	96
		Lanark	45	18	4	...	...	5	...	1	...	13	3	16	7	...	7
		Hamilton	46	24	5	...	2	4	1	1	...	30	8	38	10	...	10
		Airdrie	47	31	12	...	...	4	...	...	...	26	11	37	7	1	8
21	Linlithgow	Linlithgow	48	15	10	...	...	1	1	...	...	19	8	27	5	...	5
22	Nairn	Nairn	49	3	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
23	Orkney	Kirkwall	50	3	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
24	Peebles	Peebles	51	11	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	2	1	3	...	1	1
25	Perth	Perth	52	30	17	2	1	1	1	...	...	36	18	54	6	1	7
		Perth Police Cells	53	4	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	3	1	...	1
		Dunblane	54	7	2	...	...	1	...	...	..	1	...	1	1	...	1
26	Renfrew	Paisley	55	89	53	1	1	2	1	...	...	58	22	80	13	6	19
		Greenock	56	23	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	7	20	6	1	7
		Pollockshaws	57	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
27	Ross and Cromarty	Dingwall	58	9	9	...	...	1	...	...	...	3	2	5	1	1	2
		Tain	59	4	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	2	...	2	2	...	2
		Cromarty	60	3	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Stornoway	61	5	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	2	1	...	1
28	Roxburgh	Jedburgh	62	34	8	...	...	1	1	...	...	17	1	18	6	...	6
		Hawick	63	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
		Kelso	64	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
29	Selkirk	Selkirk	65	5	3	...	...	1	1	...	...	4	...	4	...	...	...
30	Stirling	Stirling	66	35	19	...	...	1	1	...	...	29	12	41	7	1	8
		Falkirk	67	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	1
31	Sutherland	Dornoch	68	8	4	...	...	1	1	...	...	3	...	3	2	...	2
32	Wigtown	Wigtown	69	6	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	8	3	11	3	...	3
		Stranraer	70	6	6	...	...	1	1	...	...	2	3	5	2	1	3
33	Zetland	Fort-Charlotte	71	6	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25	Perth	General Prison	72	383	389	4	8	...	...	...	...	279	417	696	19	7	26
				1,909	1,307	25	13	125	23	18	2	1,239	1,040	2,279	245	107	352

No. III.

PRISON for SCOTLAND at PERTH, relative to the ACCOMMODATION in the several Prisons throughout Scotland, and to Midnight of the preceding Day, and ending on the **30th day of June 1863,** at Midnight of that Day.

commencement of the Period.						**3. Number received** during the Period.									**4. Total Number in Confinement** during the Period, including Cases of Recommitment.						**5. Number removed** during the Period to other Prisons for detention. *				No. of Prison.
Convicted.			Civil.			Criminal.						Civil.			Criminal.			Civil.			Criminal.				
						Including Cases of Recommitment within the year.			Not including Cases of Recommitment of the same Prisoner within the year.												(1.) In Prison at Commencement of the Period.		(2.) Received during the Period.		
M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Tot.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Tot.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Tot.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
21	24	45	8	...	8	639	510	1149	624	496	1120	59	1	60	669	539	1208	67	1	68	2	3	15	14	1
2	2	4	...	...	...	30	36	66	30	30	60	..	...	...	34	38	72	...	...	...	1	...	5	3	2
...	...	...	...	...	...	13	6	19	5	1	6	...	...	...	13	6	19	...	...	...	...	...	9	2	3
...	...	...	...	...	...	14	4	18	13	4	17	...	...	...	14	4	18	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	4
1	1	2	...	...	...	41	12	53	41	12	53	5	...	5	48	13	61	5	...	5	...	1	1	...	5
6	2	8	...	...	...	63	24	87	61	21	82	1	...	1	69	26	95	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	6
...	...	...	...	...	...	10	4	14	10	4	14	...	...	...	10	4	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
...	...	...	...	...	...	5	1	6	5	1	6	...	...	...	5	1	6	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	8
16	10	26	4	...	4	289	187	476	218	133	351	21	2	23	309	200	509	25	2	27	...	2	10	1	9
9	1	10	...	...	...	153	82	235	117	43	160	...	...	...	166	86	252	...	...	...	2	...	11	8	10
3	1	4	2	1	3	63	28	91	57	26	83	13	2	15	66	29	95	15	3	18	1	...	3	2	11
...	...	...	...	...	...	8	1	9	8	1	9	...	...	...	8	1	9	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	12
...	...	...	...	...	...	11	4	15	10	4	14	...	...	...	11	4	15	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	13
4	2	6	...	...	...	51	16	67	49	15	64	6	...	6	57	18	75	6	...	6	1	...	1	...	14
1	1	2	...	...	...	75	27	102	70	23	93	...	...	...	76	28	104	...	...	...	...	...	16	9	15
3	1	4	1	...	1	78	25	103	69	20	89	5	...	5	82	27	109	6	...	6	...	...	...	1	16
2	4	6	1	...	1	57	21	78	55	19	74	8	1	9	60	25	85	9	1	10	...	...	6	...	17
...	1	1	2	...	2	70	39	109	68	27	95	7	...	7	72	40	112	9	...	9	...	...	...	1	18
6	4	10	2	...	2	210	74	284	199	71	270	10	...	10	218	79	297	12	...	12	1	...	2	1	19
2	2	4	...	...	...	28	14	42	25	13	38	...	...	...	30	16	46	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	20
...	...	...	...	...	...	60	10	70	50	10	60	...	...	...	60	10	70	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	21
13	3	16	2	...	2	341	147	488	290	108	398	18	1	19	359	150	509	20	1	21	...	...	5	4	22
143	184	327	9	...	9	2365	3019	5384	1914	1689	3603	65	7	72	2527	3217	5744	74	7	81	11	15	70	53	23
...	...	...	...	...	...	15	12	27	12	12	24	...	...	...	15	12	27	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
8	...	8	1	...	1	104	29	133	95	25	120	12	...	12	114	30	144	13	...	13	1	...	...	1	25
...	...	...	...	...	...	21	2	23	19	2	21	...	...	...	21	2	23	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	26
11	...	11	1	...	1	201	88	289	195	80	275	7	1	8	220	89	309	8	1	9	1	...	10	2	27
8	1	9	...	...	...	72	27	99	66	23	89	4	...	4	80	28	108	4	...	4	...	...	2	...	28
31	41	72	4	1	5	641	547	1188	537	374	911	27	...	27	682	594	1276	31	1	32	3	4	8	12	29
5	1	6	5	...	5	142	34	176	135	34	169	19	...	19	153	37	190	24	...	24	...	...	3	2	30
1	1	2	...	...	...	27	13	40	27	12	39	...	...	...	28	15	43	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
2	2	4	...	...	...	14	13	27	14	12	26	...	...	...	16	15	31	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
...	1	1	...	...	...	8	5	13	8	5	13	...	...	...	8	6	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	33
5	1	6	2	...	2	145	32	177	131	28	159	5	...	5	155	34	187	7	...	7	2	...	3	...	34
...	...	...	...	...	...	65	29	94	39	15	54	...	...	...	65	29	94	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
5	1	6	1	...	1	138	27	165	133	25	158	16	...	16	144	30	174	17	...	17	...	...	1	...	36
...	...	...	...	...	...	14	11	25	14	11	25	...	...	...	14	11	25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
...	...	...	...	...	...	6	3	9	6	3	9	...	...	...	6	3	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
1	...	1	...	...	...	35	9	44	34	9	43	...	...	...	37	9	46	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	39
3	1	4	...	...	...	72	24	96	55	20	75	8	...	8	76	25	101	8	...	8	...	...	3	...	40
...	...	...	...	...	...	43	5	48	38	5	43	5	...	5	45	5	50	5	...	5	...	.	...	...	41
10	1	11	...	...	...	154	41	195	140	36	176	9	...	9	166	44	210	9	...	9	...	...	3	1	42
...	...	...	...	...	...	36	31	67	34	25	59	...	...	...	36	31	67	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	43
221	141	362	20	1	21	2918	2233	5151	1826	1018	2844	182	11	193	3191	2418	5609	202	12	214	14	23	71	45	44
6	3	9	2	...	2	108	20	128	107	20	127	17	1	18	121	23	144	19	1	20	...	...	...	...	45
20	8	28	4	...	4	403	110	513	371	84	455	28	...	28	433	118	551	32	...	32	...	...	10	8	46
19	10	29	3	...	3	552	221	773	409	118	527	12	1	13	578	232	810	15	1	16	2	1	4	3	47
14	8	22	1	...	1	129	44	173	118	41	159	6	...	6	148	52	200	7	...	7	2	...	1	2	48
...	...	...	...	...	...	28	9	37	27	9	36	1	...	1	28	9	37	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	49
...	...	...	...	...	...	16	19	35	15	18	33	2	...	2	16	19	35	2	...	2	...	...	...	1	50
2	...	2	...	...	...	81	8	89	74	8	82	1	...	1	83	9	92	1	...	1	...	...	3	1	51
30	17	47	2	...	2	468	245	713	420	143	563	14	...	14	504	263	767	16	...	16	2	2	5	8	52
1	1	2	...	...	...	58	54	112	58	41	99	...	...	...	60	55	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
...	...	...	1	...	1	45	12	57	43	11	54	4	...	4	46	12	58	5	...	5	1	...	4	1	54
45	16	61	1	...	1	712	344	1056	623	251	874	31	1	32	770	366	1136	32	1	33	1	1	13	18	55
7	6	13	...	...	...	291	232	523	269	167	436	...	...	...	304	239	543	...	...	...	7	2	86	61	56
...	...	...	...	...	...	50	17	67	48	17	65	...	...	...	50	17	67	...	...	...	...	...	13	3	57
2	1	3	1	...	1	68	7	75	68	6	74	8	...	8	71	9	80	9	...	9	...	...	2	...	58
...	...	...	...	...	...	15	9	24	15	9	24	4	1	5	17	9	26	4	1	5	...	...	...	...	59
...	...	...	...	...	...	4	2	6	4	2	6	1	...	1	4	2	6	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	60
1	...	1	...	...	...	52	6	58	50	6	56	6	...	6	54	6	60	6	...	6	...	...	...	...	61
11	1	12	...	...	...	175	36	211	162	29	191	6	...	6	192	37	229	6	...	6	5	...	3	...	62
1	...	1	...	...	...	96	31	127	88	28	116	...	...	...	97	31	128	...	...	...	...	...	28	12	63
...	1	1	...	...	...	20	3	23	15	3	18	...	...	...	20	4	24	...	...	...	...	...	9	1	64
4	...	4	1	...	1	48	12	60	45	12	57	...	...	...	52	12	64	1	...	1	...	...	2	...	65
22	11	33	4	...	4	368	167	535	335	144	479	13	...	13	397	179	576	17	...	17	1	2	5	5	66
...	...	...	...	...	...	109	32	141	99	29	128	...	..	...	110	32	142	...	...	...	1	...	53	23	67
1	...	1	...	...	...	21	2	23	19	2	21	5	...	5	24	2	26	5	...	5	...	...	1	...	68
5	3	8	1	...	1	26	17	43	25	16	41	6	...	6	34	20	54	7	...	7	...	1	4	1	69
...	2	2	1	...	1	31	18	49	31	17	48	11	1	12	33	21	54	12	1	13	2	2	...	1	70
...	...	...	...	...	...	54	6	60	53	6	59	1	...	1	54	6	60	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	71
260	410	670	...	...	...	332	210	542	332	209	541	...	...	...	611	627	1238	...	...	...	1	11	...	9	72
994	933	1,927	87	3	90	13,905	9,399	23,304	11,469	5,991	17,460	689	31	720	15,144	10,439	25,583	776	34	810	66	70	529	323	
																					136		* 852		

* In former Reports, the contents of these two columns were mixed up in one. It is believed that their separation will help in reconciling the various Tables to each other.

(No. III. *Continued.*) DIGEST of RETURNS relative to PRISONS and PRISONERS in SCOTLAND,

	COUNTIES.	PRISONS.	No. of Prison.	6. Average duration of Confinement of each Criminal Prisoner.	7. Average daily Number in **Confinement** during the Period.						8. Average daily Number of Crimi the Four Quarters,					
					Criminal.			Civil.			30th September 1862.			31st December 1862.		
				Days.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T
1	Aberdeen	Aberdeen	1	16	34	20	54	6	...	6	31	25	56	32	22	
		Peterhead	2	15	1	2	3	...	...	...	2	2	4	...	2	
		Huntly	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
		Fraserburgh	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
2	Argyle	Inveraray	5	28	4	1	5	...	...	...	4	...	4	4	...	
		Campbeltown	6	31	5	3	8	...	...	...	5	2	7	4	4	
		Tobermory	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	
		Lochgilphead	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
3	Ayr	Ayr	9	31	24	19	43	4	...	4	23	11	34	27	9	
		Kilmarnock	10	21	10	5	15	...	...	...	10	5	15	11	4	
4	Banff	Banff	11	38	8	2	10	2	...	2	4	2	6	8	3	
		Keith	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
		Cullen	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
5	Berwick	Greenlaw	14	34	6	1	7	...	...	...	4	1	5	4	1	
		Dunse	15	4	1	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	2	1	...	
6	Bute	Rothesay	16	23	4	3	7	...	...	...	4	2	6	7	3	
7	Caithness	Wick	17	34	6	2	8	1	...	1	4	1	5	7	1	
8	Clackmannan	Alloa	18	23	4	3	7	1	...	1	3	2	5	3	3	
9	Dumbarton	Dumbarton	19	15	8	4	12	1	...	1	12	6	18	11	4	
		Kirkintilloch	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
		Helensburgh	21	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
10	Dumfries	Dumfries	22	19	20	7	27	1	...	1	22	8	30	19	7	
11	Edinburgh	Edinburgh, including Court Buildings	23	23	181	183	364	8	1	9	183	203	386	176	181	3
		Musselburgh	24	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
12	Elgin	Elgin	25	33	10	3	13	1	...	1	9	1	10	8	3	
		Forres	26	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
13	Fife	Cupar	27	27	18	5	23	1	...	1	21	5	26	17	5	
		Dunfermline	28	20	5	1	6	1	...	1	5	1	6	3	...	
14	Forfar	Dundee	29	22	40	37	77	1	...	1	33	41	74	33	32	
		Forfar	30	31	12	4	16	4	...	4	12	6	18	12	4	
		Montrose	31	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	5	...	...	
		Arbroath	32	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	
		Brechin	33	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	
15	Haddington	Haddington	34	18	7	2	9	2	...	2	9	3	12	8	3	1
		Dunbar	35	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
16	Inverness	Inverness	36	36	14	3	17	1	...	1	10	3	13	9	3	
		Portree	37	15	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	
		Lochmaddy	38	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
		Fort-William	39	16	2	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	2	2	...	
17	Kincardine	Stonehaven	40	22	5	1	6	1	...	1	6	1	7	6	1	
18	Kinross	Kinross	41	15	2	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	...	
19	Kirkcudbright	Kirkcudbright	42	19	9	2	11	1	...	1	9	3	12	7	2	
		Maxwelltown	43	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	
20	Lanark	Glasgow	44	31	282	202	484	21	1	22	285	215	500	260	201	4
		Lanark	45	23	7	2	9	3	...	3	9	2	11	6	1	
		Hamilton	46	21	23	8	31	4	...	4	27	7	34	21	7	
		Airdrie	47	16	25	11	36	1	...	1	30	10	40	20	7	
21	Linlithgow	Linlithgow	48	37	14	6	20	1	...	1	16	9	25	14	7	
22	Nairn	Nairn	49	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	
23	Orkney	Kirkwall	50	21	1	1	2	...	...	...	1	1	2	1	2	
24	Peebles	Peebles	51	16	4	...	4	...	...	...	4	1	5	2	...	
25	Perth	Perth	52	28	38	20	58	2	...	2	37	22	59	33	16	
		Perth Police Cells	53	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
		Dunblane	54	25	3	1	4	...	...	...	1	2	3	4	1	
26	Renfrew	Paisley	55	23	51	22	73	3	...	3	56	25	81	44	16	
		Greenock	56	15	12	11	23	...	...	...	9	8	17	6	8	
		Pollockshaws	57	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	
27	Ross and Cromarty	Dingwall	58	23	4	1	5	1	...	1	3	2	5	4	...	
		Tain	59	28	1	1	2	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	
		Cromarty	60	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	
		Stornoway	61	12	2	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	2	1	...	
28	Roxburgh	Jedburgh	62	22	13	1	14	...	...	...	14	2	16	10	1	
		Hawick	63	3	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	
		Kelso	64	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
29	Selkirk	Selkirk	65	17	2	1	3	1	...	1	3	1	4	2	...	
30	Stirling	Stirling	66	29	29	16	45	2	...	2	32	10	42	29	15	
		Falkirk	67	3	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	
31	Sutherland	Dornoch	68	14	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	...	
32	Wigtown	Wigtown	69	41	4	2	6	...	...	...	5	3	8	3	...	
		Stranraer	70	34	3	2	5	1	...	1	2	2	4	5	3	
33	Zetland	Fort-Charlotte	71	18	2	1	3	...	...	...	2	...	2	1	1	
25	Perth	General Prison	72	206	289	410	699	...	...	...	272	416	688	271	422	69
				33	1,253	1,032	2,285	77	2	79	1,248	1,075	2,323	1,165	1,005	2,17

for the Year ended on the **30th day of June 1863**—*continued.* (No. III. *Continued.*)

Prisoners during each of that ending						9. Number at the end of the Period, viz., at midnight on 30th June 1863.												10. Greatest number of Criminals, Males and Females, respectively, at any one time, viz.—		No. of Prison.
31st March 1863.			30th June 1863.			Criminal.									Civil.					
						Total.			Untried.			Convicted.								
M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M	F.	T.	M.	F.	
38	16	54	35	17	52	21	18	39	8	1	9	13	17	30	6	...	6	51	33	1
...	1	1	2	2	4	...	1	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	4	2
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	4
4	1	5	4	2	6	5	5	10	1	1	2	4	4	8	...	..	...	9	5	5
4	3	7	8	2	10	6	3	9	1	1	2	5	2	7	...	..	...	11	4	6
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	7
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	8
23	14	37	25	42	67	28	68	96	7	2	9	21	66	87	5	...	5	34	68	9
10	8	18	10	6	16	16	7	23	8	3	11	8	4	12	...	...	...	19	12	10
6	2	8	13	2	15	13	5	18	1	4	5	12	1	13	1	...	1	16	5	11
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	12
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	2	1	13
6	2	8	8	1	9	8	1	9	...	...	...	8	1	9	1	...	1	13	4	14
1	...	1	1	...	1	2	1	3	1	...	1	1	1	2	...	...	...	5	3	15
4	3	7	2	2	4	3	...	3	1	...	1	2	...	2	2	...	2	14	6	16
6	2	8	7	3	10	7	1	8	3	...	3	4	1	5	...	...	...	9	4	17
4	4	8	6	4	10	7	1	8	...	...	...	7	1	8	...	...	...	9	7	18
5	3	8	5	3	8	7	4	11	1	...	1	6	4	10	...	..	...	24	10	19
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	4	20
...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	2	21
21	7	28	20	6	26	26	4	30	2	1	3	24	3	27	1	...	1	30	12	22
177	159	336	189	189	378	208	178	386	35	20	55	173	158	331	6	1	7	220	263	23
...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	2	...	..	...	3	3	24
11	3	14	12	3	15	12	1	13	4	...	4	8	1	9	1	...	1	20	27	25
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	26
18	4	22	17	7	24	16	3	19	6	1	7	10	2	12	1	...	1	30	10	27
7	1	8	4	1	5	1	3	4	...	...	...	1	3	4	1	...	1	13	4	28
52	36	88	44	36	80	43	38	81	10	3	13	33	35	68	4	...	4	60	55	29
12	2	14	11	2	15	15	1	16	4	...	4	11	1	12	4	...	4	27	9	30
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	6	31
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	32
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	33
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
5	1	6	5	2	7	10	2	12	1	1	2	9	1	10	2	...	2	13	5	34
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	2	35
14	2	16	22	5	27	14	3	17	2	...	2	12	3	15	1	...	1	30	7	36
1	...	1	1	1	2	...	1	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	..	...	3	4	37
1	...	1	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	2	38
...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	..	6	2	39
6	1	7	3	1	4	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	...	2	10	3	40
2	...	2	1	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	...	2	3	2	41
12	2	14	7	2	9	8	...	8	2	...	2	6	...	6	1	...	1	22	4	42
...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	6	43
272	198	470	307	196	503	292	187	479	58	23	81	234	164	398	15	1	16	338	267	44
7	1	8	7	3	10	4	1	5	...	...	...	4	1	5	...	...	...	18	5	45
20	10	30	22	6	28	25	11	36	9	3	12	16	8	24	5	...	5	35	15	46
23	11	34	28	14	42	29	16	45	4	...	4	25	16	41	...	1	1	44	21	47
16	5	21	9	3	12	9	6	15	2	2	4	7	4	11	1	...	1	24	12	48
...	...	...	...	2	2	3	...	3	3	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	3	49
2	1	3	1	1	2	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	...	...	3	3	50
5	...	5	4	...	4	7	...	7	...	...	...	7	...	7	...	...	...	11	3	51
44	22	66	39	20	59	27	18	45	8	4	12	19	14	33	3	...	3	59	30	52
...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	1	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	3	3	53
3	...	3	1	1	2	2	1	3	1	...	1	1	1	2	...	...	...	7	3	54
49	22	71	55	25	80	62	34	96	7	2	9	55	32	87	1	1	2	69	36	55
14	11	25	20	18	38	12	22	34	5	13	18	7	9	16	...	...	...	32	28	56
...	...	...	...	..	...	1	1	2	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	3	57
4	...	4	4	1	5	3	2	5	1	1	2	2	1	3	1	...	1	8	3	58
1	...	1	1	2	3	3	5	8	2	2	4	1	3	4	...	...	...	4	5	59
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	60
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	2	61
2	...	2	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
15	1	16	11	2	13	8	2	10	2	1	3	6	1	7	...	...	...	23	5	62
1	...	1	1	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	7	3	63
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	64
2	1	3	2	1	3	2	1	3	...	...	...	2	1	3	...	...	...	7	3	65
23	21	44	33	20	53	36	16	52	5	3	8	31	13	44	2	...	2	44	26	66
1	...	1	2	...	2	4	...	4	4	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	3	67
1	...	1	1	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	5	2	68
4	1	5	2	4	6	1	6	7	...	2	2	1	4	5	...	...	...	8	8	69
3	2	5	1	...	1	1	1	2	...	1	1	1	...	1	2	...	2	8	6	70
3	1	4	3	1	4	2	1	3	...	...	...	2	1	3	...	...	...	11	3	71
279	411	690	334	389	723	361	388	749	19	7	26	342	381	723	...	...	...	364	430	72
1,244	997	2,241	1,854	1,050	2,404	1,378	1,071	2,449	280	106	386	1,148	965	2,113	71	4	75			

(No. III. *Continued.*) DIGEST of RETURNS relative to PRISONS and PRISONERS in SCOTLAND

	COUNTIES.	PRISONS.	No. of Prison.	11. Greatest Number, including both Sexes, at any one time.						12. Least Number, including Sexes, at any one time				
				Criminal.			Civil.			Criminal.			Ci	
				M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	
1	Aberdeen	Aberdeen	1	45	23	68	9	1	10	21	18	39	4	
		Peterhead	2	5	3	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
		Huntly	3	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
		Fraserburgh	4	4	1	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
2	Argyle	Inveraray	5	6	5	11	3	...	3	2	...	2	...	
		Campbeltown	6	11	3	14	1	...	1	2	1	3	..	
		Tobermory	7	1	3	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
		Lochgilphead	8	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
3	Ayr	Ayr	9	30	69	99	8	1	9	20	6	26	2	
		Kilmarnock	10	18	8	26	...	...	...	4	2	6	...	
4	Banff	Banff	11	15	4	19	...	...	...	2	1	3	...	
		Keith	12	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
		Cullen	13	2	1	3	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	
5	Berwick	Greenlaw	14	13	3	16	3	...	3	2	1	3	...	
		Dunse	15	5	1	6	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	
6	Bute	Rothesay	16	14	4	18	2	...	2	...	1	1	...	
7	Caithness	Wick	17	9	3	12	4	...	4	1	2	3	...	
8	Clackmannan	Alloa	18	8	7	15	2	...	2	...	1	1	...	
9	Dumbarton	Dumbarton	19	24	5	29	3	...	3	...	2	2	...	
		Kirkintilloch	20	2	4	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
		Helensburgh	21	6	1	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
10	Dumfries	Dumfries	22	29	11	40	5	...	5	11	6	17	...	
11	Edinburgh	Edinburgh, including Court Buildings	23	189	259	448	11	1	12	172	118	290	3	
		Musselburgh	24	2	3	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
12	Elgin	Elgin	25	20	3	23	3	...	3	5	1	6	...	
		Forres	26	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
13	Fife	Cupar	27	30	5	35	3	...	3	11	2	13	...	
		Dunfermline	28	11	3	14	2	...	2	...	1	1	...	
14	Forfar	Dundee	29	55	55	110	4	1	5	18	28	46	...	
		Forfar	30	27	3	30	7	...	7	5	1	6	1	
		Montrose	31	6	3	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
		Arbroath	32	3	2	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
		Brechin	33	2	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
15	Haddington	Haddington	34	11	4	15	3	...	3	...	...	...	1	
		Dunbar	35	5	1	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
16	Inverness	Inverness	36	30	5	35	4	...	4	5	3	8	...	
		Portree	37	2	4	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
		Lochmaddy	38	3	2	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
		Fort-William	39	6	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
17	Kincardine	Stonehaven	40	10	2	12	3	...	3	1	...	1	...	
18	Kinross	Kinross	41	3	1	4	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	
19	Kirkcudbright	Kirkcudbright	42	22	4	26	4	...	4	3	1	4	...	
		Maxwelltown	43	...	6	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
20	Lanark	Glasgow	44	336	246	582	28	1	29	246	177	423	15	
		Lanark	45	18	2	20	7	...	7	4	1	5	...	
		Hamilton	46	35	8	43	9	...	9	13	3	14	1	
		Airdrie	47	44	16	60	4	...	4	13	5	18	...	
21	Linlithgow	Linlithgow	48	23	10	33	3	...	3	6	2	8	1	
22	Nairn	Nairn	49	6	1	7	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	
23	Orkney	Kirkwall	50	2	3	5	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	
24	Peebles	Peebles	51	9	3	12	1	...	1	1	...	1	...	
25	Perth	Perth	52	59	23	82	4	...	4	22	8	30	1	
		Perth Police Cells	53	2	2	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
		Dunblane	54	4	3	7	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	
26	Renfrew	Paisley	55	60	36	96	6	...	6	36	13	49	...	
		Greenock	56	32	27	59	...	...	...	3	5	8	...	
		Pollockshaws	57	6	1	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
27	Ross & Cromarty	Dingwall	58	8	2	10	5	...	5	1	1	2	...	
		Tain	59	4	5	9	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	
		Cromarty	60	2	...	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	
		Stornoway	61	7	...	7	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	
28	Roxburgh	Jedburgh	62	20	4	24	2	...	2	9	1	10	...	
		Hawick	63	7	1	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
		Kelso	64	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
29	Selkirk	Selkirk	65	6	2	8	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	
30	Stirling	Stirling	66	44	20	64	4	...	4	24	10	34	...	
		Falkirk	67	11	...	11	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	
31	Sutherland	Dornoch	68	5	...	5	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	
32	Wigtown	Wigtown	69	6	6	12	3	...	3	1	...	1	...	
		Stranraer	70	7	6	13	4	...	4	...	...	...	...	
33	Zetland	Fort-Charlotte	71	11	2	13	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	
25	Perth	General Prison	72	362	394	756	...	...	...	266	398	664	...	

e Year ended on the **30th day of June 1863**—*continued.* (No. III. *Continued.*)

. Separation of Criminal Prisoners.							Ages of Criminal Prisoners recorded on Admission during the same period (those removed, as per No. (2) of No. 5, being recorded only in the Prison of Detention.)												No. of Prison.
Estimated Average daily Number.							Under 16 Years.		16 Years and under 18.		18 Years and under 21.		21 Years and under 50.		50 Years and above.		Total.		
e nt.	Not in separate Confinement but under immediate and constant Superintendence.			Neither in separate Confinement nor under immediate and constant Superintendence.															
T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
54	...	...	...	...	...	...	53	11	18	20	58	51	431	368	64	46	624	496	1
3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	5	...	3	23	19	2	5	25	33	2
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	4	...	...	4	4	3
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	1	...	4	2	3	...	10	3	4
5	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	3	1	7	1	22	8	4	2	40	12	5
8	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	1	6	2	5	3	39	15	7	3	63	24	6
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	2	1	4	2	3	...	10	4	7
...	...	...	..	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	...	...	4	1	8
43	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	7	5	10	15	15	219	136	30	18	279	186	9
13	...	...	...	2	...	2	18	6	5	3	22	3	88	53	9	9	142	74	10
10	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	...	8	1	8	3	26	18	10	4	60	26	11
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	1	12
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	9	3	...	...	10	3	13
7	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	1	9	1	30	14	8	...	50	16	14
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	1	4	...	41	17	4	...	59	18	15
6	1	...	1	...	...	...	8	...	4	...	10	4	53	9	3	11	78	24	16
8	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	8	5	35	12	5	1	51	21	17
7	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	3	...	10	8	42	23	8	7	70	38	18
12	...	...	...	...	...	...	21	7	7	5	26	4	131	55	23	2	208	73	19
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	3	...	4	3	15	9	2	1	26	13	20
...	...	...	...	..	...	...	15	...	...	...	4	...	35	6	3	2	57	8	21
27	...	...	...	...	...	...	27	5	7	10	19	22	233	85	50	21	336	143	22
361	...	...	...	29	74	103	111	19	151	180	294	513	1511	2072	228	232	2295	2966	23
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	4	...	10	12	...	...	15	12	24
8	3	2	5	...	...	...	13	3	9	2	18	2	60	19	4	2	104	28	25
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	3	...	14	2	...	...	18	2	26
23	...	...	...	...	...	...	36	4	10	4	20	6	114	68	11	4	191	86	27
6	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	1	3	2	9	2	45	16	8	6	70	27	28
71	...	6	6	...	...	...	63	5	23	15	85	45	402	425	60	45	683	535	29
16	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	...	7	2	15	...	82	26	17	4	139	32	30
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	4	...	15	11	6	2	27	13	31
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	11	11	2	...	14	13	32
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	3	2	1	...	8	2	33
9	...	...	...	...	...	...	17	1	4	2	24	4	80	24	17	1	142	32	34
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	...	2	3	4	...	35	23	15	3	65	29	35
16	...	...	...	1	...	1	15	2	6	2	18	3	86	17	12	3	137	27	36
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	9	7	1	4	14	11	37
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	5	1	...	...	6	3	38
2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	6	2	23	6	3	1	34	9	39
6	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	4	4	1	5	3	43	13	13	3	69	24	40
2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	1	...	5	...	32	1	4	1	43	5	41
9	...	...	...	2	...	2	5	3	6	3	14	4	112	26	14	4	151	40	42
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	1	2	2	5	25	20	4	2	34	31	43
13	6	74	80	65	26	91	118	46	176	84	419	360	1959	1561	175	187	2847	2188	44
9	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	2	1	10	...	83	16	9	2	108	20	45
23	3	3	6	1	1	2	11	5	6	1	41	8	307	83	28	10	393	107	46
36	...	...	...	...	...	...	29	13	33	19	76	22	365	148	45	16	548	218	47
20	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	4	9	4	13	3	86	28	7	3	128	42	48
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	2	...	...	4	2	11	5	3	...	28	9	49
2	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	2	2	1	...	9	11	1	2	16	18	50
4	...	...	...	...	...	..	6	2	4	2	4	...	61	2	3	1	78	7	51
37	16	5	21	...	...	...	58	2	31	4	65	24	279	188	30	19	463	237	52
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	4	2	4	1	34	45	11	6	58	54	53
4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	5	3	31	8	3	...	41	11	54
65	4	4	8	...	...	...	32	10	22	14	91	22	497	252	57	28	699	326	55
20	...	3	3	...	...	...	18	2	5	8	18	13	147	143	17	5	205	171	56
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	5	4	28	8	3	...	37	14	57
5	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	...	6	...	9	2	34	5	6	...	66	7	58
2	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	2	...	...	1	1	10	4	...	2	15	9	59
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	4	2	60
2	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	2	5	1	10	...	28	3	1	...	52	6	61
14	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	2	14	1	22	4	120	28	9	1	172	36	62
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	2	...	4	...	49	16	7	3	68	19	63
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	7	1	1	1	11	2	64
3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	2	3	1	33	8	7	...	46	12	65
35	...	...	...	6	4	10	23	2	21	8	44	19	251	119	24	14	363	162	66
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	6	...	13	3	34	4	2	2	56	9	67
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	...	4	...	10	2	2	...	20	2	68
6	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	2	1	17	9	1	4	22	16	69
3	1	1	2	...	...	...	4	...	...	1	2	2	19	13	6	1	31	17	70
3	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	1	...	4	...	37	6	7	...	53	6	71
79	32	25	57	16	47	63	1	3	14	7	63	24	240	154	14	13	332	201	72
822	66	123	189	122	152	274	881	194	677	393	1,686	1,238	8,995	6,532	1137	719	13,376	9,076	
2285							1,075		1,070		2,924		15,527		1,856		22,452		

(No. III. *Continued.*) DIGEST of RETURNS relative to PRISONS and PRISONERS in SCOTLAND,

15. Previous Imprisonments in the same Prison of Criminal Prisoners received during the Period.

	COUNTIES.	PRISONS.	No. of Prison.	Once before.		Twice.		Three Times.		Four Times.		Five Times.		6 times and under 10.		10 times and under 20		20 times and under 50.		50 times and upwards.		Tota
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.
1	Aberdeen	Aberdeen	1	104	57	53	34	27	24	16	22	12	20	43	65	32	70	17	78	...	...	304
		Peterhead	2	3	5	1	3	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	7
		Huntly	3	1	1	1	...	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
		Fraserburgh	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	1
2	Argyle	Inveraray	5	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	4
		Campbeltown	6	8	6	3	...	1	2	2	3	1	1	2	3	3	...	3	...	...	...	23
		Tobermory	7	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
		Lochgilphead	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	Ayr	Ayr	9	34	23	10	17	9	5	7	7	3	...	4	1	1	1	1	...	2	...	71
		Kilmarnock	10	19	8	11	7	3	11	2	6	...	3	1	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	36
4	Banff	Banff	11	4	1	5	1	3	1	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
		Keith	12	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
		Cullen	13	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
5	Berwick	Greenlaw	14	4	1	5	...	3	1	3	...	...	1	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
		Dunse	15	6	5	2	2	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
6	Bute	Rothesay	16	5	2	1	1	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	11
7	Caithness	Wick	17	10	3	4	3	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
8	Clackmannan	Alloa	18	10	6	1	2	1	1	...	4	...	1	3	3	1	4	...	...	...	...	16
9	Dumbarton	Dumbarton	19	40	7	15	2	4	5	1	...	1	1	1	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	62
		Kirkintilloch	20	3	2	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	6
		Helensburgh	21	6	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
10	Dumfries	Dumfries	22	44	20	22	14	12	11	14	6	6	8	15	7	14	2	7	1	...	...	134
11	Edinburgh	Edinburgh, including Court Buildings	23	357	308	175	194	127	169	96	152	76	119	181	337	128	416	17	439	8	168	1165
		Musselburgh	24	4	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
12	Elgin	Elgin	25	12	6	4	2	4	...	1	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
		Forres	26	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
13	Fife	Cupar	27	22	16	12	5	5	3	3	3	4	3	2	1	...	...	...	4	...	...	48
		Dunfermline	28	13	1	4	2	4	2	3	...	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
14	Forfar	Dundee	29	94	56	49	32	29	14	19	14	17	33	34	45	23	64	6	39	...	30	271
		Forfar	30	16	5	6	1	4	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
		Montrose	31	3	1	1	2	...	1	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	6
		Arbroath	32	1	3	...	2	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2
		Brechin	33	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
15	Haddington	Haddington	34	16	2	4	2	6	1	5	...	2	...	6	...	4	4	...	...	...	...	43
		Dunbar	35	3	6	3	2	3	2	3	...	2	...	6	...	5	4	1	...	...	...	26
16	Inverness	Inverness	36	11	4	7	2	4	...	1	...	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	27
		Portree	37	2	1	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
		Lochmaddy	38	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Fort-William	39	7	2	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
17	Kincardine	Stonehaven	40	12	3	1	...	2	...	1	...	...	..	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	17
18	Kinross	Kinross	41	7	...	6	...	2	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
19	Kirkcudbright	Kirkcudbright	42	16	5	9	3	6	1	1	...	1	...	5	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	40
		Maxwelltown	43	2	...	1	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
20	Lanark	Glasgow	44	613	418	253	276	131	174	63	108	61	87	65	158	36	84	5	13	...	...	1227
		Lanark	45	7	1	4	...	2	...	1	1	2	1	3	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	22
		Hamilton	46	44	12	10	8	13	7	10	2	9	4	11	19	10	1	8	7	...	...	115
		Airdrie	47	75	30	18	7	14	12	8	8	7	1	6	10	6	17	9	18	...	...	143
21	Linlithgow	Linlithgow	48	13	5	4	2	2	1	1	3	...	...	1	1	...	3	...	...	...	...	21
22	Nairn	Nairn	49	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
23	Orkney	Kirkwall	50	1	2	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
24	Peebles	Peebles	51	8	...	2	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
25	Perth	Perth	52	73	26	26	15	18	13	11	6	6	7	12	22	11	19	...	49	...	22	157
		Perth Police Cells	53	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Dunblane	54	1	1	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
26	Renfrew	Paisley	55	107	42	47	26	33	12	16	7	17	4	23	25	24	18	9	27	...	23	276
		Greenock	56	28	28	16	19	9	21	7	16	5	12	11	16	5	20	5	11	...	9	86
		Pollockshaws	57	5	1	1	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
27	Ross & Cromarty	Dingwall	58	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Tain	59	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Cromarty	60	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Stornoway	61	4	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
28	Roxburgh	Jedburgh	62	26	4	10	2	6	2	1	2	2	2	2	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	49
		Hawick	63	17	6	11	4	2	1	1	1	1	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
		Kelso	64	4	...	2	...	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
29	Selkirk	Selkirk	65	4	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	1	..	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
30	Stirling	Stirling	66	55	22	24	11	10	2	7	4	3	2	6	8	2	9	...	1	...	...	167
		Falkirk	67	14	3	4	1	5	...	1	2	4	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
31	Sutherland	Dornoch	68	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
32	Wigtown	Wigtown	69	3	2	...	2	2	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
		Stranraer	70	5	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
33	Zetland	Fort-Charlotte	71	5	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
25	Perth	General Prison	72	62	59	3	14	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	.	67
				2082	1238	869	724	531	504	314	386	252	315	465	741	309	741	92	691	11	252	4,925
				3,320		1,593		1,035		700		567		1,206		1,050		783		263		10,51

for the Year ended on the **30th day of June 1863**—*continued.* (No. III. *Continued.*)

minal Prisoners **received** ring the period in Local ons,* who had been in the neral Prison, in so far as known.					17. Sentences of Criminal Prisoners **convicted** during the Period.																No. of Prison
					(1.) To Imprisonment for Definite Periods.												(2.) Imprisonment for Indefinite Periods, and not included in the preceding Classes of Imprisonment for Definite Periods.						
					10 Days and under.		11 Days and not above 60 Days.		Above 60 Days and under 6 Months.		6 Months and under 1 Year.		1 Year and upwards.		Total.		Until Caution be found to keep the Peace after Conviction on Criminal Charge.		Until, or instead of Payment of Fine or Penalty on Conviction of Offence, prosecuted for the Public Interest.		Total.		
ace.		More than once.		Total.																		
F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
9	...	1	15	10	257	286	260	143	15	5	2	...	...	...	474	434	23	8	42	30	65	38	1
...	...	...	1	...	6	8	4	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	17	1	...	11	11	12	11	2
...	...	...	...	...	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
...	...	...	...	...	8	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	3	2	...	...	...	2	...	4
1	...	...	...	1	10	1	14	4	2	...	1	1	1	...	28	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
1	2	...	5	1	12	8	31	9	5	5	1	1	...	...	49	23	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
...	...	...	...	...	6	...	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
...	...	...	...	...	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
4	...	...	4	4	39	35	92	45	24	8	5	6	...	1	160	95	77	25	7	...	84	25	9
2	...	...	2	2	6	1	52	27	1	2	...	...	...	...	59	30	...	...	44	34	44	34	10
...	...	...	1	...	8	7	28	9	9	...	3	1	...	...	48	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
...	...	...	...	...	5	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
...	...	...	...	...	4	...	34	12	6	1	1	1	...	...	45	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
...	...	...	2	...	30	13	5	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	35	14	...	...	17	1	17	1	15
...	...	...	...	...	10	6	23	7	2	2	...	...	...	...	35	15	...	...	37	6	37	6	16
1	1	...	1	1	9	6	16	5	4	1	1	1	...	...	30	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
...	...	...	2	...	30	19	27	16	3	1	...	...	...	...	60	36	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
1	...	...	1	1	106	40	61	15	3	1	...	2	...	...	170	58	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
1	...	...	1	1	9	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	9	...	...	17	4	17	4	20
...	...	...	...	...	49	6	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	51	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
...	...	...	...	...	149	72	121	56	5	...	9	5	5	1	289	134	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
...	2	...	3	...																			
55	10	15	55	70	199	231	818	943	34	14	31	13	1	1	1083	1202	266	215	895	1511	1161	1726	23
...	...	...	...	...	3	8	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
...	...	1	...	1	1	3	39	14	5	...	2	1	...	...	47	18	...	...	31	7	31	7	25
...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	14	2	14	2	26
1	...	...	1	1	49	30	93	42	10	1	1	...	...	...	153	73	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
...	...	...	1	...	22	9	30	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	52	26	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
10	...	1	10	11	120	143	170	197	14	3	7	3	...	...	311	346	20	5	211	150	231	155	29
...	...	...	2	...	27	5	53	17	1	...	4	...	1	1	86	23	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
...	...	...	...	...	9	4	10	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	19	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
...	...	...	1	...	8	7	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	4	1	4	1	33
...	...	...	2	...	14	18	41	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	55	16	1	...	73	13	74	13	34
...	...	...	...	...	54	23	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	57	23	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
...	...	...	3	...	6	1	92	18	15	5	1	1	...	...	114	25	...	...	1	1	1	1	36
...	2	...	...	...	5	1	3	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
...	...	...	...	...		1	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	...	...	1	...	1	...	38
...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
1	...	...	...	1	10	4	10	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	33	17	2	...	18	5	20	5	40
...	...	...	2	...	10	8	20	9	2	...	1	...	...	...	9	...	3	...	23	2	26	2	41
...	...	...	1	...	3	...	4	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	36	18	...	...	94	16	94	16	42
...	...	...	1	...	12	8	24	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	33	28	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
1	...	...	...	1	23	20	10	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	1103	753	...	...	1417	1351	1417	1351	44
18	...	9	24	27	21	15	968	676	67	35	46	27	1	...	49	15	2	...	35	2	37	2	45
...	...	...	1	...	17	8	28	5	3	...	1	2	...	...	345	91	6	...	7	2	13	2	46
5	...	...	3	5	118	26	203	61	24	3	...	1	...	...	443	190	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
2	...	...	2	2	201	95	230	93	8	1	4	1	...	...	87	29	2	...	18	5	20	5	48
1	...	...	1	1	12	8	66	17	7	2	2	2	...	...	10	6	...	...	5	1	5	1	49
...	...	...	...	...	5	3	5	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	14	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
1	...	...	...	1	4	11	10	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	22	3	...	...	42	...	42	...	51
...	...	...	1	...	7	1	9	2	3	...	3	...	...	...	362	227	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
10	...	1	5	11	56	57	276	162	24	7	6	1	...	...	58	53	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
...	...	...	...	...	58	53	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37	9	3	...	...	...	3	...	54
1	...	...	1	1	14	2	19	5	4	2	...	...	...	...	283	156	...	...	323	149	323	149	55
11	1	...	20	11	48	31	186	110	29	8	18	7	2	...	89	81	...	...	77	59	77	59	56
3	...	...	2	3	28	14	61	67	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	7	...	...	25	12	25	12	57
...	...	...	...	...	3	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	58
...	...	...	...	...	12	1	11	1	3	1	2	...	...	...	9	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	59
...	...	...	...	...	4	...	5	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
...	...	...	...	...	2	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30	4	...	...	19	...	19	...	61
...	...	...	...	...	16	4	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	129	26	...	...	...	...	...	...	62
1	...	...	1	1	58	12	58	14	9	...	4	...	...	...	68	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	63
1	...	...	1	1	68	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	64
...	...	...	...	...	11	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	65
...	...	...	...	...	15	4	16	5	2	1	...	...	...	...	178	88	3	1	147	65	150	66	66
5	...	3	3	8	41	12	113	63	18	7	6	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	67
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	68
...	...	...	1	...	2	2	8	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	15	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	69
1	...	...	...	1	3	1	11	9	1	1	...	1	...	...	25	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	70
1	...	...	...	1	8	2	16	11	1	1	...	...	...	...	26	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	71
...	...	...	...	...	4	...	21	6	1	...	...	...	...	...									
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	78	55	167	81	245	136	...	...	...	...	...	...	72
149	18	31	184	180	2,175	1,435	4,482	2,978	368	119	241	139	178	85	7,444	4,756	411	254	3,655	3,440	4,066	3,694	
315	49		364		3,610		7,460		487		380		263		12,200		665		7,095		7,760		

* Those who were merely received into the Local Prisons to be transferred to the General Prison, and are thus entered in the previous Table as re-committed to the General Prison, are not included under this head.

(No. III. *Continued.*) DIGEST of RETURNS relative to PRISONS and PRISONERS in SCOTLAND,

	COUNTIES.	PRISONS.	No. of Prison.	17—*contd.* Sentences of Criminal Prisoners, &c.—*contd.* (3.) To Penal Servitude.* M.	(3.) To Penal Servitude.* F.	(4.) To Death.† M.	(4.) To Death.† F.	(5.) Sentences of Male Juveniles to Whipping without Imprisonment. M.	18. Grand Total of Sentences. M.	18. Grand Total of Sentences. F.	19. Sentences of Male Juveniles to Whipping in addition to Imprisonment, as in No. 17. M.	20. Sentences to Hard Labour as 10 Days and under. M.	10 Days and under. F.	11 Days and not above 60 Days. M.	11 Days and not above 60 Days. F.
1	Aberdeen	Aberdeen	1	6	1	...	...	...	545	473	...	...	...	5	...
		Peterhead	2	...	...	...	...	...	22	28	...	...	...	...	...
		Huntly	3	...	..	...	...	...	4	4	...	...	...	...	...
		Fraserburgh	4	...	...	...	...	...	10	3	...	...	...	...	...
2	Argyle	Inveraray	5	1	1	...	...	...	29	7	...	...	...	1	...
		Campbeltown	6	...	...	...	...	...	49	23	...	5	...	5	...
		Tobermory	7	...	...	...	...	...	9	3	...	...	...	...	...
		Lochgilphead	8	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	...	...	...	...	...
3	Ayr	Ayr	9	6	3	...	...	...	250	123	...	2	3	28	2
		Kilmarnock	10	...	...	...	...	...	103	64	...	1	...	1	...
4	Banff	Banff	11	...	...	...	...	...	48	17	...	...	...	...	...
		Keith	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Cullen	13	...	...	...	...	...	5	2	...	...	...	...	...
5	Berwick	Greenlaw	14	...	...	...	...	...	45	14	...	...	...	2	...
		Dunse	15	...	...	...	...	8	60	15	...	...	...	...	...
6	Bute	Rothesay	16	...	...	...	...	...	72	21	...	...	...	2	...
7	Caithness	Wick	17	...	...	...	...	...	30	13	...	...	...	...	...
8	Clackmannan	Alloa	18	..	...	...	...	...	60	36	...	...	...	8	...
9	Dumbarton	Dumbarton	19	...	...	...	...	...	170	58	...	...	...	...	...
		Kirkintilloch	20	...	...	...	...	...	26	13	...	...	...	..	..
		Helensburgh	21	...	...	...	...	...	51	6	...	...	...	...	...
10	Dumfries	Dumfries	22	4	2	...	...	2	295	136	...	14	5	20	18
11	Edinburgh	Edinburgh, including Court Buildings	23	21	14	1	...	...	2,266	2,942	1	14	15	388	719
		Musselburgh	24	...	...	...	...	...	9	8	...	...	...	...	...
12	Elgin	Elgin	25	...	...	...	...	...	78	25	2	...	...	4	...
		Forres	26	...	...	...	...	...	18	2	...	...	...	...	...
13	Fife	Cupar	27	...	...	...	...	23	176	73	...	...	1	8	6
		Dunfermline	28	...	...	...	...	...	52	26	...	2	1	...	...
14	Forfar	Dundee	29	...	...	...	...	17	559	501	7	132	138	15	18
		Forfar	30	...	...	...	...	...	86	23	...	...	...	...	...
		Montrose	31	..	...	...	...	...	19	8	...	2	...	...	...
		Arbroath	32	...	...	...	...	...	11	9	...	1	2	3	1
		Brechin	33	...	...	...	...	...	6	2	...	...	...	...	...
15	Haddington	Haddington	34	...	...	...	...	...	129	29	...	...	...	5	...
		Dunbar	35	...	...	...	...	...	57	23	...	...	...	...	...
16	Inverness	Inverness	36	3	...	...	...	...	118	26	...	...	...	3	...
		Portree	37	...	...	...	..	...	8	5	...	...	...	...	...
		Lochmaddy	38	...	...	...	...	...	4	3	...	1	...	...	...
		Fort-William	39	...	...	...	...	...	20	9	...	...	...	...	...
17	Kincardine	Stonehaven	40	...	...	...	...	...	53	22	...	...	...	5	...
18	Kinross	Kinross	41	...	...	...	...	...	35	2	...	...	...	...	...
19	Kirkcudbright	Kirkcudbright	42	...	...	...	...	...	130	34	...	8	1	32	1
		Maxwelltown	43	...	...	...	...	...	33	28	...	9	3	5	1
20	Lanark	Glasgow	44	60	35	...	1	...	2,580	2,140	...	1	...	42	1
		Lanark	45	...	...	...	...	...	86	17	...	1	...	5	...
		Hamilton	46	...	...	...	...	...	358	93	...	1	...	64	16
		Airdrie	47	...	...	...	...	...	443	190	...	10	...	65	...
21	Linlithgow	Linlithgow	48	...	...	...	...	...	107	34	...	1	...	22	1
22	Nairn	Nairn	49	...	...	...	...	...	15	7	...	...	...	...	...
23	Orkney	Kirkwall	50	...	...	...	...	...	14	17	...	...	...	...	...
24	Peebles	Peebles	51	...	...	...	...	...	64	3	...	...	...	...	...
25	Perth	Perth	52	21	14	...	...	...	383	241	...	4	1	5	1
		Perth Police Cells	53	...	...	...	...	...	58	53	...	...	..	...	...
		Dunblane	54	...	...	...	...	...	40	9	...	...	...	...	...
26	Renfrew	Paisley	55	...	...	...	...	...	606	305	...	1	...	34	...
		Greenock	56	...	...	...	...	1	167	140	...	...	...	...	...
		Pollockshaws	57	...	...	...	...	...	28	19	...	...	...	...	...
27	Ross and Cromarty	Dingwall	58	...	...	...	...	...	28	3	...	...	...	1	...
		Tain	59	...	...	...	...	...	9	6	...	...	...	...	...
		Cromarty	60	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	...	...	...	...	...
		Stornoway	61	...	...	...	...	...	49	4	2	...	...	...	...
28	Roxburgh	Jedburgh	62	1	...	...	...	...	130	26	1	3	...	12	...
		Hawick	63	...	...	...	...	...	68	16	...	4	..	...	...
		Kelso	64	...	...	...	...	...	11	2	...	11	2	...	...
29	Selkirk	Selkirk	65	...	..	...	...	...	33	10	...	...	...	...	...
30	Stirling	Stirling	66	5	5	...	...	...	333	159	...	2	...	55	10
		Falkirk	67	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
31	Sutherland	Dornoch	68	...	...	...	...	...	13	2	...	...	...	2	...
32	Wigtown	Wigtown	69	...	...	...	...	...	15	12	...	...	...	...	...
		Stranraer	70	...	...	...	...	...	25	14	...	...	...	1	...
33	Zetland	Fort-Charlotte	71	...	...	...	...	...	26	6	...	3	...	21	3
25	Perth	General Prison	72	...	...	...	...	...	245	136	...	...	...	...	...
				128	75	1	1	51	11,690	8,526	13	233	172	869	794
				203		2			20,216			405		1,668	

* For particulars of these cases, see page 36.
† Commuted to Penal Servitude for Life.

for the Year ended on the **30th day of June 1863**—*continued.* (No. III. *Continued.*)

dition to Imprisonment, 17.						21. Insane Prisoners.															
								Received during the period, viz.,													
ve 60 Days d under Months.		6 Months and upwards.		Total.		In Prison at commencement of period.		Committed as dangerous Lunatics.		Found by the Court to be unfit for Trial.		On Trial found to have been Insane.		Became Insane after Commitment to Prison.		Other Descriptions.		Total.		No. of Prison.
.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
	...	...	...	7	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
	...	1	...	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
	1	...	...	34	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	10
	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
	...	...	1	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
	...	...	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	1	...	19
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
	...	...	...	34	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
	1	22	5	438	740	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	23
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
	...	...	...	8	6	...	...	2	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	27
	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	28
	...	...	...	147	151	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	2	2	29
	...	3	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
	...	...	...	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	34
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	37
	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	38
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
	1	...	...	49	4	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	42
	...	...	...	14	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
	...	...	...	48	2	..	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	44
	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
	4	...	...	68	14	...	...	2	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	46
	...	...	...	76	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
	1	...	...	27	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
	...	...	...	...	...	...	.	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	49
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	51
	...	...	...	11	4	...	...	2	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	52
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	54
	...	2	...	45	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	55
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	56
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	58
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	59
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	61
	...	1	...	21	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	62
	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	63
	...	...	...	11	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	64
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	65
	...	2	5	70	21	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	66
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	67
	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	68
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	69
	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	70
	...	...	...	25	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	71
0	1	41	14	51	15	22	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	22	11	72
0	9	73	25	1,265	1000	22	10	17	7	3	2	3		2	1	1	1	48	2	
99		98		2,265		32		24		5		3		3		2		69		

(No. III. *Continued.*) DIGEST of RETURNS relative to PRISONS and PRISONERS in SCOTLAND,

	COUNTIES.	PRISONS.	No. of Prison.	21—*continued.* Insane Prisoners—*continued.* Died. M.	Died. F.	Discharged. M.	Discharged. F.	Removed to Lunatic Asylum. M.	Removed to Lunatic Asylum. F.	In Prison at the end of the Period. M.	In Prison at the end of the Period. F.	Total. M.	Total. F.	Whereof received during the period into the Department of the General Prison for Criminal Lunatics. M.	Whereof received during the period into the Department of the General Prison for Criminal Lunatics. F.	22. Revenue prisoners incl in foregoi Tables, be Imprison until Payment Fine o Penalty unless oth wise state Note. M.
1	Aberdeen	Aberdeen	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
		Peterhead	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Huntly	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Fraserburgh	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	Argyle	Inveraray	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
		Campbeltown	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Tobermory	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Lochgilphead	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	Ayr	Ayr	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
		Kilmarnock	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
4	Banff	Banff	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Keith	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Cullen	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	Berwick	Greenlaw	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Dunse	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6	Bute	Rothesay	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
7	Caithness	Wick	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8	Clackmannan	Alloa	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9	Dumbarton	Dumbarton	19	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
		Kirkintilloch	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Helensburgh	21	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	Dumfries	Dumfries	22	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11	Edinburgh	Edinburgh, including Court Buildings	23	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	33
		Musselburgh	24	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12	Elgin	Elgin	25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Forres	26	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13	Fife	Cupar	27	...	...	...	...	3	2	...	...	3	2	...	...	...
		Dunfermline	28	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
14	Forfar	Dundee	29	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	...	2	2	...	...	1
		Forfar	30	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Montrose	31	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Arbroath	32	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Brechin	33	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	Haddington	Haddington	34	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
		Dunbar	35	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
16	Inverness	Inverness	36	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
		Portree	37	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
		Lochmaddy	38	...	...	...	...	1	..	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
		Fort-William	39	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
17	Kincardine	Stonehaven	40	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
18	Kinross	Kinross	41	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
19	Kirkcudbright	Kirkcudbright	42	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
		Maxwelltown	43	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20	Lanark	Glasgow	44	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	*11
		Lanark	45	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Hamilton	46	...	...	...	...	3	2	...	...	3	2	...	...	...
		Airdrie	47	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
21	Linlithgow	Linlithgow	48	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
22	Nairn	Nairn	49	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
23	Orkney	Kirkwall	50	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
24	Peebles	Peebles	51	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
25	Perth	Perth	52	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	3	1	...	...	...
		Perth Police Cells	53	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Dunblane	54	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
26	Renfrew	Paisley	55	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	4
		Greenock	56	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	†1
		Pollockshaws	57	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
27	Ross and Cromarty	Dingwall	58	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
		Tain	59	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Cromarty	60	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Stornoway	61	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	..	...	...
28	Roxburgh	Jedburgh	62	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
		Hawick	63	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Kelso	64	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
29	Selkirk	Selkirk	65	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
30	Stirling	Stirling	66	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Falkirk	67	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
31	Sutherland	Dornoch	68	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	‡1
32	Wigtown	Wigtown	69	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Stranraer	70	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
33	Zetland	Fort-Charlotte	71	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
25	Perth	General Prison	72	2	...	3	...	...	...	19	11	24	11	...	1	...
				2	...	6	2	18	8	22	11	48	21	2	1	60
				2		8		26		33		69		3		98

* (No. 22.) Of these, 5 were sentenced to imprisonment for 3 months in default of payment of £30 for illicit distillation, and imprisonment for one month in default of payment of £10 for conveying a certain quantity of spirits without a permit.

† Imprisoned for a definite period after conviction.

‡ Imprisoned for taxes on a dog.

for the Year ended on the **30th day of June 1863**—*continued.* (No. III. *Continued.*)

General Conduct in Prison of Criminal Prisoners in **Confinement** during the Period.								24. Punished for Misconduct in Prison of Criminal Prisoners in **Confinement** during the Period														No. of Prison.
								(1.) Ages of Prisoners who have incurred Punishment.										(2.) Description of Punishments.				
Good.		Tolerable.		Bad.		Total.		Under 16.		16 Years and under 18.		18 Years and under 21.		21 Years and under 50.		50 Years and above.		Total.		Number by temporary deprivation of Work.		Number by changes in Food.		
	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
4	537	4	1	1	1	669	539	...	...	2	...	2	1	7	...	1	...	12	1	...	...	15	1	1
3	36	1	2	...	...	34	38	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	1	2	2
3	6	...	...	...	...	13	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
4	3	...	1	...	...	14	4	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
7	13	...	...	1	...	48	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	5
0	23	7	2	2	1	69	26	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
0	4	...	...	...	...	10	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
5	1	...	...	...	...	5	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
9	194	...	...	...	6	309	200	...	...	...	...	...	1	5	9	...	...	5	10	...	...	...	...	9
2	82	3	4	1	...	166	86	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	4	...	...	...	4	...	10
6	29	...	...	...	...	66	29	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
3	1	...	...	...	...	8	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
1	1	...	1	...	2	11	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	2	...	2	13
1	16	5	2	1	...	57	18	...	...	...	...	2	...	4	1	2	...	8	1	...	...	7	1	14
3	28	...	...	...	...	76	28	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
8	22	4	5	...	...	82	27	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	16
5	23	2	2	3	...	60	25	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	3	...	17
3	32	5	7	4	1	72	40	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	3	1	...	...	3	1	18
6	78	2	1	...	...	218	79	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	2	1	...	...	2	...	19
0	16	...	...	...	...	30	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
9	10	...	...	1	...	60	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	21
6	147	3	3	...	...	359	150	...	...	2	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	4	...	22
5	3116	80	72	22	29	2527	3217	8	2	20	10	37	21	34	56	...	3	99	92	...	...	122	85	23
5	12	...	...	...	...	15	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
3	30	1	...	...	...	114	30	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	25
1	2	...	...	...	...	21	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
1	87	8	2	1	...	220	89	...	...	1	...	1	...	6	1	1	...	9	1	...	...	13	1	27
8	28	2	...	...	...	80	28	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
9	563	25	18	8	13	682	594	3	...	2	...	8	2	9	20	...	...	22	22	...	...	23	28	29
1	37	1	...	1	...	153	37	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	30
8	15	...	...	...	...	28	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
5	14	1	1	...	...	16	15	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
8	6	...	...	...	...	8	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
7	33	4	...	2	1	153	34	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	1	...	1	34
5	29	...	...	...	...	65	29	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
0	26	9	2	5	2	144	30	6	1	...	...	1	1	5	...	...	...	12	2	...	...	8	1	36
3	10	1	...	...	1	14	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
3	3	2	...	1	...	6	3	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	38
7	9	...	...	...	...	37	9	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
9	21	6	1	1	3	76	25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	40
5	5	10	...	...	...	45	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	41
2	44	4	...	...	...	166	44	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	1	...	4	...	...	...	4	...	42
6	31	...	...	...	...	36	31	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
6	2383	49	14	26	21	3191	2418	26	1	46	9	75	13	55	11	3	1	205	35	...	...	300	21	44
2	20	8	3	1	...	121	23	1	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	6	...	45
2	100	18	14	3	4	433	118	...	...	...	...	3	2	8	7	2	...	13	9	4	2	14	12	46
9	210	8	18	1	4	578	232	3	1	...	...	2	...	6	2	...	...	11	3	...	...	11	4	47
0	51	5	1	3	...	148	52	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	1	...	...	3	1	...	...	3	1	48
8	9	...	...	...	...	28	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
6	19	...	...	...	...	16	19	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
2	9	...	...	1	...	83	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	51
1	210	50	41	13	12	504	263	5	1	1	1	1	2	4	5	...	...	11	9	...	...	10	11	52
0	55	...	...	...	...	69	55	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	53
9	10	4	1	3	1	46	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	1	...	4	...	...	...	3	...	54
3	361	2	3	5	2	770	366	1	...	...	2	5	1	8	3	...	...	14	6	...	...	16	3	55
3	236	...	2	1	1	304	239	...	...	...	...	3	...	5	3	...	...	8	3	...	...	8	2	56
0	17	...	...	...	...	50	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
5	7	6	2	...	...	71	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	58
7	9	...	...	...	...	17	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	59
4	2	...	...	...	...	4	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
7	5	15	1	2	...	54	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	61
0	36	12	1	...	...	192	37	3	...	1	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	7	...	6	...	6	...	62
5	28	2	2	...	1	97	31	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	..	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	63
9	4	...	...	1	...	20	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	64
8	12	3	...	1	...	52	12	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	65
1	175	5	2	1	2	397	179	2	...	5	...	6	...	19	1	1	...	33	1	...	...	32	2	66
2	30	7	2	1	...	110	32	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	67
1	2	2	...	1	...	24	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	3	...	68
0	19	2	1	2	...	34	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	2	1	...	...	2	1	69
3	21	...	...	...	...	33	21	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	2	1	...	...	2	1	70
3	6	1	...	...	...	54	6	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	71
71	533	78	64	62	30	611	627	4	...	24	8	34	25	41	68	...	2	103	103	...	1	140	68	72
494	10,002	467	299	183	138	15,144	10,439	66	7	108	32	187	70	247	195	19	6	627	310	11	6	776	250	
24,496		766		321		25,583		73		140		257		442		25		937		17		1,026		

(No. III. *Continued.*) DIGEST of RETURNS relative to PRISONS and PRISONERS in SCOTLAND,

	COUNTIES.	PRISONS.	No. of Prison.	24—*continued.* Punished for Misconduct in Prison of Criminal Prisoners, &c.—*continued.* (2.) Description of Punishments—*continued.* Number confined in Cells for the Refractory. Light Cells. M.	Light Cells. F.	Dark Cells. M.	Dark Cells. F.	Number by putting in Irons. M.	Number by putting in Irons. F.	Number of other Punishments. M.	Number of other Punishments. F.	(3.) Number of cases of Punishment by one or more of the modes in No. 2. M.	(3.) Number of cases of Punishment by one or more of the modes in No. 2. F.	25. State as to Instruction (1.) On Admissi Readin Could not Read. M.	Could not Read. F.	Read wit difficulty M.	F.
1	Aberdeen	Aberdeen	1	...	...	1	...	..	...	...	...	15	1	98	82	456	40
		Peterhead	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	2	7	14	2
		Huntly	3	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	2	
		Fraserburgh	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	9	
2	Argyle	Inveraray	5	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	6	4	5	
		Campbeltown	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	10	46	1
		Tobermory	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	2	5	
		Lochgilphead	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	
3	Ayr	Ayr	9	3	2	2	13	2	13	...	...	5	15	46	27	80	6
		Kilmarnock	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	28	21	71	3
4	Banff	Banff	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	3	48	2
		Keith	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	
		Cullen	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	10	
5	Berwick	Greenlaw	14	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	9	1	10	6	16	
		Dunse	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17	10	12	
6	Bute	Rothesay	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	7	1	65	2
7	Caithness	Wick	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	4	4	40	1
8	Clackmannan	Alloa	18	...	...	1	1	1	...	1	...	3	1	13	7	52	3
9	Dumbarton	Dumbarton	19	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	3	1	67	32	137	4
		Kirkintilloch	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	12	9	
		Helensburgh	21	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	5	2	40	
10	Dumfries	Dumfries	22	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	78	29	46	1
11	Edinburgh	Edinburgh, including Court Buildings	23	...	...	15	32	8	19	3	...	122	106	303	401	1,862	2,58
		Musselburgh	24	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	1	...	14	1
12	Elgin	Elgin	25	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	1	...	19	8	59	1
		Forres	26	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	1	8	
13	Fife	Cupar	27	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	1	38	15	76	4
		Dunfermline	28	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	9	14	
14	Forfar	Dundee	29	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	26	28	138	152	456	35
		Forfar	30	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	15	3	69	2
		Montrose	31	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	5	21	
		Arbroath	32	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	9	
		Brechin	33	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
15	Haddington	Haddington	34	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	32	8	98	2
		Dunbar	35	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	6	36	2
16	Inverness	Inverness	36	...	...	4	1	1	1	...	...	13	3	32	12	75	1
		Portree	37	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	9	6	
		Lochmaddy	38	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	2	...	
		Fort-William	39	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	3	25	
17	Kincardine	Stonehaven	40	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	14	9	37	1
18	Kinross	Kinross	41	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	22	
19	Kirkcudbright	Kirkcudbright	42	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	4	...	32	9	70	2
		Maxwelltown	43	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	7	22	2
20	Lanark	Glasgow	44	...	...	33	28	7	11	...	...	340	60	543	552	748	1,0
		Lanark	45	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	11	4	50	
		Hamilton	46	...	...	...	...	1	4	2	...	21	18	84	20	106	4
		Airdrie	47	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	12	5	231	115	270	3
21	Linlithgow	Linlithgow	48	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	41	15	61	2
22	Nairn	Nairn	49	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	17	
23	Orkney	Kirkwall	50	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	12	1
24	Peebles	Peebles	51	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	1	...	11	4	24	
25	Perth	Perth	52	...	...	4	8	...	...	4	...	15	19	45	17	372	21
		Perth Police Cells	53	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	13	38	4
		Dunblane	54	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	5	...	4	2	37	
26	Renfrew	Paisley	55	...	...	2	1	6	1	...	...	24	5	137	86	288	17
		Greenock	56	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	8	3	48	80	72	5
		Pollockshaws	57	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	9	9	
27	Ross and Cromarty	Dingwall	58	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21	3	24	
		Tain	59	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	6	2	
		Cromarty	60	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	
		Stornoway	61	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	5	34	
28	Roxburgh	Jedburgh	62	...	...	3	...	...	...	1	...	7	...	34	9	136	2
		Hawick	63	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	13	9	29	
		Kelso	64	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	10	
29	Selkirk	Selkirk	65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	...	7	
30	Stirling	Stirling	66	...	...	1	...	3	...	...	...	36	2	79	37	109	5
		Falkirk	67	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	18	2	30	
31	Sutherland	Dornoch	68	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	1	2	5	
32	Wigtown	Wigtown	69	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	2	1	2	4	9	
		Stranraer	70	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	4	3	22	1
33	Zetland	Fort-Charlotte	71	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	50	
25	Perth	General Prison	72	...	2	155	97	108	88	96	106	290	185	28	33	103	5
				7	4	227	183	142	139	108	106	1,018	463	2,499	1,958	6,824	5,77
				11		410		281		214		1,481		4,457		12,597	

for the Year ended on the **30th day of June 1863**—*continued.* (No. III. *Continued.*)

inal Prisoners received during the Period.

ng the said Period.

d well.	Total.		Writing. Could not Write.		Could sign Name merely.		Write with difficulty.		Write well.		Total.		(2.) Had learned more than mere Reading and Writing.		(3.) Improvement during the Period. Have improved in Reading or Writing, or both.		Have improved in Arithmetic or other branches of Instruction.		Have learned a Trade in Prison.		No. of Prison.
F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
11	624	496	193	297	...	...	377	195	54	4	624	496	12	...	136	119	64	...	20	23	1
4	25	33	8	23	...	...	11	7	6	3	25	33	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
1	4	4	1	2	2	1	...	1	1	...	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
...	10	3	2	2	...	...	8	1	...	...	10	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
5	40	12	12	7	...	...	13	1	15	4	40	12	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
...	63	24	22	22	...	...	36	2	5	...	63	24	5	...	5	2	1	...	...	...	6
...	10	4	4	2	5	2	...	...	1	...	10	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
...	4	1	1	...	3	1	...	...	...	...	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	8
92	279	186	111	105	...	...	130	72	38	9	279	186	...	...	8	...	5	...	10	19	9
15	142	74	55	58	12	5	65	9	10	2	142	74	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
...	60	26	11	15	...	...	44	11	5	...	60	26	3	...	10	1	7	...	...	...	11
...	1	1	...	1	...	...	1	..	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
...	10	3	4	3	...	...	6	...	...	...	10	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
8	50	16	24	12	4	1	7	...	15	3	50	16	5	...	27	...	1	...	...	..	14
1	59	18	20	12	...	...	23	5	16	1	59	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
1	78	24	30	16	...	...	42	7	6	1	78	24	21	3	5	3	2	...	...	...	16
...	51	21	9	16	...	...	36	5	6	...	51	21	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
...	70	38	24	17	4	4	38	17	4	...	70	38	2	...	9	4	9	...	5	6	18
...	208	73	109	58	4	...	93	15	2	...	208	73	16	...	13	5	4	...	...	...	19
...	26	13	10	12	...	...	9	1	7	...	26	13	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
1	57	8	10	4	21	3	17	...	9	1	57	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	21
96	336	143	132	93	...	...	48	10	156	40	336	143	...	...	70	10	...	...	...	...	22
7	2,295	2,966	598	1,174	...	...	1,614	1,791	83	1	2,295	2,966	...	...	253	321	95	104	...	...	23
1	15	12	4	6	...	...	11	5	...	1	15	12	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
2	104	28	43	23	...	...	54	5	7	...	104	28	4	...	10	1	2	...	4	1	25
...	18	2	13	2	...	...	3	...	2	...	18	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
22	191	86	84	51	...	...	93	34	14	1	191	86	1	...	40	20	20	...	...	...	27
10	70	27	26	17	...	...	42	10	2	...	70	27	...	...	22	8	7	...	...	...	28
28	633	535	261	385	...	...	348	146	24	4	633	535	33	...	90	54	50	...	...	...	29
1	139	32	44	21	89	10	...	...	6	1	139	32	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
...	27	13	10	11	...	...	14	2	3	...	27	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
2	14	13	6	12	8	1	...	...	...	...	14	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
2	8	2	2	2	...	...	5	...	1	...	8	2	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
3	142	32	44	16	...	...	86	14	12	2	142	32	1	...	2	1	1	...	...	...	34
...	65	29	25	9	...	...	23	20	17	...	65	29	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
2	137	27	51	19	32	4	44	4	10	...	137	27	4	...	36	15	6	...	8	4	36
...	14	11	6	11	3	...	3	...	2	...	14	11	...	...	4	2	...	...	...	...	37
1	6	3	2	3	...	...	1	...	3	...	6	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
2	34	9	10	3	...	...	20	6	4	...	34	9	3	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	39
3	69	24	25	16	15	3	20	4	9	1	69	24	4	...	4	1	3	...	...	...	40
...	43	5	10	5	...	...	15	...	18	...	43	5	1	...	3	...	1	...	...	...	41
8	151	40	72	32	...	...	76	7	3	1	151	40	1	...	3	1	...	...	...	...	42
3	34	31	20	24	...	...	11	7	3	...	34	31	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
635	2,847	2,188	1,334	1,654	...	...	852	444	661	90	2,847	2,188	21	...	382	294	191	53	...	...	44
7	108	20	44	14	...	...	62	6	2	...	108	20	2	...	4	1	...	...	...	...	45
38	393	107	165	82	...	...	153	19	75	6	393	107	4	2	14	6	3	...	3	...	46
16	548	218	251	148	181	38	87	25	29	7	548	218	3	1	21	7	...	...	...	...	47
2	128	42	62	31	...	...	48	9	18	2	128	42	7	1	4	1	...	...	1	...	48
3	28	9	7	6	...	...	20	3	1	...	28	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
1	16	18	6	8	...	...	10	10	...	...	16	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
1	78	7	22	6	...	...	35	1	21	...	78	7	16	...	3	1	2	...	...	...	51
4	463	237	148	121	...	...	287	116	28	...	463	237	3	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	52
1	58	54	20	31	2	1	27	22	9	...	58	54	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
...	41	11	17	6	8	4	16	1	...	...	41	11	...	...	14	5	...	...	...	...	54
66	699	326	300	246	...	...	333	74	66	6	699	326	2	...	86	52	38	...	...	...	55
34	205	171	88	146	...	...	68	19	49	6	205	171	48	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	56
...	37	14	12	10	...	...	9	4	16	...	37	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
2	66	7	33	3	10	3	12	1	11	...	66	7	...	...	6	2	5	1	...	...	58
1	15	9	5	7	...	...	1	1	9	1	15	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	59
...	4	2	1	2	2	...	...	...	1	...	4	2	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	60
1	52	6	27	5	...	...	22	1	3	...	52	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	61
...	172	36	62	20	...	...	108	16	2	...	172	36	16	..	35	4	16	...	...	...	62
4	68	19	26	7	3	6	27	4	12	2	68	19	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	63
...	11	2	2	1	...	...	8	1	1	...	11	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	64
7	46	12	10	3	...	...	14	7	22	2	46	12	5	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	65
70	363	162	150	101	...	...	158	53	55	8	363	162	8	...	42	17	8	...	15	11	66
4	56	9	16	3	20	2	12	3	8	1	56	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	67
...	20	2	2	2	6	...	2	...	10	...	20	2	2	...	2	...	3	...	3	...	68
7	22	16	8	6	...	...	11	7	3	3	22	16	1	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	69
...	31	17	12	11	...	...	15	6	4	...	31	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	70
...	53	6	5	4	...	...	45	2	3	...	53	6	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	71
109	332	201	51	78	11	8	173	106	97	9	332	201	132	7	305	178	192	32	64	95	72
1,345	13,376	9,076	5,034	5,381	445	97	6,102	3,375	1,795	223	13,376	9,076	392	18	1,675	1,138	736	190	133	159	
,398	22,452		10,415		542		9,477		2,018		22,452		410		2,813		926		292		

(No. III. *Continued.*) DIGEST of RETURNS relative to PRISONS and PRISONERS in SCOTLAND,

26. Sickness and Deaths of Criminal Prisoner

COUNTIES.	PRISONS.	No. of Prison.	(1.) Age of Prisoners who have experienced Sickness.										Total.	
			Under 16 Years.		16 Years and under 18.		18 Years and under 21.		21 Years and under 50.		50 Years and above.			
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	
1 Aberdeen	Aberdeen	1	6	1	2	5	7	6	37	22	6	2	58	
	Peterhead	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	
	Huntly	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
	Fraserburgh	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	
2 Argyle	Inveraray	5	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	
	Campbeltown	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
	Tobermory	7	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	
	Lochgilphead	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
3 Ayr	Ayr	9	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	4	1	...	3	
	Kilmarnock	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
4 Banff	Banff	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	
	Keith	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
	Cullen	13	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	
5 Berwick	Greenlaw	14	...	...	...	...	5	...	4	1	2	...	11	
	Dunse	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	..	..	
6 Bute	Rothesay	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	
7 Caithness	Wick	17	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	
8 Clackmannan	Alloa	18	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	2	
9 Dumbarton	Dumbarton	19	...	...	...	...	1	...	4	1	1	...	6	
	Kirkintilloch	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
	Helensburgh	21	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	
10 Dumfries	Dumfries	22	...	...	1	1	1	1	7	1	1	...	10	
11 Edinburgh	Edinburgh, including Court Buildings	23	1	...	2	3	6	6	44	77	5	9	58	
	Musselburgh	24	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
12 Elgin	Elgin	25	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	
	Forres	26	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
13 Fife	Cupar	27	1	...	...	...	...	...	6	2	...	...	7	
	Dunfermline	28	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	2	
14 Forfar	Dundee	29	...	1	2	...	2	5	38	52	1	...	43	
	Forfar	30	...	...	...	...	3	...	11	8	3	1	17	
	Montrose	31	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	3	
	Arbroath	32	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	
	Brechin	33	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	
15 Haddington	Haddington	34	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
	Dunbar	35	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
16 Inverness	Inverness	36	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
	Portree	37	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
	Lochmaddy	38	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	
	Fort-William	39	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
17 Kincardine	Stonehaven	40	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	
18 Kinross	Kinross	41	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	3	
19 Kirkcudbright	Kirkcudbright	42	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	...	...	4	
	Maxwelltown	43	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
20 Lanark	Glasgow	44	2	2	8	4	20	7	65	39	9	6	104	
	Lanark	45	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
	Hamilton	46	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	1	2	...	4	
	Airdrie	47	...	1	...	...	...	...	3	3	1	...	4	
21 Linlithgow	Linlithgow	48	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	1	
22 Nairn	Nairn	49	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	
23 Orkney	Kirkwall	50	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
24 Peebles	Peebles	51	...	...	1	...	...	...	6	1	...	...	7	
25 Perth	Perth	52	2	...	...	...	4	...	49	26	4	1	59	
	Perth Police Cells	53	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
	Dunblane	54	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	2	
26 Renfrew	Paisley	55	...	1	1	1	23	4	81	37	12	6	117	
	Greenock	56	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	7	2	...	4	
	Pollockshaws	57	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
27 Ross and Cromarty	Dingwall	58	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	
	Tain	59	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
	Cromarty	60	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	
	Stornoway	61	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
28 Roxburgh	Jedburgh	62	...	...	1	...	2	...	8	1	...	...	11	
	Hawick	63	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
	Kelso	64	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	
29 Selkirk	Selkirk	65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
30 Stirling	Stirling	66	...	...	3	1	...	1	11	4	1	...	15	
	Falkirk	67	...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
31 Sutherland	Dornoch	68	...	.	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
32 Wigtown	Wigtown	69	...	..	...	...	...	1	...	4	1	2	1	
	Stranraer	70	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	...	3	
33 Zetland	Fort-Charlotte	71	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	
25 Perth	General Prison	72	1	1	2	1	7	3	15	35	6	4	31	
			13	7	26	18	86	37	421	336	62	31	608	
			20		44		123		757		93		1,037	

for the Year ended on the **30th day of June 1863**—*continued.*

(No. III. *Continued.*)

. **Confinement** during the Period, as appearing from the Register of Sickness.

(2.) Character of Disease, and Time of Appearance.										(3.) Number of Prisoners who have been off Work.																No. of Prison.
ases of anger- Illness.		Cases of Slight Disorders.		Total.		Appeared before Imprison-ment.		Appeared after Imprison-ment.		Total.		1 Day.		2 Days.		3 Days.		4 Days.		5 Days and under 10 Days.		10 Days and under 20 Days.		Above 20 Days.		Total.		
.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
	...	57	36	58	36	49	30	9	6	58	36	3	4	3	5	9	6	4	...	1	4	...	2	...	...	20	21	1
	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
	...	2	...	2	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
	3	3	3	3	6	2	5	1	1	3	6	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	...	3	3	6	9
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
	...	11	1	11	1	7	1	4	...	11	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	3	...	13
	...	1	1	1	1	...	...	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
	...	...	...	2	...	2	...	...	1	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	16
	...	6	1	6	1	5	...	1	1	6	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	17
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	2	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	5	1	18
	...	...	1	1	1	1	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
	...	10	3	10	3	8	3	2	...	10	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
	8	49	87	58	95	39	71	19	24	58	95	2	...	13	26	11	36	9	12	15	14	4	6	4	1	58	95	21
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
	..	7	2	7	2	7	1	...	1	7	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	25
	...	1	1	2	1	1	1	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	4	2	26
	13	30	45	43	58	32	33	11	25	43	58	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	2	1	27
	...	17	9	17	9	6	7	11	2	17	9	...	...	4	9	6	6	4	17	7	8	6	3	2	...	30	43	28
	...	3	...	3	...	2	...	1	...	3	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	2	...	2	1	4	1	...	...	10	4	29
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	30
	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	33
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
	...	2	...	2	...	1	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	35
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
	...	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	37
	...	3	...	3	...	2	...	1	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	38
	...	4	1	4	1	2	1	2	...	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	39
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	40
	12	88	46	104	58	62	45	42	13	104	58	1	...	4	3	8	2	8	6	33	29	23	3	6	8	83	51	41
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
	...	2	2	4	2	1	2	3	...	4	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	1	...	...	2	...	4	2	43
	1	4	3	4	4	4	3	...	1	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	4	7	44
	...	...	2	1	2	...	1	1	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	1	...	4	45
	...	2	...	2	...	1	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	1	2	46
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	47
	...	7	1	7	1	4	1	3	...	7	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
	3	58	24	59	27	56	25	3	2	59	27	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
	...	2	1	2	1	2	...	...	1	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
	19	80	30	117	49	104	47	13	2	117	49	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	2	1	52
	...	3	7	4	7	3	7	1	...	4	7	...	1	...	...	2	2	...	2	2	...	...	2	...	...	4	7	53
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	54
	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	55
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	56
	...	10	1	11	1	10	1	1	...	11	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	6	...	1	1	2	...	10	1	57
	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	58
	...	13	6	15	6	11	3	4	3	15	6	...	2	...	2	...	...	1	...	1	...	3	1	3	1	8	6	59
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	5	...	1	1	6	61
	...	1	7	1	7	1	5	...	2	1	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	62
	...	3	1	3	1	2	...	1	1	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	63
	...	1	...	2	...	1	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	...	...	...	3	1	64
	12	20	32	31	44	23	26	8	18	31	44	...	..	1	...	4	2	...	1	5	6	5	13	10	13	25	35	65
	72	508	357	608	429	457	322	151	107	608	429	8	8	29	45	47	58	47	43	93	76	65	64	39	32	328	316	66
		865		1,037		779		258		1,037		16		74		105		90		169		119		71		644		67
																												68
																												69
																												70
																												71
																												72

(No. III. *Continued.*) DIGEST of RETURNS relative to PRISONS and PRISONERS in SCOTLAND,

	COUNTIES.	PRISONS.	No. of Prison.	26.—*continued.*—Sickness and Deaths of Criminal Prisoners, &c.—*continued.*									
				(4.) Time which Prisoners have been off Work from Illness, including Time which Prisoners not required to Work would have been withdrawn had they been at Work.				Number of Prisoners Removed on Account of Sickness.		Number Liberated on Account of Sickness.		Number of Deaths.	
				Total Number of Days.		Average Number of Days per Prisoner, calculated on the Average Number of Prisoners.							
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1	Aberdeen	Aberdeen	1	57	86	1	4	...	...	...	...	1	...
		Peterhead	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Huntly	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Fraserburgh	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	Argyle	Inveraray	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Campbeltown	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Tobermory	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Lochgilphead	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	Ayr	Ayr	9	24	184	1	9	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Kilmarnock	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4	Banff	Banff	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Keith	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Cullen	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	Berwick	Greenlaw	14	31	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Dunse	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6	Bute	Rothesay	16	6	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
7	Caithness	Wick	17	...	38	...	19	...	1	...	...	...	...
8	Clackmannan	Alloa	18	13	...	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
9	Dumbarton	Dumbarton	19	28	6	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Kirkintilloch	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Helensburgh	21	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
10	Dumfries	Dumfries	22	44	10	2	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
11	Edinburgh	Edinburgh, including Court Buildings	23	466	370	3	2	...	...	1	...	2	1
		Musselburgh	24	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12	Elgin	Elgin	25	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Forres,	26	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13	Fife	Cupar	27	25	35	1	7	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Dunfermline	28	19	14	3	14	...	...	...	...	...	...
14	Forfar	Dundee	29	215	192	5	5	1	...	...	...	...	...
		Forfar	30	78	33	6	8	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Montrose	31	9	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Arbroath	32	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Brechin	33	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	Haddington	Haddington	34	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Dunbar	35	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
16	Inverness	Inverness	36	...	21	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Portree	37	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Lochmaddy	38	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Fort-William	39	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
17	Kincardine	Stonehaven	40	62	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
18	Kinross	Kinross	41	10	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
19	Kirkcudbright	Kirkcudbright	42	...	11	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Maxwelltown	43	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20	Lanark	Glasgow	44	724	739	3	4	...	...	...	...	2	2
		Lanark	45	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
		Hamilton	46	423	146	18	18	...	...	...	...	1	...
		Airdrie	47	...	54	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...
21	Linlithgow	Linlithgow	48	5	25	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...
22	Nairn	Nairn	49	15	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
23	Orkney	Kirkwall	50	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
24	Peebles	Peebles	51	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25	Perth	Perth	52	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
		Perth Police Cells	53	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Dunblane	54	60	10	20	10	...	...	...	...	...	...
26	Renfrew	Paisley	55	288	237	5	10	...	...	...	...	...	1
		Greenock	56	16	40	1	4	1	...	...	...	...	...
		Pollockshaws	57	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
27	Ross and Cromarty	Dingwall	58	8	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Tain	59	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Cromarty	60	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Stornoway	61	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
28	Roxburgh	Jedburgh	62	196	10	15	10	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Hawick	63	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Kelso	64	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
29	Selkirk	Selkirk	65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
30	Stirling	Stirling	66	143	48	4	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Falkirk	67	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
31	Sutherland	Dornoch	68	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
32	Wigtown	Wigtown	69	12	103	3	51	...	...	1	2	...	...
		Stranraer	70	27	7	9	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
33	Zetland	Fort-Charlotte	71	60	...	30	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25	Perth	General Prison	72	709	1,207	2	3	...	...	...	...	4	5
				3,799	3,631	3	3	4	1	4	2	11	10
				7,430		3		5		6		21	

for the Year ended on the **30th day of June 1863**—*continued.* (No. III. *Continued.*)

27. Civil Prisoners.

(1.) Amount of Debts.										Other Causes, including *In meditatione fugæ*, and *Ad factum præstandum.*		Total.		(3.) Work.				No. of Prison.
Fines or Forfeitures £8, 6s. 8d. and under.		Above £8, 6s. 8d. and under £20.		£20 and under £50.		£50 and under £100.		£100 and upwards.						Number who have consented to Work.		Number who have not consented to Work.		
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
7	...	19	1	19	...	6	...	6	...	2	...	59	1	...	...	59	1	1
..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	5	...	5
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	6
..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
..	...	11	1	8	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	21	2	...	...	21	2	9
..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
..	...	7	2	5	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	13	2	...	...	13	2	11
..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
4	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	6	...	14
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
...	...	4	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	5	...	16
2	...	2	...	2	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	8	1	...	...	8	1	17
...	...	2	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	7	...	...	...	7	...	18
1	...	5	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	...	10	...	19
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
4	...	9	1	2	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	18	1	...	...	18	1	22
3	...	22	4	27	...	7	...	2	...	4	3	65	7	...	...	65	7	23
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
...	...	7	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	12	...	...	...	12	...	25
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
1	...	1	...	4	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	7	1	...	1	7	...	27
...	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	4	...	28
3	...	11	...	7	...	3	...	3	...	...	...	27	...	...	...	27	...	29
...	...	7	...	8	...	1	...	3	...	...	...	19	...	...	...	19	...	30
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	5	...	...	...	5	...	35
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
...	...	9	...	5	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	16	...	3	...	13	...	37
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
1	...	1	...	1	...	3	...	1	...	1	...	8	...	...	...	8	...	41
...	...	1	...	1	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	5	...	42
1	...	2	...	3	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	9	...	...	...	9	...	43
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
...	...	89	9	42	2	12	...	18	...	21	...	182	11	...	...	182	11	45
1	...	2	...	9	1	1	...	...	...	4	...	17	1	2	1	15	...	46
1	...	13	...	10	...	2	...	1	...	1	...	28	...	3	...	25	...	47
...	...	5	1	4	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	12	1	...	...	12	1	48
2	...	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	6	...	49
...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	50
...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	51
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	52
...	...	7	...	2	...	1	...	2	...	2	...	14	...	3	...	11	...	53
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	54
...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	4	...	...	...	4	...	55
3	...	8	1	13	...	3	...	2	...	2	...	31	1	...	...	31	1	56
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	58
...	...	3	...	3	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	8	...	1	...	7	...	59
...	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	4	1	...	...	4	1	60
...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	61
2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	6	...	...	...	6	...	62
...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	2	...	1	...	6	...	...	...	6	...	63
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	64
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	65
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	66
...	...	4	...	6	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	13	...	1	...	12	...	67
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	68
...	...	3	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	5	...	...	...	5	...	69
3	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	6	...	70
...	...	5	...	3	...	...	1	2	...	1	...	11	1	1	...	10	1	71
...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	72
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
42	...	271	20	211	5	59	1	54	...	52	5	689	31	14	...	675	29	
42		291		216		60		54		57		720		16		704		

Digest of Returns relative to Prisons and Prisoners in Scotland, for the Year ended on the 30th day of June 1863.

28. Tabular Statement showing the number of Convicts sentenced to Transportation and Penal Servitude in the several Prisons in Scotland at 30th June 1862; the number so sentenced from that date to 30th June 1863; and the number remaining in Prison at 30th June 1863.

COUNTIES.	PRISONS.	Number in Prison at Commencement of Period.			Number in Prison at end of Period.			Number Sentenced to Penal Servitude during the year ended 30th June 1863.																			
								3 Years.		4 Years.		5 Years.		6 Years.		7 Years.		8 Years.		10 Years.		12 Years.		15 Years.		21 Years.		Life.		Total.	
		M	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Aberdeen	Aberdeen	1	3	4	1	...	1	2	...	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	1
Argyle,	Inverary,	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Ayr	Ayr	...	2	2	...	53	53	1	...	1	2	...	...	1	1	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	3
Banff	Banff	1	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Berwick,	Greenlaw,	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dumfries	Dumfries	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	2
Edinburgh	Edinburgh	10	8	18	5	...	5	1	1	5	5	...	1	8	4	...	...	3	3	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	21	14
Fife	Cupar,	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Forfar	Dundee	4	2	6	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Forfar	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Inverness	Inverness	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lanark	Glasgow	15	4	19	...	...	...	13	12	17	8	3	6	7	5	3	...	8	2	7	1	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	3	...
Peebles	Peebles	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60	35
Perth	Perth	2	1	3	...	...	...	1	3	8	5	1	4	4	1	1	...	2	1	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Renfrew	Paisley	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21	14
Ross and Cromarty	Dingwall	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Roxburgh,	Jedburgh,	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Stirling	Stirling	1	2	3	...	...	...	1	2	1	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Wigtown	Stranraer	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	5
	General Prison	...	271*	271	85	244†	329	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		39	296	335	97	297	394	22	19	38	23	5	11	21	14	6	..	16	6	14	1	...	...	5	1	...	...	1	..	128	75
								41		61		16		35		6		22		15		...		6		...		1		203	‡

* Including 3 in Lunatic Department.
† Including 4 in Lunatic Department.

‡ Besides the above, one male and one female Convict had their sentences commuted into Penal Servitude for Life. See page 26.

29. Table showing the Number who have escaped, and been re-taken, during the period.

Counties.	Prisons.	Number who have escaped.			Number who have been re-taken.		
		M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Berwick, ...	Dunse, ...	1	...	1	...	...	...
Clackmannan, ...	Alloa, ...	1	...	1	...	...	...
Kincardine, ...	Stonehaven, ...	1	...	1	1	...	1
Ross and Cromarty,	Tain, ...	1	...	1	1	...	1
		4	...	4	2	...	2

30. Table showing the Number of Suicides during the period.

Counties.	Prisons.	Number of Suicides.			Date of Suicide.	Age.	Untried.	Convicted.
		M.	F.	T.				
Lanark, ...	Lanark, ...	1	...	1	25th Jan. 1863.	35	1	...

No. IV.—Order issued by the Secretary of State during the Year 1863, in pursuance of the 27th Section of the Act 23 and 24 Victoria, cap. 105.

Prison of Cullen.

The Right Honourable Sir George Grey, Bart., One of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, and Principal Secretary of State, etc. etc. etc.

In virtue of the powers contained in "The Prisons (Scotland) Administration Act, 1860," I do hereby order and intimate that the Prison of Cullen, in the County of Banff, shall, on and after the 1st day of January 1864, cease to be a Legal Prison.

Given under my hand and seal at Whitehall, the 18th day of December 1863, in the twenty-seventh year of Her Majesty's reign.

G. Grey.

No. V.—INSPECTION OF LOCAL PRISONS.

Digest of Returns by County Prison Boards with reference to the System of Inspection prescribed by the 6th Rule for Prisons in Scotland, relative to the Prisons under their charge in the Year from 30th June 1862 to 30th June 1863.

Rule 6.—"County Boards shall provide for the inspection of each of their Prisons (including an examination of every Prisoner, and of every Cell and Room) by at least one of their own number, not less frequently than once in each month; "and the date of the Inspection, together with the names of the Visitors, shall be recorded in the Inspection Book, and the result shall either be entered there by the Inspecting Member, or a Special Report made by them "to the County Board; and, in either case, the Reports shall be transcribed in the Minutes of the proceedings of the County Board."

COUNTIES.	PRISONS.	Has the Rule been observed in all respects in each Prison?	If the Rule has not been observed in all respects, state to what extent not observed, with the reason.	Total number of Inspections during the year.	General Results of Inspection in regard to: State of Buildings.	State of Prison Discipline and conduct of Officers.	Treatment of Prisoners.	Employment of Prisoners.	Instruction, Moral and Religious, of Prisoners.	Sufficiency of Exercise.	Health of Prisoners.	Remarks.
	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	
1 Aberdeen,	Aberdeen, ...	Yes.	Fully observed.	25	Tolerable.	Good.	According to Rules.	All suitably employed.	Satisfactory.	Sufficient.	Good.	
	Peterhead, ...	It has.	.....	16	Good.	Good.	According to Rules.	Picking oakum, knitting stockings, and washing clothes.	Chaplain of Prison visits.	Ample.	Good.	
	Huntly, ...	The Rule has for the most part been observed.	.....	14 by Members of Prison Board.	Good.	Good.	In accordance with Rules.	None required in this Prison.	None required.	None required.	Good.	
	Fraserburgh,...	No.	Scarcity of Resident parties entitled to inspect.	4	Good.	Good.	Good.	None.	None.	Sufficient.	Good.	
2 Argyle.....	Inveraray, ...	Yes.	.....	15	Good.	Satisfactory.	Satisfactory.	All employed in suitable kinds of labour.	Attended to.	Sufficient.	Good.	
	Campbeltown,	Yes.	.....	17	Good.	Satisfactory.	Satisfactory.	Do.	Attended to.	Sufficient.	Good.	
	Lochgilphead,	Yes.	.....	3	Good.	Satisfactory.	Satisfactory.	Teasing oakum.	Not required by Prison Rules, periods of imprisonment being very short.	Sufficient.	Good.	
	Tobermory, ...	Yes.	.....	3	Good.	Satisfactory.	Satisfactory.	Netting.	Not required.	Not required.	Good.	
3 Ayr,.....	Ayr, ...	Observed..	.....	18	Good.	Good.	Humane.	Employed.	Under the charge of the Chaplain and Teacher.	Sufficient.	Generally good.	
	Kilmarnock, ...	No visits during the year. No reason.										
4 Banff, ...	Banff, ...	Yes.	.....	12	Good.	Good.	Good.	Full.	Satisfactory.	Yes.	Good.	
	Cullen, ...	No.	See Remarks.	3	Good.	Good.	Good.	No employment, as Prison is only legalized for 10 days.	None, owing to short imprisonments.	None, owing to short imprisonments.	Good.	There is a resident Member of the Board, but visits are only occasionally made, in consequence of the few numbers imprisoned.
	Keith, ...	No.	See Remarks.	3	Good.	Good.	Good.	Do.	Do.	Do.	Good.	There is no resident Member, but the Clerk and Chief Constable are appointed to visit.
5 Berwick, ...	Greenlaw, ...	No.	Reference to correspondence with General Board.	7	Good.	Good.	Good.	Net making, oakum teasing, sewing, and sand beating.	Good.	Sufficient.	Good.	
	Dunse, ...	No regular system of inspection is pursued in reference to this Prison, as there are often no Prisoners in it.										

INSPECTION OF LOCAL PRISONS—*continued.*

COUNTIES.	PRISONS.	Has the Rule been observed in all respects in each Prison?	If the Rule has not been observed in all respects, state to what extent not observed, with the reason.	Total number of Inspections during the year.	General Results of Inspection in regard to							Remarks.
					State of Buildings.	State of Prison Discipline and conduct of Officers.	Treatment of Prisoners.	Employment of Prisoners.	Instruction, Moral and Religious, of Prisoners.	Sufficiency of Exercise.	Health of Prisoners.	
	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	
6 Bute, ...	Rothesay, ...	Yes.	.....	22	Good.	Good.	Good.	Very little employment to be had for them.	Well attended to.	Sufficient.	Generally good.	
7 Caithness,	Wick, ...	Observed.	.....	11	Good.	Satisfactory.	Good.	Generally.	Attended to.	Sufficient.	Good; with one exception.	
8 Clackmannan,	Alloa, ...	Yes.	.....	13	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	The Minutes of the inspecting Members or Magistrates do not notice these heads separately. They merely state they found everything in good order, and no complaints made by prisoners.
9 Dumbarton,	Dumbarton, ...	Yes.	.....	12	Good.	Good.	According to Rule.	Various.	According to Rule.	Yes.	Good.	Besides occasional visits by the Members of the County Prison Board, these Prisons are visited quarterly by the Keeper of Dumbarton Prison, and the result of his visits reported to the County Board. They are legalized only for periods not exceeding ten days.
	Helensburgh, } Kirkintilloch, }		.....	...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
			.....	...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
10 Dumfries,	Dumfries, ...	No.	Although there were 12 Inspections, two of them were in one month—the month of November 1862 being blank.	12	In good order.	Good.	Good; no complaints.	Full.	Chaplain, who is also Teacher, pays great and constant attention to his duty.	Yes.	Generally good.	
11 Edinburgh,	Edinburgh, ...	Yes; so far as stated in columns 3 and 4.	In every case all the prisoners were not visited, but the visits were to such extent as the Members thought to be necessary.	30	Good.	Satisfactory.	In terms of Rules.	All engaged in suitable employment.	In accordance with Rules, and results satisfactory.	Sufficient.	Good.	
	Court Buildings Prison,	Do.	This Prison is principally visited by the Governor of the Prison of Edinburgh, who, in every instance, extends his visit to all the cells and prisoners.	6	Good.	Satisfactory.	In terms of Rules.	Only prisoners under examination are confined here, and there is, therefore, no work done.	There is service once a week by one of the Teachers of the Prison of Edinburgh.	No airing-ground, but prisoners are only a few days in this Prison.	Good.	
	Musselburgh,	Do.	This Prison was visited by Members of the Board and the Governor of the Prison of Edinburgh, who, in each instance, inspected every cell and visited every prisoner.	5 by Members of the Board, and 2 by the Governor of the Prison of Edinburgh.	Good.	Satisfactory.	In terms of Rules.	The periods of imprisonment are very short; convicted prisoners are employed in teasing oakum.	The Prisoners are visited and instructed by the Minister of the parish or his Assistant.	There is no airing-yard, but, the rooms being large, the prisoners can have sufficient exercise in them.	Good.	
12 Elgin, ...	Elgin, ...	Yes.	.....	12	Good.	Both very good.	In terms of Rules.	All engaged in suitable employment.	Regularly attended to.	Sufficient.	Good.	
	Forres, ...	.....	.....	....	.....	.....	....	.....	.....	....	.....	No return.
13 Fife.....	Cupar, ...	Yes.	.....	46	Good.	Good.	According to Rules.	All employed in accordance with Rules.	Strictly attended to.	Sufficient.	Good.	

	Dunfermline,...	It has.	.....	39	Good.	*Discipline mild but firm; conduct of officers satisfactory.	Strictly in accordance with Rules.	Every Prisoner is employed in such work as he is capable of performing.	Careful and efficient.	Ample.	Good.	
14 Forfar,.....	Dundee,.....	Nearly so.	There was no visits in the months of August and April.	14	Satisfactory.	Discipline strict, and conduct of Officers satisfactory.	In accordance with Rules for Prisons.	Satisfactory.	Satisfactory.	Satisfactory.	Very good.	
	Forfar, ...	Observed.	Observed.	16	Good.	Good.	Good.	Generally employed in weaving, winding, sewing, knitting, and teasing oakum and hair	The Chaplain performs Divine Service according to Prison Rules.	Exercise given according to Rule.	Generally good.	
15 Haddington,	Haddington, ...	Yes.	.....	14	Good.	Good.	Good.	Regular.	Conductedby Chaplain efficiently.	Ample.	Very good.	
	Dunbar,.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	No report.
16 Inverness,	Inverness, ...	Yes.	.....	14	Good.	Good.	Good.	Fully employed.	Satisfactory.	Sufficient.	Good.	
	Portree,.....	Yes.	.....	15	Good.	Good.	Good.	Fully employed.	The Prisoners are taught to read and write.	Yes.	Good.	
	Lochmaddy, ...	Yes.	.....	19	Good.	Good.	Good.	.....	Pretty regular.	Yes.	Good.	
	Fort-William,	Yes.	.....	23	Good.	Good.	Good, and conform to Rules.	Regular.	Regular.	Sufficient	Good.	
17 Kincardine,	Stonehaven, ...	Yes.	.....	14	Good.	Satisfactory.	Good, and no complaints made.	Prisoners generally employed before trial, and always after conviction, if able to work.	Well attended to.	Satisfactory.	Good.	
18 Kinross, ...	Kinross,.....	The Rule has been observed, with the exception of part of the year during which there were no Prisoners.	.....	11	Good.	Satisfactory.	No remarks on these subjects recorded.					
19 Kirkcudbright,	Kirkcudbright,	No.	No visit in December.	15	Good, as to state of walls, but accommodation very insufficient.	Good, as far as limited accommodation and construction of building will allow. Number of Officers sometimes insufficient. Conduct good.	Good.	All convicted employed.	Ample.	Not sufficient, owing to limited accommodation.	Generally good.	
	Maxwelltown,	No.	No visits in July, August, Sept., Oct., Nov., Jan., Feb., March, April, and May.	2	Good.	Good.	Good.	Partially, in consequence of short confinements.	None except from keeper.	Sufficient.	Good.	
20 Lanark, ...	Glasgow, ...	Yes.	... ..	14 by Members of Prison Board, 2 by Members of the Town-Council, and 2 by Government Inspector.	Good.	In accordance with Rules.	According to Rule.	According to Rule.	According to Rule.	Sufficient.	Good.	
	Lanark, ...	Yes.	.....	19 by Members of Prison Board, and 3 by Superintendent of Prisons.	Good.	Good.	According to Rule.	According to Rule.	According to Rule.	Sufficient.	Good.	
	Hamilton, ...	Yes.	.....	10 by Members of Prison Board, 5 by Superintendent of Prisons, and 1 by Government Inspector	Good.	Good.	According to Rule.	According to Rule.	According to Rule.	Sufficient.	Good.	
	Airdrie, ...	Yes.	.....	12 by Members of Prison Board, 10 by Superintendent of Prisons, and 1 by Government Inspector.	Good.	Good.	According to Rule.	According to Rule.	According to Rule.	Sufficient.	Good.	
21 Linlithgow,	Linlithgow, ...	It has.	.....	12 by Members of Board, 6 by Clerk to Prison Board, 3 by Justices of the Peace, 1 by the Magistrates of the Burgh, and 2 by the Minister of Parish.	In good condition.	Satisfactory.	Good.	Suitably employed.	The teacher discharges his duties efficiently.	Sufficient.	Good.	
22 Nairn, ...	Nairn, ...	No.	Only 1 inspection recorded.	Although only 1 inspection is recorded, the Governor is certain 8 more were made.	Good.	Good.	Good.	Suitably employed.	Regularly attended to.	Ample.	Good.	
23 Orkney, ...	Kirkwall, ...	It has, except when Prison empty.	. ....	8	Good.	Satisfactory.	Good.	In accordance with Rules.	Attended to.	Yes, as far as the accommodation permitted.	Good.	

INSPECTION OF LOCAL PRISONS—*continued.*

COUNTIES.	PRISONS.	Has the Rule been observed in all respects in each Prison?	If the Rule has not been observed in all respects, state to what extent not observed, with the reason.	Total number of Inspections during the year.	General Results of Inspection in regard to							REMARKS.
					State of Buildings.	State of Prison Discipline and conduct of Officers.	Treatment of Prisoners.	Employment of Prisoners.	Instruction, Moral and Religious, of Prisoners.	Sufficiency of Exercise.	Health of Prisoners.	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
24 Peebles, ...	Peebles, ...	Yes.	.....	15	Good.	Good.	Good.	Regular.	Good and systematic.	Good.	Good.	
25 Perth, ...	Perth, ...	Yes.	.....	14	Good.	Good.	Good.	Good.	Good.	Yes.	Good.	
	Dunblane, ...	Yes.	.....	20	Good.	Good.	Good.	Good.	Good.	Yes.	Good.	
26 Renfrew, ...	Paisley, ...	Yes.	.....	17	Good.	Good.	Good.	.....	Good.	.....	.....	
	Greenock, ...	Yes.	.....	17	Under consideration.	Good.	Good.	.....	Good.	.....	.....	
	Pollockshaws,	Not fully.	.....	6	Good.	Good.	Good.	.....	.....	.....	.....	
27 Ross and	Dingwall, ...	Yes.	.....	20	Good.	Good.	Good.	Various.	Yes.	Yes.	Good.	
Cromarty,	Tain, ...	Yes.	.....	12	Good.	Good.	Good.	Teasing oakum.	Good.	Yes.	Good.	Prisoners are instructed weekly by the Reverend Mr. Rose, Prison Chaplain.
	Stornoway, ...	Rule strictly adhered to.	.....	13	In good repair, with slight exceptions.	In conformity to Rules.	In conformity to Rules.	None. See Remarks.	Under charge of Prison Chaplain, who is attentive to his duties.	Satisfactory.	Good.	At one time mat-making was carried on, but Keeper was forced to give it up from want of funds to purchase materials, the work not being profitable. If Prison Board would advance a small sum to purchase materials, thinks that work might be carried on to advantage.
	Cromarty, ...	Yes.	.....	12	Good.	Good.	According to Prison Rules.	Cooking for themselves, and cleaning Prison.	Moral and religious every Sabbath.	Yes.	Good.	
28 Roxburgh,	Jedburgh, ...	Yes.	.....	12	Good, though no opinion recorded.	Entries state everything to be in good order.	Entries favourable.	No opinion recorded.	Very satisfactory, though no opinion recorded.	Satisfactory.	Good.	
	Hawick, ...	No.	Owing to small number of prisoners confined.	7, besides 7 visits from the Keeper of Jedburgh Prison.	Good.	No remark.	No complaints.	No work, owing to short imprisonments.	None given, except on occasional visits of the parish minister.	No opinion given.	Good, though no remark made.	
	Kelso, ...	No.	Owing to small number confined.	2, besides 4 from Keeper of Jedburgh Prison.	Good.	No remark.	No remark.	No employment.	None given.	No remark.	Very good, though no remark.	
29 Selkirk, ...	Selkirk, ...	Rule observed to the extent of 6 visits by the Board, or Members of it; besides which, a Committee is annually appointed by the Board to attend to the details of management.	Observed to the extent mentioned in the preceding column.	6 recorded, independent of visits by the Sheriff-Substitute not recorded.	Good.	Good.	Proper.	Sand-breaking, mat-making, shoe-making, teasing hair, crank-machine, Prison service.	Religious instruction by Chaplain, and instruction by teacher when required.	Sufficient.	Good.	
30 Stirling, ...	Stirling, ...	Yes.	.....	15	Good.	Good.	Good.	All employed.	Good.	Sufficient.	Good.	
	Falkirk, ...	No.	The prison is frequently without prisoners.	7	Tolerable.	Good.	Good.	None.	None.	None.	Good.	
31 Sutherland,	Dornoch, ...	Yes.	.....	18	Good.	Good.	No complaints.	Mat-making, stone-breaking, etc.	The Chaplain gives religious instruction.	Sufficient.	Good.	
32 Wigtown,	Wigtown, ...	No.	Not observed in all respects owing to the non-residence of several Members of the Board.	5 visits are entered in inspection book.	Good.	Good.	Humane.	Regularly employed.	Attended to.	Sufficient.	Good.	
	Stranraer, ...	Not fully.	Owing to the absence of Members.	3	Good.	Good.	Proper.	Teasing oakum, sewing, etc.	Chaplain gives religious instruction.	Yes.	Good.	
33 Zetland, ...	Fort Charlotte, Lerwick, ...	With one exception.	No inspection in September from want of Members, but there was only one prisoner confined during that month.	11	Ordinary.	Good.	Good.	Hard labour and service in the prison.	Good.	Yes.	Good generally.	

GENERAL PRISON.

No. VI.—Report by the Governor on the General Prison at Perth for the Year 1863; with Tables of Expenditure and State of Accounts.

General Prison, Perth, 12th January 1864.

Gentlemen,—This being the first Report I have had the honour to forward to you relative to my duties as Governor of this establishment, I beg most respectfully to claim your indulgence for any expression or comment of mine that may be considered either misplaced or ill-timed; and as it is my intention to confine myself as much as possible to a narration of facts, to statistics and matters of routine, and to keep clear of all theoretical discussion, I trust I shall not overstep the strict line of my duty.

Upon a reference to former reports, I find that it has been usual to notice the following subjects, viz.: The conduct of the Officers, with the changes and alterations that have taken place in the staff; the statistics, containing, among other matters, the receipts and expenditure, and relative cost of the establishment; the discipline and conduct of the prisoners; the labour and industrial training of the prisoners; the exercise of the prisoners; and some few other specialties which cannot well be set out in tabular forms. I purpose, therefore, to adhere to this course.

Before I enter, however, upon the body of my report, I must premise that, having commenced my duties on the 20th of May only, I shall have to rely upon the records of the Prison for any information I may have to give of circumstances which occurred prior to that date, but that, for subsequent events, I shall have the advantage of being able to speak from my own knowledge and observation.

In the first place, I would beg to express my thanks to the principal Officers for their generous co-operation, and more especially would I thank the Chaplain, Mr. Brown, and the Surgeon, Mr. Thomson, for their kind reception of me on my arrival, and for the valuable assistance and advice they have since continued to afford me. Of the Matron, Miss Beattie, I need only say that her gentle yet firm management of the female prisoners has merited my entire approbation; and of Mr. Cruickshank, who holds the responsible offices of Steward and Superintendent of Manufactures, I am bound to speak in the highest terms. Intimately acquainted as he is with the routine of the establishment, not only in the branches immediately under his own charge, but in those also where order and discipline are required, he has ever been ready to aid me with the information and advice he is so capable of giving, and I can scarcely express my thanks too strongly for the services he has so willingly rendered me. I also take this opportunity of recording my favourable opinion of Mr. Watson, the Clerk of Works, of Mr. Sutherland, the Chief Clerk, and of Mr. Anderson, the Head Warder—the two former I have found careful and efficient, and possessing great practical knowledge of their respective duties; whilst the latter, by his steady assiduity and attention, has aided me essentially in carrying out the necessary discipline.

With respect to the conduct of the subordinate Officers, I am glad to be able to state that generally it has been satisfactory, and that their attention to the duties with which they are intrusted has been very commendable. There have been, of course, exceptions to this, but, making due allowance, I consider them to be fairly respectable and effective.

During the year, the following changes, I find, have taken place in the Staff. The late Governor, Mr. Stuart, died on the 26th of February, and I was appointed by Sir George Grey, Secretary of State for the Home Department, to succeed him—my appointment dating from the 1st of May. On the 7th of July, Mr. William Ferguson, Teacher, resigned, as did also Mr. Baird, 2d Clerk in the Governor's Office, on the 9th; one Male Warder resigned without giving any reason; and one Female Warder quitted for a better appointment. In consequence of a decrease in the number of prisoners in the female department, occasioned by the removal of female convicts to the Prison at Ayr, and an increase of prisoners in the male department by the reception of additional male convicts, one female Teacher was transferred to Ayr, and the services of one female Warder were discontinued; whilst the male staff was augmented by four Officers, and the services of one existing male night-warder became available for day duty. At the close of the previous year six male Officers had been temporarily appointed to act as an interim guard during some structural alterations. Their services were dispensed with, two at a time, as the progress of the works permitted, and were wholly discontinued on the 21st of March. Vacancies have been filled by Officers appointed on trial, or by others temporarily employed on daily wages, in terms of No. 2 of the Rules for the adjustment of the staff.

For the statistics of the Prison, I would beg to refer you to the Tables annexed hereto.

THE DISCIPLINE OF THE PRISONERS.

The rules under this head have, I believe, been strictly adhered to, and the conduct of the prisoners, in general, has been orderly. Two cases only appear to me to be deserving of notice. On the 17th of May, one of the male prisoners committed an assault upon a Warder. The case was, by the direction of the Managers, reported to the Procurator-Fiscal, and on the 12th of June the prisoner was removed to the Sheriff-court, Perth, where he pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to three months' imprisonment. This sentence was carried into effect upon the expiration of his imprisonment in this Prison. The second case was that of an attack upon the Warders by some convicts and other prisoners, whilst exercising in C gallery, No. 2 Wing, on the 15th of September: on that occasion two Warders were beaten and kicked. This assault did not appear to have been premeditated, but to have been the result of a sudden outbreak of passion, and I am glad to say that two prisoners only took an active part in it; being, however, a case of an unusual kind, it was reported to the Managers to adjudicate upon, and the offenders were punished.

The work carried on by the male prisoners during the year has consisted chiefly of shoemaking, tailoring, weaving, mat-making, and carpentry. Prisoners sentenced to hard labour were employed either in turning a crank, or in picking oakum; those acquainted with trades were, as far as was practicable, employed at them, and many, who evinced a disposition to improve themselves, and whose general good conduct warranted a supposition that the knowledge of some handicraft might probably prevent them from having recourse to their former evil practices, were trained in the Prison to such industrial occupations as might prove useful to them after their liberation. The females were chiefly occupied in shirt-making, washing, and knitting; those sentenced to hard labour being employed in oakum picking.

Early in the year it was found that additional facilities for the exercise of the increasing numbers of male prisoners were required, and for that purpose the open airing-ground between Wings III. and IV., formerly used for the exercise of associated female convicts only, was securely fenced with an iron railing, and was opened on the 10th of April, for the exercise of female imprisonment prisoners, and convicts in the probationary stage, who were to walk in single file, at a distance from each other, and in silence. By this arrangement the airing yard

(No. VI. *Continued.*) between Wings II. and III. (which was divided into compartments, and which had hitherto been exclusively used by the females), became available, during the greater part of the day, for the exercise of the male prisoners, who were thus enabled to exercise in the open air for a longer period daily. As, however, the accommodation was still insufficient, the compartments in the circle between Wings I. and II. were taken down at a later period, and nearly the whole area of the angle formed by the two Wings was fenced in with a strong iron railing, circular walks were made within this space, and the airing-yard, in its new form, was again opened for exercise on the 22d of September. The additional room acquired has enabled a larger number of male prisoners to be exercised at one time, and has secured for them a full amount of exercise, even on the shortest days. This new arrangement has on the whole worked well. The refractory, and those who may desire to shun recognition and to avoid all contact with their fellow-prisoners, are still exercised in the compartment circle between Wings II. and III. At first there was no direct communication between Wing III. and the newly inclosed circle between Wings Nos. III. and IV., and the prisoners had to go to, and return from, exercise through Wing IV., which was not only inconvenient, but objectionable in point of discipline. A door was therefore opened out on the 19th of June, thereby connecting Wing III. with the yard, and this door has tended greatly to the promotion of better order, and to a more expeditious filling of the airing-yard. The new airing grounds have been in daily use throughout the year for the recreation and exercise of the insane, of female convicts undergoing long sentences, who have been more than five years in Prison, and of certain other prisoners to whom the privilege has been extended on medical grounds. By your authority, four of the most deserving convicts, near the end of long sentences, were provided, in the summer, with small patches of ground to cultivate ornamentally, a few plants and seeds being supplied to them. The cultivation of these plots is a source of continued interest and pleasure to the prisoners to whom they have been allotted, and the privilege is highly prized.

Towards the close of the year 1862, it had been found that the cell locks in the male department were so simple in their construction that they could be easily picked by skeleton keys, and the Managers were pleased to direct that such alterations should be made in the cell and corridor locks as would make them perfectly secure against any attempt of the kind for the future. They were all accordingly altered so effectually as to have defied the skill of some very experienced locksmiths; and this alteration was completed on the 23d March.

The arrangement for the reception of the male convicts, and the removal of a number of female convicts to Ayr Prison, having placed at your disposal all the cells in Wing II. attached up to that time to the female department, the centre partition was taken down, and the cells, 90 in number, were transferred to the male department on the 17th of April. In anticipation of this change, the internal connections between I. and II. were restored, and the connecting corridors between Wings II. and III. were built up, and covered with corrugated iron in the galleries B, C, and D; while on the ground corridor two strong iron gates were erected, one on either side of the entrance to the Chapel, so as to effectually separate the male from the female department. Twenty wooden screens have also been fixed outside the windows in Wing III. to prevent the females in that Wing from communicating with the males in Wing II.

On the 26th of December, the new offices for the Governor, Steward, and Clerks were so far completed that they could be occupied; and they were accordingly taken possession of by the Officers, to whom they had been respectively allotted.

The works for the conversion of the disused Juvenile Prison into an improved Lunatic Department have so far progressed that this building also will be fit for occupation early in the spring.

I would beg to refer you to the report of the Chaplain, Mr. Brown, for an account of the religious and moral instruction, or for any improvement in education that may have been made by the prisoners during the year; also for a description of the books in use, and the means by which he and his coadjutors, the Scripture-readers and Teachers, have endeavoured to carry out their religious and educational duties.

To the Surgeon's (Mr. Thomson's) report I would also refer you for a statement of the mortality, the sickness, and health of the prisoners during the year; and from the very lucid and explanatory manner in which both the Chaplain and Surgeon have usually conveyed all necessary information and detail on the subjects connected with their respective departments, I have every reason to believe that on the present occasion their reports will be found equally explicit and satisfactory.

Mr. Rigg, the visiting Priest, has most faithfully performed his duties, and has evinced throughout an earnest desire for the welfare of the prisoners committed to his charge.

The following Table is given in reference to the Trades in Prison:—

TRADES.	ADMITTED DURING 1863.								LIBERATED OR REMOVED DURING 1863.							
	Had good knowledge of a Trade on Admission.		Had slight knowledge on Admission. Improved in the Prison.		Being taught Trades in the Prison.		TOTAL.		Had good knowledge of a Trade on Admission.		Had slight knowledge on Admission. Improved in the Prison.		Were taught Trades in the Prison.		TOTAL.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Baking,	1	...	...	...	2	...	3	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	3	...
Bookbinding	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	2	...
Carpentry,	4	...	1	...	...	...	5	...	3	...	2	...	...	...	5	...
Matmaking,	...	...	5	...	115	...	120	...	...	...	...	...	122	...	122	...
Painting,	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	2	...
Shoemaking,	4	...	15	...	23	...	42	...	4	...	3	...	11	...	18	...
Tailoring	2	...	4	...	8	...	14	...	6	...	4	...	2	...	12	...
Weaving,	...	...	6	...	10	...	16	...	1	...	1	...	3	...	5	...
Winding,	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Dressmaking,	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	3
Knitting,	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	5	...	1	...	1	...	7
Sewing,	...	12	...	7	...	52	...	71	...	1	...	32	...	25	...	58
Shirtmaking,	...	36	...	1	...	40	...	77	...	21	...	78	...	55	...	154
Washing,*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total,	11	50	33	8	160	92	204	150	21	29	12	111	138	82	171	222

* All the female convicts in the Second Reformatory Class are employed in rotation in washing and other household work, except those who may have forfeited the privilege, or are physically unfit for the labour.

The following Table sets forth the Distribution of the Accommodation of the Prison, and the manner in which it was occupied throughout the year :— (No. VI. *Continued.*)

I.—PENAL DEPARTMENT.

1. ACCOMMODATION—

	Males.		Females.		Both.
	Separation.	Association	Separation.	Association.	
Cells,	346	...	173	204	723
Dormitories,	...	...	...	18	18
Average Occupation of Hospitals,	...	12	...	17	29
Total,	346	12	173	239	770

2. OCCUPATION—

	Prisoners Sentenced to Imprisonment.		Prisoners Sentenced to Transportation or Penal Servitude.		Total.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Both.
At commencement of the year,	239	123	...	283	239	406	645
Admitted during the year :—							
From Local Prisons in Scotland,	253	136	100	24			
From Convict Department, Prison of Ayr,	...	...	...	10			
From Convict Prisons in England,	...	...	29	...			
On Revocation of License,	...	...	1	4			
Transferred from Lunatic Deparment,	1	...	...	...			
Total Admitted,	254	136	130	38	384	174	558
Total who have been in the Prison,	493	259	130	321	623	580	1203
Liberated during the year :—							
By Expiry of Sentence,	228	128	...	4			
By Order on License,	...	...	...	82			
Removed, viz. :—							
To Prison of Ayr,	...	...	...	*12			
To Portsmouth,	...	...	29	...			
To Chatham,	...	...	19	...			
To Woking,	...	...	8	...			
Transferred to Lunatic Department,	1	...	...	2			
Died,	3	...	...	4			
Total disposed of,	232	128	56	104	288	232	520
In Custody at the end of the year,	261	131	74	217	335	348	683
Daily Average during the year,	252	131	60	40	312	371	683

II.—LUNATIC DEPARTMENT.

1. ACCOMMODATION—

	Males.	Females.	Both.
Apartments for	33	13	46

2. OCCUPATION—

	Inmates.		Both.
	Males.	Females.	
At commencement of the year,	20	10	30
Admitted during the year—			
From the Prison of Glasgow,	1	...	
Transferred from the Penal Department,	1	2	
Total Admitted,	2	2	4
Total who have been in the Prison,	22	12	34
Removed, viz. :—			
By Death,	1	...	
To Penal Department,	1	...	
Total disposed of,	2	...	2
Inmates at the end of the year,	20	12	32
Daily Average during the year,	20	11	31

The average daily amount of exercise throughout the year was—

For Convicts—males, 58, females, 88 minutes. Other Prisoners—males, 62, females, 59 minutes.

* Exclusive of 8 removed to the Prison of Ayr, and returned to the General Prison within the year.

(No. VI. *Continued.*) The following Table shows the conduct and punishments of all the Prisoners in custody during the year; also, the number liberated, and the number of those who received gratuities, or good-conduct money, in terms of regulations :—

Good.		Tolerable.		Bad.		Total.		Number not Punished.		Number Punished.		Number of Punishments.		Number Liberated.		Number who received Gratuities, or Good-Conduct Money.	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
541	543	31	24	71	23	643	590	493	495	150	95	335	140	228	214	152	161
1084		55		94		1233		988		245		475		442		313	

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen, your most obedient Servant,

FRED. S. PARKYN, *Governor.*

To the Managers of the General Prison for Scotland, Edinburgh.

No. VII.—ANALYSIS of Ages and corresponding Sentences of all the Prisoners who were during the Year 1862 in the General Prison at Perth, exclusive of the Lunatic Department.

SENTENCES.		AGES. 12 years and under.		16 years and above 12.		21 years and above 16.		30 years and above 21.		40 years and above 30.		50 years and above 40.		60 years and above 50.		Above 60 years.		Total.	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
9 months and under 12,	Imprisonment.	1	...	3	2	29	18	51	25	25	19	16	10	7	6	...	1	132	81
12 months and under 18,	Imprisonment.	...	...	8	4	64	27	75	43	47	30	20	18	6	5	6	1	226	128
18 months and under 2 years,	Imprisonment.	...	...	6	1	37	7	38	22	26	8	10	5	1	1	1	...	119	44
2 years and upwards,	Imprisonment.	...	...	...	1	4	1	6	2	2	1	3	1	...	...	...	...	15	6
14 years,	Transportation.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
15 years,	Transportation.	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	4	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	8
21 years,	Transportation.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	..	1	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	4
Life,	Transportation.	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	1	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
3 years,	Penal Servitude.	...	...	...	7	4	3	9	8	5	7	1	3	...	...	...	...	19	28
4 years,	Penal Servitude.	...	...	...	3	18	21	14	57	6	30	1	7	...	7	...	3	39	128
5 years,	Penal Servitude.	...	...	...	...	4	2	...	8	...	6	1	2	...	1	...	...	5	19
6 years,	Penal Servitude.	...	...	...	...	6	8	10	19	2	8	3	6	...	2	...	2	21	45
7 years,	Penal Servitude.	...	...	...	...	4	2	1	5	3	3	2	2	...	...	...	...	10	12
8 years,	Penal Servitude.	...	...	...	...	4	5	4	18	4	10	...	5	...	3	...	...	12	41
10 years,	Penal Servitude.	...	...	...	...	2	2	6	7	7	3	...	1	...	3	...	1	15	17
12 years,	Penal Servitude.	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
15 years,	Penal Servitude.	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	3
21 years,	Penal Servitude.	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	..	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	4
Life,	Penal Servitude.	...	...	...	..	...	2	1	4	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	2	7
Total,		1	...	17	18	176	102	219	231	130	131	58	61	14	29	7	8	622	580

No. VIII.—TABLE showing the NUMBER OF PRISONERS **received** into the General Prison at Perth, and the Counties within which their Offences were committed, in the **Year ended 31st December 1863.**

COUNTIES.	Sentenced to Imprisonment.		Sentenced to Penal Servitude or Transportation.		COUNTIES.	Sentenced to Imprisonment.		Sentenced to Penal Servitude or Transportation.		COUNTIES.	Sentenced to Imprisonment.		Sentenced to Penal Servitude or Transportation.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.
Aberdeen,	18	8	3	...	Brought forward,	130	66	50	10	Brought forward,	235	133	97	34
Argyle,	2	...	...	...	Haddington,	3	...	...	...	Roxburgh,	5	...	...	...
Ayr,	6	3	7	...	Inverness,	2	...	1	...	Selkirk,	...	...	...	...
Banff,	2	1	...	...	Kincardine,	2	...	...	...	Stirling,	9	3	3	...
Berwick,	1	...	...	...	Kinross,	...	...	...	...	Sutherland,	2	...	...	...
Bute,	...	...	1	...	Kirkcudbright,	5	...	...	...	Wigton,	3	...	...	...
Caithness,	7	1	...	...	Lanark,	68	45	39	20	Zetland,	...	...	...	...
Clackmannan,	...	....	...	1	Linlithgow,	...	2	...	...	From Prisons in England,	...	...	29	...
Dumbarton,	1	...	...	...	Nairn,	...	...	...	...	Had Licenses Revoked,	...	...	1	4
Dumfries,	4	3	3	...	Orkney,	...	1	...	...					
Edinburgh,	60	43	29	7	Peebles,	2	...	...	...					
Elgin,	...	1	1	...	Perth,	7	5	5	1					
Fife,	13	1	2	...	Renfrew,	16	14	2	3		254	136	130	38
Forfar,	16	5	4	2	Ross & Cromarty,	...	...	...	...		390		168	
Carry forward,	130	66	50	10	Carry forward,	235	133	97	34	TOTAL,	558			

No. IX.—Abstract of half year's Returns made by the Chief Officers of the General Prison at Perth, down to the end of the year 1863, relating to 561 Juvenile Male Prisoners, who were associated in the Juvenile Department, liberated between 1st January 1848 and 31st December 1863.

	Number liberated.	Whether Employment for Prisoner was obtained at date of, or shortly after, liberation.					Whether Employed at date of respective Returns.					Conduct of Prisoner since liberation, so far as ascertained at date of respective Returns.						
		Yes.	No.	Not known	Dead.	Total.	Yes.	No.	Not known	Dead.	Total.	Good.	Tolerable.	Not known	Bad.	Returned to Crime or under Sentence.	Dead.	Total.
Results of first Return after liberation, ...	561	287	210	60	4	561	218	254	82	7	561	271	42	96	54	91	7	561
Results of second Return, at the lapse of half a year from the first, ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	216	266	68	11	561	187	56	75	45	187	11	561
Results of third Return at the lapse of a year from the first, ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	212	273	62	14	561	170	50	64	56	207	14	561

No. X.—STAFF of OFFICERS and SCALE of the SALARIES in the General Prison for Scotland at Perth. Approved of by the Secretary of State.

No.	I.—MALE OFFICERS.	SALARIES. Minimum.	Annual Increase.	Maximum.	ALLOWANCES.
1	Governor,	£400 0 0	£10 0 0	£500 0 0	Residence with Gas.
1	Chaplain,	200 0 0	10 0 0	300 0 0	Do.
1	Resident Surgeon,	200 0 0	10 0 0	300 0 0	Do.
1	Visiting Physician,	100 0 0	.....	100 0 0	
1	Steward,	100 0 0	5 0 0	150 0 0	Do.
1	Superintendent of Manufactures,	100 0 0	5 0 0	150 0 0	Do.
1	Chief Clerk,	120 0 0	4 0 0	150 0 0	Do.
1	Assistant-Clerk,	90 0 0	3 0 0	120 0 0	
3	Clerks in Steward's Department,	70 0 0	3 0 0	100 0 0	One Residence with Gas.
1	Clerk of Works,	100 0 0	5 0 0	150 0 0	
1	Head Warder,	75 0 0	2 10 0	100 0 0	House, Gas, and Uniform.
2	Trades' Warder,	55 0 0	2 0 0	75 0 0	Do.
1	Scripture Reader,	100 0 0	3 0 0	130 0 0	
4	Teachers,	70 0 0	2 0 0	90 0 0	
1	Superintendent of Department for Criminal Lunatics,	60 0 0	2 0 0	80 0 0	House, Fuel, Gas, and Uniform.
11	Warders,	52 0 0	1 0 0	62 0 0	15 House, Gas, and Uniform, and 16 Uniform.
5	Warders,	51 14 2	.....	.....	
	Allowance to Teacher of Music,	8 0 0	.....	8 0 0	
	Allowance to Precentor (A Warder),	8 0 0	.....	8 0 0	
1	Labourer in Store,	35 0 0	1 0 0	45 0 0	
57					
	II.—FEMALE OFFICERS.				
1	Matron or Superintendent,	175 0 0	5 0 0	225 0 0	Furnished Residence with Gas.
1	Sub-Matron,	80 0 0	4 0 0	120 0 0	Do.
2	Scripture-Readers,	75 0 0	2 0 0	95 0 0	
7	*Teachers or School Mistresses,	55 0 0	1 0 0	65 0 0	
1	Superintendent of Convicts, viz., of Work,	52 0 0	1 0 0	62 0 0	Furnished Lodgings and Gas.
16	Warders,	35 0 0	1 0 0	45 0 0	Furnished Lodgings, Gas, and Uniform.
1	Outer Gatekeeper (a Warder's wife),	15 0 0	.....	15 0 0	
1	Sick Nurse,	45 0 0	1 0 0	55 0 0	Do.
1	Housekeeper to Female Warders,	40 0 0	1 0 0	50 0 0	Furnished Lodgings and Gas.
31					

* One doing duty in the Prison of Ayr.

No. XI.—View of the Outlay connected with the Prisoners' Labour and of the Returns therefrom for the Year ended 31st December 1863.

Work.—Debtor.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
I. To value of Stock on hand at 31st December 1862, viz. :—			
1. Undisposed of Goods,	697 4 3		
2. Material,	558 8 2		
3. Tools and Implements,	123 9 10		
		1379 2 3	
II. To Outstanding Accounts for Sales and Work executed at 31st December 1862, brought from last year's account,	...	595 17 2	
III. To Outlay this year for Material, Implements, and Carriage of Goods, viz. :—			
Material, &c.,	3038 5 8		
Implements,	65 12 9		
		3103 18 5	
Sum of Debit,			5078 17 10

Creditor.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
I. By Loss on Outstanding Accounts of 1862 and previous years, viz. :—			
1. Abatements, &c., at Settlement,		3 2 3	
II. By Goods returned by Purchasers and Employers on Accounts incurred in 1862,		...	
III. By Receipts by the Governor, viz. :—			
1. Outstanding Accounts of 1862 and previous years,	480 12 11		
2. For Sales and Work executed to Purchasers and Employers during the year 1863,	2722 11 0		
		3203 3 11	
IV. By Current Expenses of the General Prison, viz. :—			
1. Value of Material, &c., issued for the use of the Prison,	1072 2 11		
2. For Earnings rated to Prisoners thereon,	818 5 6		
		1890 8 5	
V. By Outstanding Accounts due by Purchasers and Employers, at 31st December 1863, viz. :—			
1. For Sales and Work executed in 1862, and previous years,	112 2 0		
2. For Sales and Work executed in 1863,	524 9 6		
		636 11 6	
VI. By Value of Stock on hand at 31st December 1863, viz. :—			
1. Undisposed of Goods,	715 14 7		
2. Material,	620 8 8		
3. Implements of Labour,	112 5 2		
		1448 8 5	
Sum of Credit,	...		7181 14 6
Balance, being nett available profits this year,			£2102 16 8

General Prison, Perth, 11th January 1864.

Fred. S. Parkyn,
Governor.

No. XII.—TABLE showing, in classified form, the Expenditure of the General Prison at Perth during the year 1863; and the total Cost of each Prisoner in the year; subject, however, to deduction of Profit arising from the Labour of Prisoners.

	Value of Stock on hand at 31st December 1862.	Outlay for the year.	Gross Expenditure for the year.	Deduct Stock on hand at 31st December 1863.	Deduct also Expenditure connected with Labour, carried to Labour Account.	Nett Expenditure for the year.	Yearly cost per Prisoner, the average number in custody being 714.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1. Salaries and Wages,	...	*6458 5 8	*6458 5 8	...	...	*6458 5 8	9 0 11
2. Uniform of Officers,	...	182 17 3	182 17 3	...	...	182 17 3	0 5 1
3. Prison Diet,	39 11 9	4615 0 2	4654 11 11	22 19 10	...	4631 12 1	6 9 9
4. Contingent alimentary charges,	2 9 1	246 3 7	248 12 8	1 14 8	...	246 18 0	0 6 11
5. Medicine,	...	94 11 5	94 11 5	...	..	94 11 5	0 2 8
6. Clothing,	0 10 6	1278 19 0	1279 9 6	2 9 0	...	1277 0 6	1 15 9
7. Bedding,	37 18 6	175 9 8	213 8 2	10 10 0	...	202 18 2	0 5 8
8. Lighting Prison,	...	217 11 3	217 11 3	...	...	217 11 3	0 6 1
9. Lighting Officers' Houses and Outhouses,	...	89 3 3	89 3 3	...	...	89 3 3	0 2 6
10. Fuel,	105 12 2	721 1 6	826 13 8	134 10 9	...	692 2 11	0 19 5
11. Cooking and Washing,	...	325 5 4	325 5 4	...	...	325 5 4	0 9 1
12. Material for Work and Carriage of Goods,	...	3038 5 8	3038 5 8	...	3038 5 8	...	...
13. Implements of Labour,	...	65 12 9	65 12 9	...	65 12 9	...	...
14. Gratuities to well-conducted Imprisonment Prisoners, and Good-conduct Money to Convicts,	...	420 6 1	420 6 1	...	...	420 6 1	0 11 9
15. Subsistence to destitute Prisoners on liberation,	...	17 11 0	17 11 0	...	...	17 11 0	0 0 6
16. Clothing for Prisoners on Liberation,	...	165 19 10	165 19 10	...	...	165 19 10	0 4 8
17. Furniture, Fittings, and Utensils,	0 13 4	208 18 5	209 11 9	0 12 7	...	208 19 2	0 5 10
18. Prison Services not otherwise classified,	...	217 9 6	217 9 6	...	...	217 9 6	0 6 1
19. General Contingent Charges,	...	380 1 0	380 1 0	...	...	380 1 0	0 10 8
TOTALS,	186 15 4	18,918 12 4	19,105 7 8	172 16 10	3103 18 5	15,828 12 5	22 3 4
Not included in the above—							
1. Convict Earnings, paid to Exchequer,	...	850 15 8	...	...	...	...	...
2. Ordinary Works and Repairs,	...	1986 14 1	...	...	...	...	...
3. Feu-duty,	...	125 0 0	...	...	...	...	...
4. Travelling Expenses of Prisoners from the General Prison to their usual places of residence,	...	133 13 9	...	...	...	...	...
	...	22,014 15 10	...	...	...	...	...

* Including £30, 8s. 4d. paid to a Teacher doing duty among Convicts in the Prison of Ayr, equivalent to a deduction of 10d. per head

General Prison, Perth, 11th January 1864.

FRED. S. PARKYN, *Governor.*

No. XIII.—TABLE exhibiting a Comparative View of the Cost per Prisoner in the General Prison at Perth, in each year ended 31st December, from 1857 to 1863 inclusive.

NOTE.—The special expense of transmitting prisoners from the Prison to their usual places of residence is not included.

	In 1857, during which the average number of prisoners in custody was 593.	In 1858, during which the average number of prisoners in custody was 561.	In 1859, during which the average number of prisoners in custody was 632.	In 1860, during which the average number of prisoners in custody was 675.	In 1861, during which the average number of prisoners in custody was 637.	In 1862, during which the average number of prisoners in custody was 688.	In 1863, during which the average number of prisoners in custody was 714.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Salaries, wages, and uniform of officers	7 7 0^{6}	8 3 1^{1}	8 3 4^{6}	8 16 1^{10}	9 6 11^{7}	8 14 11^{7}	9 6 0
Diet	6 11 6^{10}	6 5 0^{1}	6 0 10^{10}	6 19 3^{4}	7 5 6^{3}	6 9 9^{10}	6 9 9
Contingent alimentary charges	0 7 0^{1}	0 8 3^{4}	0 7 7^{1}	0 7 5^{4}	0 9 4^{2}	0 8 4	0 6 11
Medicine	0 2 6^{5}	0 3 7	0 3 0^{3}	0 3 7^{3}	0 4 5^{5}	0 3 0^{1}	0 2 8
Clothing	1 2 5^{10}	1 5 1^{7}	2 1 2^{4}	1 6 11^{6}	1 11 6^{6}	1 7 5^{8}	1 15 9
Bedding	0 5 7^{11}	0 5 8	0 16 8^{10}	0 11 7^{6}	0 6 0^{3}	0 5 5^{3}	0 5 8
Lighting Prison	0 6 8^{10}	0 7 9^{2}	0 8 5^{4}	0 9 7^{2}	0 9 4^{11}	0 6 6	0 6 1
Lighting officers' houses and outhouses	0 2 5^{10}	0 2 11^{7}	0 3 3^{11}	0 3 5^{4}	0 3 11^{2}	0 2 9^{7}	0 2 6
Fuel	0 19 0^{11}	1 0 8^{5}	1 2 11	1 4 0^{1}	1 4 7^{9}	0 19 4^{7}	0 19 5
Cooking and washing	0 7 9	0 8 4^{9}	0 7 10^{10}	0 9 5^{9}	0 8 9^{1}	0 8 5^{5}	0 9 1
Furniture, fittings, &c.	0 9 7^{8}	0 9 0	1 5 0	0 7 2^{9}	0 7 3^{5}	0 5 8^{3}	0 5 10
General contingent charges	1 0 7^{7}	1 7 6	1 5 4^{11}	1 11 11^{7}	1 17 3^{10}	1 11 9^{6}	1 13 8
Gross cost per prisoner	19 2 7^{9}	20 7 1^{5}	22 5 9^{11}	22 10 9^{5}	23 15 2^{9}	21 3 7^{9}	22 3 4
Deduct Earnings per prisoner available for Prison	2 11 0	2 14 1^{10}	2 17 8^{3}	3 5 8^{6}	3 8 8^{7}	3 1 10^{6}	2 18 11
Nett cost per prisoner	16 11 7^{9}	17 12 11^{7}	19 8 1^{8}	19 5 0^{11}	20 6 6^{2}	18 1 9^{3}	19 4 5

No. XIV.

STATE OF ACCOUNTS

OF THE

GOVERNOR OF THE GENERAL PRISON FOR SCOTLAND AT PERTH.

I.—FUNDS FOR EXPENSES OF THE GENERAL PRISON AT PERTH.

1. Current Expenses of the Establishment.

Receipts—being Charge.

1. Balance due by the Governor brought from last year's account,			£448 5 10
2. Outstanding Accounts for sales and work executed at the General Prison in 1862, and preceding years, given up in the Discharge of last account, and thence transferred,			595 17 2
3. Cash received by the Governor of the General Prison from the Queen's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer in Scotland, in full of Issues by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury from Grants of Parliament for defraying the current expenses of the establishment of the General Prison,			18,131 0 0
4. Cash from Officers in the General Prison, in repayment of Income-Tax on their Salaries, viz.,			59 12 8
5. Cash received, being incidental receipts from the General Prison for the year 1863,			108 8 5
6. Proceeds of Labour of Prisoners in the General Prison in the year 1863, viz. :—			
(1.) Money received for sales and deliveries of Work,			2,722 11 0
(2.) Value of Materials, &c., issued for the use of the Prison in making and repairing clothing, &c., for prisoners, and making furniture, fittings, and repairs; and in making and repairing implements of labour, included in the Discharge,	£1,072 2 11		
(3.) Value of labour of prisoners on materials, &c., issued for Prison use, and in domestic Prison services, included in the Discharge,	818 5 6		
(4.) Account for sales and deliveries of work outstanding at 31st December 1863,	524 9 6		
			2,414 17 11
7. Interest accrued on funds in Bank,			18 5 2
Amount of Charge,			£24,498 18 2

Expenditure—being Discharge.

1. Payments in 1863 on account of liabilities for expenses of the establishment of the General Prison, incurred for supplies, &c., during the year 1862,	£3,102 9 7
2. Current Expenses of the Establishment of the General Prison incurred in the year 1863, viz., Expenses paid during the year, including value of materials, &c., issued from the labour stores for Prison use, and labour of prisoners thereon, and on domestic Prison purposes,	15,758 1 8
3. Payment to the Queen's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer in Exchequer, as profit arising on the labour of Convicts during the year ended 31st December 1862,	850 15 8
4. Payments on account of the expenses of Feu-duty for the additional ground for the new Wing, and House-rent for Chaplain,	188 0 0
5. Payments for Income-Tax on Salaries of Officers,	59 12 8
6. Loss on outstanding accounts stated in charge hereof, being abatements allowed at settlement of accounts incurred in 1862,	3 2 3
7. Value of goods returned by purchasers and employers on accounts incurred in 1862,	.....
8. Outstanding accounts for sales and deliveries of work at the General Prison, as at 31st December 1863, carried to next account,	636 11 6
9. Balance at credit of this account carried to next account,	3,900 4 10
Sum of Discharge,	£24,498 18 2

2. Expenses of Ordinary Works and Repairs at General Prison.

Receipts—being Charge.

1. Cash remitted to the Queen's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer by the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, in full of Issues from the grant of Parliament for payment of ordinary works and repairs, viz. :—		
15th January 1863,	£1,083 4 3	
19th May 1863,	171 17 11	
14th July 1863,	399 9 3	
27th October 1863,	332 2 8	
Amount of Charge,		£1,986 14 1

Expenditure—being Discharge.

Payments on account of Ordinary Works and Repairs,	£1,986 14 1
Amount of Discharge,	£1,986 14 1

Fred. S. Parkyn, *Governor.*

General Prison, Perth,
11*th January* 1864.

No. XV.

REPORT by the Rev. WILLIAM BROWN, Chaplain of the General Prison at Perth, for the Year 1863.

General Prison, Perth, 12th January 1864.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit, through you, to Her Majesty's Prison Managers for Scotland, this my Nineteenth Annual Report, being for the year 1863; and, in obedience to official requirement, I beg to state that I have given "the whole of my time and attention to the Prison," due regard being had to the Rules laid down for my guidance.

The following Table will show the number of Prisoners—Male and Female, Adult and Juvenile, also the age of the oldest and youngest, as per Criminal Register—admitted and re-admitted in the course of the year; including, as regards the Admissions, 8 female convicts who had been, within the year, removed to and returned from the Prison of Ayr; 6 of these, however, having been registered as re-admitted Prisoners prior to their removal, are not included in the Table referring to the re-admissions :—

PRISONERS.	Males.			Females.			Total.			Age of Oldest.		Age of Youngest	
	Ad.	Juv.	Total.	Ad.	Juv.	Total.	Ad.	Juv.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
Admitted, ...	366	18	384	180	2	182	546	20	566	77	63	12	14
Re-admitted, ...	94	2	96	63	...	63	157	2	159	59	58	17	17

The re-admitted Prisoners, in all 159—96 males and 63 females—left the General Prison as follows :—

YEAR, ...	1847.		1850.		1851.		1852.		1854.		1855.		1856.		1857.		1858.		1859.		1860.		1861.		1862.		1863.		Total.	
SEXES, ...	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
NUMBER, ...	...	1	3	...	1	...	1	...	3	...	8	...	5	1	9	1	9	4	4	4	5	5	8	7	26	30	14	10	96	63
TOTAL, ...	1		3		1		1		3		8		6		10		13		8		10		15		56		24		159	

The number of Prisoners in custody at the close of the year was 715—355 males and 360 females. Of these, 240 had been in the General Prison before; 81 males and 127 females once; 12 males and 17 females twice; and 3 males three times. The whole were classified as follows :—

IN THE MAIN PRISON AND SUBSIDIARY WARDS.	Under Charge.						Re-Admissions.					
	Males.		Females.		Total.		Males.		Females.		Total.	
	Ad.	Juv.	Ad.	Juv.	Ad.	Juv.	Ad.	Juv.	Ad.	Juv.	Ad.	Juv.
Sentenced to—												
Imprisonment (*a*)	238	23	129	2	367	25	55	3	35	...	90	3
Transportation (*b*)	1	...	9	...	10	...	1	...	2	...	3	...
Penal Servitude (*c*)	73	...	207	1	280	1	37	...	104	1	141	1
Lunatic Criminals (*d*)	19	1	12	...	31	1	...	...	2	...	2	...
	331	24	357	3	688	27	93	3	143	1	236	4
Total,.....	355		360		715		96		144		240	

References:
(*a*) Males and females from 9 months, to periods not exceeding two years.
(*b*) One male c/n. 454/22 for 14 years, under revocation of conditional pardon; and females, from 15 to 21 years, three for life; two—c/ns. 293/20, 385/21—having forfeited their order of license, were returned to complete their sentence.
(*c*) Males from 3 to 15 years—1 for life; and females from 3 to 21 years—7 for life.
(*d*) Including 1 male and 5 females, insanity having supervened since their admission.

The following Table will show how often the prisoners in custody, at the close of the year, so far as I have been able to ascertain, had formerly been in confinement, in Local and other Prisons; also how many of them had been in the General Prison before, and how often :—

PRISONERS IN CUSTODY.		NUMBER OF PREVIOUS IMPRISONMENTS IN LOCAL AND OTHER PRISONS.																										TOTAL.				OF WHOM IN THE GENERAL PRISON BEFORE.			
		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	13	16	19	20	22	24	26	28	29	31	36	42	59	73	Males.		Females.		Never.	Once.	Twice.	Three Times.
																												Ad.	Juv.	Ad.	Juv.				
Male	Adults.....	121	34	20	20	11	9	6	3	2	4	1	4	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	236	...	...	...	467	...	...	...
	Juveniles...	5	5	3	3	...	2	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21	...	...				
Female	Adults.....	53	15	13	25	29	17	13	8	6	3	3	2	6	1	2	2	...	2	...	1	1	2	2	...	1	1	...	...	208	...				
	Juveniles...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2				
Male	Adults.....	...	16	11	8	11	7	6	6	3	1	1	1	5	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	80	...	...	...				
	Juveniles...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	215	...	...
Female	Adults.....	...	10	9	14	19	22	16	11	5	5	2	2	3	3	...	2	1	1	3	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	131	...				
	Juveniles...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1				
Male	Adults.....	...	...	...	...	4	1	3	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	...	...	...				
	Juveniles...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30	...
Female	Adults.....	...	...	2	2	3	4	...	2	1	1	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	...				
	Juveniles...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...				
Male	Adults.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...				
	Juveniles...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3
Female	Adults.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...				
	Juveniles...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...				
Total,...		181	80	59	76	76	65	46	31	20	14	8	11	15	5	3	4	3	3	3	1	2	2	4	1	1	1	331	24	357	3	467	215	30	3
																												355		360					

(No. XV. *Continued.*)

Other particulars as to the upbringing of the Juveniles will appear in the following summary :—

MALES.		FEMALES.		TOTAL.		DOMESTIC CONDITION.
Cared for.	Neglected.	Cared for.	Neglected.	Cared for.	Neglected.	
6	5	...	...	6	5	Have Father and Mother.
1	2	...	...	1	2	„ Father only.
...	2	1	1	1	3	„ Father and Stepmother.
1	2	...	...	1	2	„ Mother only.
2	2	...	...	2	2	„ Mother and Stepfather.
...	1	...	1	...	2	Are Orphans.
10	14	1	2	11	16	
24		3		27		

The following Table will give a comparative view of the state as to Education, on Admission, and on the 31st of December, of 555 Prisoners—248 males and 307 females—who have been here for three months and upwards :—

		Could not read at all.		Could read with difficulty.		Could read well, that is, could read any common book easily.		Could not write at all.		Could sign their name merely.		Could write with difficulty.		Could write well.		Had a knowledge of Arithmetic.		Improved in other branches of Instruction.	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
47 Males and 27 Females have received instruction for three months, but for less than six months, ...	On admission,	6	3	22	13	19	11	9	11	2	3	25	12	11	1	15	3	...	...
	On 31st December,	5	3	14	10	28	14	5	3	1	7	23	12	18	5	21	5	...	...
158 Males and 84 Females have received instruction for six months, but for less than one year, ...	On admission,	12	8	47	35	99	41	19	33	5	4	81	45	53	2	71	4	...	...
	On 31st December,	2	2	29	27	127	55	2	6	5	4	53	40	98	34	109	25	...	...
43 Males and 196 Females have received instruction for one year and upwards, ...	On admission,	8	23	6	69	29	104	10	56	2	12	16	115	15	13	19	8	...	...
	On 31st December,	5	7	2	38	36	151	6	15	...	13	10	84	27	84	29	55	...	...

The Prisoners are, at the close of each quarter, in presence of their respective Teachers, also on Admission, and at other times, subjected to examination by myself; their state and relative gradation as to attainments forming the basis of the Educational Statistics periodically submitted to the Managers. The Prisoners in general make very gratifying progress in education ; the associated, however, do not improve in the ratio of those in separate confinement. All classes are highly privileged, and possess many advantages for improvement, in a religious point of view.

The Scripture-readers and the Teachers satisfactorily discharge their respective duties.

The sick, and the wayward in close confinement, are not overlooked in my daily visitations.

The Library—supplemented twice a year—embraces books and periodicals of an instructive and edifying nature ; and affords a vast fund of information to the reading portion of our inmates.

The number of Prisoners discharged during the year was 526, viz., 288 males and 238 females, including 4 males and 4 females by death. Of the males, 56 Convicts were removed to Public Works. Of the females, 20 Convicts were removed to the Prison of Ayr.

The Table appended hereto, page 51, will give a comparative view of their educational state, as on admission and at departure, with their ages and sentences.

Of 228 liberated male prisoners (exclusive of the 4 by death, and the 56 Convicts removed to Public Works), 86 are entered in my Register as expected to do well, and 99 as having obtained employment. Of those released prior to 1863, I also ascertained that 32 had, in addition to the number already reported on, got work. Of 214 discharged females (exclusive of the 4 by death and the 20 removed to the Prison of Ayr), 25 are recorded by the Matron hopeful; 40 as having got work ; 97 as having had friends willing to receive them ; and 18 as having been sent to Houses of Refuge.

During the past year, I have on the whole satisfactorily corresponded with and visited liberated prisoners and their friends, and the friends of those about to be discharged.

On the 7th of July, one of the Male Teachers resigned the service on medical grounds ; and a temporary appointment to the office thus vacated was forthwith made.

In conclusion, I beg to state that the Governor, Mr. Parkyn, who entered upon office on the 20th of May last, as successor to the late Mr. Stuart, has, in relation to various matters connected with the Chaplain's Department, considerately given me his countenance and support.

I have the honour to remain, Sir, your most obedient Servant,

WILLIAM BROWN, *Chaplain.*

To John Hill Burton, Esquire,
&c. &c. &c.

(No. XV. *Continued.*)

COMPARATIVE VIEW of the Educational State of Prisoners discharged during the year, as on Admission and Departure, with their Ages and Sentences.

MALE DEPARTMENT.—On Admission (A.) and at Departure (D.)

	RECORDED AGES ON COMMITTAL.														SENTENCES.							
	Juveniles.*		18 years and under 20.		20 Years and under 25.		25 Years and under 30.		30 Years and under 40.		40 Years and upwards.		Total.		12 Months and under.		18 Months and above 12.		Above 18 Months.		Total.	
	A.	D.	A.	D.	A.	D.	A.	D.	A.	D.	A.	D.	A.	D.	A.	D.	A.	D.	A.	D.	A.	D.
Could not read,.....	5	...	...	...	7	...	6	1	7	1	2	...	27	2	21	2	5	...	1	...	27	2
Could read a little, ...	10	5	19	6	26	11	19	12	22	9	9	3	105	46	78	38	27	8	...	...	105	46
Could read well, ...	6	16	19	32	34	56	26	38	42	61	29	37	156	240	109	168	44	68	3	4	156	240
Total,.....	21	21	38	38	67	67	51	51	71	71	40	40	288	288	208	208	76	76	4	4	288	288
Could not write, ...	7	...	3	...	12	1	14	2	12	...	7	1	55	4	41	4	13	...	1	...	55	4
Could sign name merely,	1	10	1	2	4	2	1	...	5	2	1	3	13	10	11	9	2	1	...	...	13	10
Could write a little, ...	11		26	7	32	21	22	21	37	17	23	11	151	87	110	65	38	20	3	2	151	87
Could write well, ...	2	10	8	29	19	43	14	28	17	52	9	25	69	187	46	130	23	55	...	2	69	187
Total,.....	21	21	38	38	67	67	51	51	71	71	40	40	288	288	208	208	76	76	4	4	288	288
Could not cipher, ...	16	6	27	6	44	16	35	13	47	17	27	17	196	75	146	64	46	10	4	1	196	75
Could cipher a little, ...	3	8	9	18	16	29	10	20	15	25	7	14	60	114	42	83	18	29	...	2	60	114
Could cipher well,†	2	7	2	14	7	22	6	18	9	29	6	9	32	99	20	61	12	37	...	1	32	99
Total,.....	21	21	38	38	67	67	51	51	71	71	40	40	288	288	208	208	76	76	4	4	288	288

FEMALE DEPARTMENT.—On Admission (A.) and at Departure (D.)

	RECORDED AGES ON COMMITTAL.														SENTENCES.							
	Juveniles.*		16 Years and under 20.		20 Years and under 25.		25 Years and under 30.		30 Years and under 40.		40 Years and upwards.		Total.		12 Months and under.		18 Months and above 12.		Above 18 Months.		Total.	
	A.	D.	A.	D.	A.	D.	A.	D.	A.	D.	A.	D.	A.	D.	A.	D.	A.	D.	A.	D.	A.	D.
Could not read, ...	...	...	8	...	11	...	6	1	12	4	8	3	45	8	24	3	7	1	14	4	45	8
Could read a little, ...	...	...	12	11	27	21	21	12	16	15	9	7	85	66	27	36	16	12	42	18	85	66
Could read well, ...	2	2	13	22	21	38	17	31	30	39	25	32	108	164	51	63	16	26	41	75	108	164
Total,.....	2	2	33	33	59	59	44	44	58	58	42	42	238	238	102	102	39	39	97	97	238	238
Could not write, ...	...	...	12	...	26	1	13	2	23	9	21	8	95	20	48	6	15	3	32	11	95	20
Could sign name merely,	...	...	...	2	...	3	4	2	1	5	1	4	6	16	1	8	1	4	4	4	6	16
Could write a little, ...	2	...	19	13	32	28	24	22	32	20	20	15	129	98	51	48	22	13	56	37	129	98
Could write well, ...	...	2	2	18	1	27	3	18	2	24	...	15	8	104	2	40	1	19	5	45	8	104
Total,.....	2	2	33	33	59	59	44	44	58	58	42	42	238	238	102	102	39	39	97	97	238	238
Could not cipher, ...	2	...	29	15	57	35	41	27	58	46	41	36	228	159	99	66	35	24	94	69	228	159
Could cipher a little, ...	...	2	4	16	2	24	3	13	...	10	1	3	10	68	3	34	4	12	3	22	10	68
Could cipher well,†	...	...	...	2	.	...	...	4	...	2	...	3	...	11	...	2	...	3	...	6	...	11
Total, ...	2	2	33	33	59	59	44	44	58	58	42	42	238	238	102	102	39	39	97	97	238	238

* Males under 18, and Females under 16 years.—(Rule 69.)

† In simple proportion, or the higher rules of arithmetic.

Of these—

Males.	Females.	
2	8	Did not learn to read.
25	38	Learned to read.
260	192	Improved in reading.
287	238	
4	20	Did not learn to write.
10	16	Learned to sign name merely.
54	65	Learned to write.
219	137	Improved in writing.
287	238	
75	159	Did not learn to cipher.
121	69	Learned to cipher.
91	10	Improved in ciphering.
287	238	

One of the males was well-educated on admission.

No. XVI.

Report by J. B. Thomson, Resident Surgeon to the General Prison at Perth, for the year ending 31st December 1863.

General Prison, Perth, 11th January 1864.

Gentlemen,—I have the honour of submitting to you my Annual Report of the general health, sickness, and deaths of prisoners in this Prison during the year 1863, and I shall set forth my information, as usual, under the following heads, viz. :—

I. Of the General Health, Sickness, and Deaths of Prisoners.
II. Of the Mental Condition of Prisoners not in the Lunatic Department.
III. Of the Department for Criminal Lunatics.

General Health. Kinds of Illness.

I. The general health of the prisoners has been good throughout the year.

The kinds of illness have been chiefly chronic diseases, the result of constitutions worn out by hereditary taints and vicious habits of life.

Epidemics.

Of Epidemic Diseases, which so seldom enter this Prison, we have to note a few cases, only two of which assumed a severe character, and one terminated by death; one of these epidemic cases was of Chicken-pox, and four Gastric Fever, which was epidemic in this locality. I subjoin the particulars of these cases :—

68/20, C. P., a female convict, was admitted 1st March 1861, and, on the 27th April, had a mild attack of chicken-pox. She was placed in an isolated cell under charge of a hired nurse, and no other case of the kind followed. 366/21, C. C., a female convict, admitted 13th October 1862, was seized with gastric fever on the 8th November; she made a good recovery. 228/21, M. L. M., a female convict, admitted 23d August 1862, took gastric fever on the 9th November; she appeared at one time convalescent, but suddenly sank from chronic bronchitis, and died after six weeks' illness. 135/22, A. B., a female imprisonment prisoner, admitted 25th March 1863, was seized with gastric fever on the 19th November; she recovered well in a fortnight. 400/20, E. M., a female convict, admitted on the 9th November 1861, took the same disease on the 23d November, and recovered in about two weeks. Three of these cases of gastric fever occurred in the same gallery, viz., D, Wing IV. When this fever appeared I deemed it proper to adopt, as a temporary fever hospital, an association room, Wing IV., Gallery D, which is almost entirely separated from the Main Prison. Nurses from the city of Perth were employed so as to secure officials and prisoners from any communication with the fever patients; and, as a further precaution, the clothes from the hospital were all washed and dressed outside of the Prison. I cannot attribute these epidemic cases to any defect in our hygienic or sanitary arrangements, but to the prevailing atmospheric influences. I am happy to say that, since the end of November, no new cases have appeared. I consider the satisfactory state of our ventilation and sanitation are proved by the rareness and the mildness of our epidemic visitations.

Table of the Sick.

The number of cases of sickness put upon the Register during 1863, are shown in the following Table :—

	Sentenced to Imprisonment.		Convicts.		Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
On Register at commencement of 1863,	5	2	...	6	13
Put on during the year, . . .	29	16	7	44	96
Total during the year, . . .	34	18	7	50	109
Of whom removed, ...	34	16	7	41	98
Leaving at 31st December 1863, .	...	2	...	9	11

These may be divided into—

Slightly ill, . .	57	Contracted before admission,	54
Seriously ill, . .	39	Do. after do.,	42
	96		96

Child-bed Cases.

The number of childbed cases was—

Imprisonment prisoners, . . .	6
Convicts, ...	1
In all,	7

These childbed cases, being deducted from the sum placed on the Register of Sickness, leaves 89; and this number includes several repeatedly sick. All the childbed cases were natural labours, and the mothers all made good recoveries.

Deaths in 1863.

The deaths during the year were as under :—

	Sentenced to Imprisonment.		Insane.		Convicts.		Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Deaths in 1863,	3	0	1	0	0	4	8

The causes of death could not be regarded as the result of imprisonment in any case. Two died of pneumonia, 1 from heart disease, 1 from paralysis, 1 from dropsy, 1 from cancer of the uterus, 1 from the gradual decay of insanity, and 1 from gastric fever. In at least 3 of these cases the causes of death existed before admission. Causes of Death.

There were no liberations on medical grounds during the past year.

The general health maintained by our female convicts under sentences to transportation and penal servitude, admitted here since October 1855, will appear in the following Table—the facts and the construction of which I owe to the kind aid of the Matron :— General Condition of Female Convicts.

RETURN showing the Number of Female Convicts received in each year from October 1855 to 31st December 1863, their term of sentence, whether before had suffered imprisonment, the number liberated or who have died, and of those remaining in custody at 31st December 1863; their previous imprisonments, the number respectively in Main Prison, or under treatment in the Hospitals for Sickness or Mental Diseases.

Year of Admission.	Number admitted and sentenced to Transportation or Penal Servitude. Number of Years of Sentence. 3	4	5	6	7	8	10	12	14	15	21	Life.	Total.	Previous Imprisonments. First time in Prison, or former career unknown.	Had suffered Imprisonment once or oftener in Local Prison from whence received.	Had suffered Imprisonment in General Prison once or oftener.	Had before undergone Sentence to Transportation or Penal Servitude in General Prison or elsewhere, or in both.	Number Liberated, Removed, or who have Died. Expiration of Sentence.	Remission.	Commutation.	Removed to Prison of Ayr.	Liberated on Medical Grounds.	Died.	Total.	Of those remaining in Custody 31st December 1863. Previous Convictions. First time in Prison, or former career unknown.	Had suffered Imprisonment once or oftener in Local Prison from whence received.	Had suffered Imprisonment in General Prison once or oftener.	Had before undergone Sentence to Transportation or Penal Servitude in General Prison or elsewhere, or in both.	Distribution. In Main Prison.	In Sick Hospital.	In Imbecile Hospital.	Epileptic.	Lunatic.	Total.
1855	..	98	8	10	..	..	..	..	..	8	9	1	3	137	20	108	1	8	103	19	..	..	5	8	135	1	1	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	2
1856	..	51	6	2	..	1	1	..	1	6	2	2	72	6	..	56	..	10	49	8	1	1	..	9	68	1	1	..	2	3	..	..	..	1	4
1857	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	4	..	..	3	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	1	3	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1
1858	11	34	6	9	6	2	4	..	..	..	3	..	75	..	36	15	19	..	61	..	..	..	3	64	3	2	1	5	11	..	..	..	..	11
1859	24	93	13	15	7	6	6	1	..	3	1	..	169	17	84	43	25	22	115	..	..	1	10	148	2	3	1	15	18	1	..	1	1	21
1860	9	34	5	2	1	11	4	..	..	..	..	2	68	9	17	22	20	..	38	..	..	..	2	40	2	7	3	16	26	2	..	..	..	28
1861	3	37	..	13	..	13	2	..	..	*2	2	3	75	10	24	16	25	..	2	..	7	..	3	12	9	22	12	20	58	2	1	..	2	63
1862	10	26	5	13	..	6	2	..	..	†1	..	1	64	9	10	26	19	..	..	..	3	..	2	5	9	10	22	18	55	2	..	1	1	59
1863	10	‡16	3	2	..	5	..	..	..	1	..	1	38	3	4	17	14	‡4	..	..	1	..	..	5	3	4	16	10	29	1	2	1	..	33
	67	391	46	66	14	44	19	1	9	24	9	12	702	79	342	140	141	180	243	1	12	6	38	480	30	50	55	87	203	8	3	3	5	222

* One sentenced to 15 years, who had been liberated by remission, had license revoked in 1861.
† Do. do. do. in 1862.
‡ Four sentenced to 4 years, do. do. in 1863, and were liberated by expiry of sentence.

Of the 702 admitted since October 1855, the deaths of female Convicts have amounted to 38 in al . Number of Deaths of Female Convicts.

Total average number, 1977 ; percentage of death, 1.92.

The length of time those who died had been in Prison was—

Time in Prison.	Died.
Under 6 months,	9
6 months, and under 1 year,	5
1 year and under 2 years,	8
2 „ „ 3 „	10
3 „ „ 4 „	2
4 „ „ 5 „	3
5 „ and upwards,	1
	38

Time in Prison of those who died.

Table of their ages :— Table of Ages.

Under 20 years,	3
20 years and under 30,	16
30 „ 40,	10
40 „ 50,	7
50 „ 60,	2

The fatal diseases were— Fatal Diseases.

Phthisis,	9	Paralysis,	1
Worn-out,	5	Pericarditis,	1
Brain Disease,	4	Aneurism,	1
Scrofula,	3	Pneumonia,	1
Hæmoptysis,	2	Menorrhagia,	1
Heart Disease,	2	Dropsy,	2
Uterine Disease,	3	Syphilis,	1
Gradual Decay from Insanity,	1	Gastric Fever,	1

The number of female convicts who have become insane, and are at present in the Lunatic Department, are 5 :— Insane.

Four of these are re-convicted Convicts ; 2 having passed their sentences in this Prison, and 2 in English Prisons. Two at least are known to have been insane previous to their last convictions. In none of these cases can I find that imprisonment has anything to do with their mental maladies; but all have been of very dissipated habits, and their constitutions have been much injured by these habits, and by the hereditary taints which belong to the criminal classes.

Weights of Female Convicts.

The physical condition maintained by our female Convicts may be further shown by their weights on admission, compared with their weights during confinement, or at liberation.

The number weighed at 18th September last, exclusive of sick, was 206, who stood thus:—

Number weighed.	Stationary in weight.	Gaining.	Losing.	Percentage. Maintaining or Gaining weight.
206	9	127	70	66

The amount gained by those gaining, was	1224 lbs.
The amount lost by those losing, was	508 lbs.
In favour of gains, . . .	716 lbs.

Not quite so favourable is the percentage of the following Table, giving the weights of all female Convicts who have been liberated by remission or by the expiry of sentence:—

	Numbers.	Station-ary.	Gaining.	Losing.	Percentage. Maintaining or gaining weight.
Liberated up to 31st December 1860, excluding Sick, . .	180	14	93	73	
Liberated up to 31st December 1861, excluding Sick, . .	90	4	51	35	
Liberated up to 31st December 1862, excluding Sick, . .	66	2	39	25	
Liberated up to 31st December 1863, excluding sick, . .	82	4	41	37	
	418	24	224	170	58

The amount gained by those gaining, was	441 lbs.
The amount lost by those losing, was	286 lbs.
Total gains, . . .	155 lbs.

From these Tables it appears that at liberation the weight is considerably less than that maintained in Prison. Two reasons may be offered for this:—On admission, Convicts are in a reduced state, and the liberal dietary of the first year sets them up, so that their weights increase during the probationary period, and subside in subsequent years; but for some time previous to liberation there supervenes a degree of anxiety and excitement as to the future which must tell injuriously upon their physical condition.

Being anxious to ascertain how far lengthened imprisonment affected the weights of female Convicts, I took the weights of 47 Convicts longest in Prison, viz., the remainder of those received in 1855 to 1859 inclusive, and I find on the 18th September last, at the general weighing, their weights were as follow:—

Number weighed.	Stationary in weight.	Gaining.	Losing.	Percentage. Maintaining or gaining weight.
47	2	30	15	68

The amount gained by those gaining, was	304 lbs.
The amount lost by those losing, was	120 lbs.
Total gains, . . .	184 lbs.

Long imprisonment, therefore, was not prejudicial to these 47.

To establish the opinion I offer, that Convicts gain during the probationary period, I took the weights of female Convicts admitted in 1862, as they stood at the general weighing in March 1863:—

Number weighed.	Stationary in weight.	Gaining.	Losing.	Percentage. Maintaining or gaining weight.
57	4	46	7	87

40 of these 57 have before suffered long sentences in the General Prison or elsewhere, and yet this is a very high percentage.

Six months after, on 18th September, when the diet of more than one-half had been changed, the weights of the above Convicts, exclusive of 1 sick, and 3 who had not returned from Ayr, were:—

Number weighed.	Stationary in weight.	Gaining.	Losing.	Percentage. Maintaining or gaining weight.
53	1	33	19	64

The amount gained by those gaining, was	265 lbs.
The amount lost by those losing, was	137 lbs.
Total gains, . . .	128 lbs.

Of Male Convicts.

The percentage is in this last Table reduced, and approaches to what is commonly maintained in Prison.

Since the month of February, male Convicts have been received here, amounting in all to 130—of whom 7 have been invalids. These Convicts being under long sentences, and after a few months to be employed in hard

abour at Public Works, it was necessary to frame for them a dietary superior to that for imprisonment prisoners. Accordingly, with the concurrence of the acting Governor, I submitted to the Managers the following scale of diet, which has been adopted, and the results will appear in the Table of Weights annexed :— (No. XVI. *Continued.*)

Scale of Diet for Male Convicts.

SCALE OF DIET FOR MALE CONVICTS.

Breakfast.	Dinner.	Supper.
8 oz. of oatmeal made into porridge, with $\frac{3}{8}$ pint of sweet milk; or, 12 oz. of wheaten bread, with $\frac{3}{8}$ pint of sweet milk.	On two days a week— 2 pints of barley broth or pease-soup, with 12 oz. of wheaten bread (12 oz. of oat-cake on one day); or, $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs of potatoes, with $\frac{3}{4}$ pint of milk, and 8 oz. of wheaten bread. On one day— 12 oz. of fish and 12 oz. of wheaten bread. On four days— 4 oz. of cooked meat, and 1 pint of broth or soup, with 12 oz. of wheaten bread.	2 lbs. of potatoes, with $\frac{3}{8}$ pint of sweet milk; or, 6 oz. of oatmeal made into porridge, with $\frac{3}{8}$ pint of sweet milk.

Under this dietary the percentage of those who maintained or gained weight is shown in the annexed Table :—

Weights of Male Convicts.

TABLE of WEIGHTS of Male Convicts (excluding the Sick) received since February 1863.

	Number weighed.	Stationary.	Gaining.	Losing.	Percentage. Maintaining or gaining weight.
Transferred to England,	49	2	36	11	
Remaining in General Prison,	74	...	71	3	
		2	107	14	88

The number of lbs. gained by those transferred, was . . . . 313 lbs.
Do. lost do. do., ... 42 lbs.
Do. gained by the 74 remaining, was . . . . 504 lbs.
Do. lost do. do. . . . . 21 lbs.

The foregoing shows a very high ratio of increase of weights, which is explained partly by what I have observed regarding the female Convicts, that they may be regarded generally as in a reduced state of body on admission; but I am inclined to attribute the remarkable and rapid increase in these Convicts generally to the oatmeal porridge and milk, which form an important part of the dietary. The results of the dietary of our imprisonment prisoners, who are allowed a large portion of oatmeal, confirms my opinion on the subject. My weighings of 2000 of our imprisonment prisoners showed that 80 to 85 per cent. maintained or gained weight.

Weights of Imprisonment Prisoners.

Diseases for which Prisoners were treated during the decennial period 1854 to 1863 inclusive.

Total Diseases of 1854-1863.

DISEASES.	1854.	1855.	1856.	1857.	1858.	1859.	1860.	1861.	1862.	1863.	Total.
I. *Zymotic Class*—											
Scarlatina,	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	3
Diarrhœa,	65	20	4	40	...	13	6	6	3	5	162
Influenza,	5	13	11	11	5	...	3	...	1	4	53
Scurvy,	1	2	...	3	2	1	...	...	...	...	9
Ague,	...	...	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	4
Erysipelas,	1	1	1	...	2	1	2	...	...	...	8
Syphilis,	2	5	6	11	7	4	10	3	4	...	52
Condylomata,	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	3
Puerperal Fever,	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Chicken Pox,	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	4
Measles,	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Fever,	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	5	7
Carry forward,	74	44	24	66	19	20	22	11	12	15	307

(No. XVI. *Continued.*)

DISEASES.	1854.	1855.	1856.	1857.	1858.	1859.	1860.	1861.	1862.	1863.	Total.
Brought forward,	74	44	24	66	19	20	22	11	12	15	307
II. *Constitutional*—											
Gout,	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fistula,	1	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	1	...	6
III. *Tubercular*—											
Scrofula,	2	5	2	5	4	7	6	7	3	5	46
Phthisis,	7	6	8	7	4	3	5	5	5	3	53
IV. *Of Nervous System*—											
Apoplexy,	...	...	1	...	...	...	..	...	1	...	2
Paralysis,	2	...	1	1	3	1	2	3	3	2	18
Brain Disease,	...	...	3	...	...	1	3	2	...	3	12
Hysteria,	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	2	2	6
*Epilepsy,	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...
†Insanity,	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia,	1	1	...	...	...	...	2	2	1	2	9
V. *Of Organs of Circulation*—											
Heart,	...	...	2	1	2	2	1	...	1	3	12
Aneurism,	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2
Syncope,	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	2
Pericarditis,	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
VI. *Of Respiration*—											
Bronchitis,	...	2	2	...	8	4	4	3	...	...	23
Pleuritis,	...	...	1	4	...	3	4	...	...	...	12
Pneumonia,	...	1	1	...	2	...	2	4	2	3	15
Asthma,	...	1	3	4	3	3	2	2	...	1	19
Hæmoptysis,	...	...	1	1	2	4	3	3	...	3	17
Hydrothorax,	...	...	1	1	1	...	2	...	...	...	5
VII. *Of Digestion*—											
Epistaxis,	...	3	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	6
Quinsey,	...	...	...	...	3	1	2	...	...	...	6
Dyspepsia,	...	2	2	...	6	4	3	6	3	5	31
Enteritis,	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	1	...	4
Ascites,	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	1	...	2	6
Ulcer of Intestines,	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	2	5
Hernia,	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	1	4
Hæmatemesis,	1	...	3	4	2	2	2	...	..	1	15
Hæmorrhoids,	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	3
Constipation,	...	...	1	3	1	...	...	1	...	1	7
Hepatitis,	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	...	...	4
Cancer of Stomach,	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	2
VIII. *Of Urinary and Generative Organs*—											
Stricture, &c., of Urethra,	...	1	...	...	3	1	2	...	...	3	10
Gonorrhœa,	...	1	...	1	2	3	3	...	1	3	14
Testitis,	...	1	...	...	1	3	...	1	2	...	8
Hydrocele,	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	2	4
Masturbatio,	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	1	4
Cystitis,	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
IX. *Of Uterine Organs*—											
Cancer Uteri,	...	...	2	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	5
Uteritis,	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	2	3	1	9
Menorrhagia,	...	...	3	...	1	3	6	1	2	2	18
Polypus,	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	..	3
X. *Of Locomotive Organs*—											
Rheumatism,	2	3	1	4	5	3	4	...	3	3	28
Sciatica,	...	...	...	1	1	2	1	...	...	...	5
XI. *Of Skin*—											
Ulcer,	...	10	2	2	8	6	5	...	2	2	37
Abscess,	...	2	2	...	3	4	6	5	...	3	25
Itch,	...	5	...	3	2	4	2	4	4	6	30
Ringworm, &c.,	...	1	...	2	1	4	...	...	...	...	8
Favus,	...	1	2	...	1	2	...	...	1	...	7
Pediculi,	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	..	3
Anomalous Eruption,	...	...	..	1	...	1	...	1	2	...	5
Eczema,	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	2	...	5
Lepra,	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	4
XII. *From Accident and Negligence*,—											
Burns and Bruises,	...	...	2	...	3	2	3	1	1	2	14
Fracture,	...	...	2	...	1	1	2	...	2	1	9
Sprains,	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	...	2	...	6
Wounds,	1	...	2	1	...	1	2	2	2	2	13
	91	91	78	118	105	112	114	73	66	89	937

* See Table No. XIX. as to Epileptics.
† See Table No. XVIII. as to Lunatics.

(No. XVI. *Continued.*)

Table showing the Prison population, the daily average population, the number and percentage of deaths during twenty-two years, viz., since 1842, when the General Prison was opened :—

Deaths of Prisoners since 1842.

Years.	Total Prison Population.	Daily average Population.	Annual Deaths.	Percentage on daily average Population per annum.	Deaths per 1000.
1842	404	404	5	...	...
1843	627	278	6	...	...
1844	563	217	3	...	...
1845	541	233	3	...	...
1846	600	322	7	...	...
1847	672	332	1	...	...
1848	682	301	5	...	...
1849	737	363	2	...	...
1850	810	385	3	...	...
1851	784	306	4	...	...
1852	796	434	8	...	...
1853	876	459	4	...	...
1854	1045	580	9	...	...
1855	1134	498	10	...	...
1856	998	583	11	...	...
1857	961	593	12	...	...
1858	982	561	10	...	...
1859	1085	632	12	...	...
1860	1074	675	16	...	...
1861	1065	637	8	...	...
1862	1105	688	5	...	...
1863	1241*	714	8	...	...
	18,782	10,195	152	1·49	15

* This includes 8 who were conveyed to Ayr, and returned to the General Prison within the year.

Thus I am enabled to show that, during twenty-two years, with a total Prison population of 18,782, and a daily average population amounting to 10,195, we have had in all 152 deaths, being at the average rate per annum of 1.49 per cent., or 15 per 1000 of the Prison population.

But the rate of mortality is, of course, affected by the occasional temporary and conditional liberation of prisoners, whose longer confinement is certified to be dangerous to life; and the following list shows the numbers liberated on medical grounds, from 1842 to 1863 inclusive.

Liberated on Medical Grounds, 1842-63.

Liberated on medical grounds—

2.	1843.	1844.	1845.	1846.	1847.	1848.	1849.	1850	1851.	1852.	1853.	1854.	1855.	1856.	1857.	1858.	1859.	1860.	1861.	1862.	1863.	Total.
2	18	7	0	1	3	1	4	4	3	7	4	3	0	0	1	4	1	2	1	0	0	76

The total liberated during 22 years amount to 76. Twenty-five, or one-third of these having probably terminated fatally, being counted as deaths, we have 152 + 25 = 177, which would raise the death rate of the prisoners in the General Prison to 1.73 per cent. per annum.

Causes of Deaths, 1842-63.

FATAL DISEASES OR CAUSES OF DEATH.	1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.	1846.	1847.	1848.	1849.	1850.	1851.	1852.	1853.	1854.	1855.	1856.	1857.	1858.	1859.	1860.	1861.	1862.	1863.	Totals.
Zymotic Class—																							
Diarrhœa,	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	6
Influenza,	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Scurvy,	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	1
Cholera,	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	1
Fever,	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	
Tubercular—																							
Scrofula,	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	6
Phthisis,	4	2	2	...	4	1	2	1	...	...	1	...	3	5	4	1	4	4	3	1	4	...	46
Marasmus,	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Of Nervous System—																							
Paralysis,	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	5
Brain disease,	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	6
Decay from Insanity,	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	1	...	1	8
Epilepsy,	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Apoplexy,	..	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Delirium Tremens,	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Of Organs of Circulation—																							
Heart,	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	1	1	...	1	7
Pericarditis,	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Aneurism,	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Carry forward,	5	4	3	2	7	1	4	2	2	1	3	3	7	7	7	5	6	7	9	6	4	4	99

(No. XVI. *Continued.*)

FATAL DISEASES OR CAUSES OF DEATH.	1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.	1846.	1847.	1848.	1849.	1850.	1851.	1852.	1853.	1854.	1855.	1856.	1857.	1858.	1859.	1860.	1861.	1862.	1863.	Total.
Brought forward,	5	4	3	2	7	1	4	2	2	1	3	3	7	7	7	5	6	7	9	6	4	4	99
Of Respiration—																							
Bronchitis,	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	4
Pneumonia,	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	7
Asthma,	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	..	1	...	...	...	...	...	2
Hæmoptysis,	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	2
Hydrothorax,	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	3
Of Digestion—																							
Epistaxis,	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Enteritis,	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Peritonitis,	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Hæmatemesis,	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Constipation,	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cancer of Stomach,	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Ascites,	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	2
Of Urinary and Generative Organs—																							
Cancer Uteri,	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	1	4
Bright's disease,	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Menorrhagia,	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
Of Organs of Locomotion—																							
Rheumatism,	..	...	...	1	.	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	.	...	1
Suicides,	...	...	...	...	.	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Unknown,	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	1
Old Age,	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	..	...	...	1
Worn Out,	...	1	..	...	...	...	..	...	1	...	1	...	...	3	...	4	...	2	1	...	1	...	14
	5	6	3	3	7	1	5	2	3	4	8	4	9	10	11	12	10	12	16	8	5	8	152

Contrast of Epidemic Deaths;

NOTE.—In the above Mortality Table, the small number of deaths from Zymotic Diseases is chiefly worthy of notice; and I cannot avoid contrasting this with the vital statistics of the city of Perth, only a few hundred yards distant from the Prison. Every year the city has several severe epidemics. Fourteen years of the twenty-two years since the General Prison was opened, we have had no fatal epidemic. In the two great cholera years, 1849 and 1854, died in the city 368 from Asiatic Cholera. In 1849 no deaths from Cholera; and in 1854 3 deaths are reported from Diarrhœa in the General Prison. During the seven complete years of the Reports of the Registrar-General, 1856–1862, there were, in the city of Perth, from Typhus Fever, 120 deaths, and no case in the General Prison.

in the City, and the General Prison.

From Diarrhœa and Dysentery, 199 died in the city; no deaths from Epidemic Diarrhœa or Dysentery in the General Prison. The cases of Diarrhœa in the General Prison were the result, not of epidemic influences, but from worn-out systems. In the year 1860, from Small Pox alone, died in Perth 61 persons; no case of Small Pox in the General Prison.

I quote these facts as very valuable in proof of the prisoners here being placed in a hygienic and sanitary condition, favourable to their exemption from Zymotic or Epidemic attacks.

Mental Condition.

II. Of the mental condition of Prisoners not in the Lunatic Department.

Table No. XIX. gives the particulars of all of this class put by the authority of the Surgeon in association, as unfit for separation, with the reasons for associating, in each case. The number is below the average, viz.:—

Juveniles,	3
Imbecile or Weak-minded,	10
Suicidal,	2
Epileptic,	6
Total,	21

The class of weak-minded and suicidal prisoners who were kept separate, but placed under special obser vation, amounted, at 31st December 1863, to—

Weak-minded,	25
Weak-minded and Suicidal,	15
Total,	40

Number associated 1854-1863.

The following shows the number of Prisoners, during the last decennial period, who have been associated on account of their mental condition:—

	1854.	1855.	1856.	1857.	1858.	1859.	1860.	1861.	1862.	1863.	Totals.
MENTAL CONDITION—											
Imbecile or Weak-minded,	19	22	22	34	14	21	20	16	26	13	207
Do. and Suicidal,	4	4	3	2	2	4	7	9	6	2	43
Epileptic,	9	6	4	7	4	11	2	7	13	6	69
	32	32	29	43	20	36	29	32	45	21	319

I can point to very few instances of this class of Prisoners in whom the mental weakness was the result of imprisonment; but the greatest number seemed to me congenitally weak-minded. My analysis of the cases proved

that those who showed mental imbecility after admission, did so in the early periods of imprisonment, or were reported imbecile on admission. (No. XVI. *Continued.*)

III. Of the Department for Criminal Lunatics.

Health and Death of Criminal Lunatics.

The general health of this department has been very good.

One death has occurred, viz., 76/9, P. P. or S., aged 50, first received into the General Prison 20th March 1850, untried; removed afterwards to Edinburgh for trial, and returned on the 17th May. He had, therefore, been more than thirteen years in the department for Criminal Lunatics.

In Table No. XVIII. will be found particulars of all confined in this department during 1863.

The total admissions were 4, 2 males and 2 females. One of these, a male, was admitted from the Prison of Glasgow; the others, 1 male and 2 females, were transferred from the Main Prison.

Of those transferred from the Main Prison, 1 was here formerly a female convict, 75/21, C.C., who had been in an asylum; and 1, C. N. or N., a male imprisonment prisoner, is believed to have been formerly insane, and on admission some doubts were expressed of his mental condition, so that I am of opinion that imprisonment here had nothing to do with any of these cases as the cause of insanity.

Admissions 1854-1863.

I offer a Table of the number of admissions to the Lunatic Department, during the last ten years:—

	1854	1855	1856	1857	1858	1859	1860	1861	1862	1863	Total.
From the General Prison, ...	1	0	2	4	4	6	6	4	2	3	32
From other Prisons, ...	2	6	3	5	6	8	2	1	3	1	37
	3	6	5	9	10	14	8	5	5	4	69

The number of admissions is below the average.

Changes and Improvements.

The new buildings for the Criminal Lunatics are well advanced, and promise to be a great improvement upon the old, and fitted to allow of the most humane and scientific treatment of modern days.

The new airing-grounds have been applied, not only for the benefit of the insane, but occasionally for those of weak mind, who may appear lapsing into insanity, and also for the physical and mental health of the most advanced female convicts.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen, your most obedient Servant,

J. B. Thomson, *Resident Surgeon.*

To the Managers of the General Prison for Scotland, &c. &c.

No. XVII.—Report by the Governor and Resident Surgeon of the General Prison at Perth, of the deaths of Prisoners in the General Prison, from 1st January to 31st December 1863, inclusive.

No.	Current Number. M.	Current Number. F.	Name.	Age at Commitment to Prison.	Where Tried.	By whom tried.	Date of Sentence.	Sentence.	Date of Admission into the General Prison.	Date of Death.	Period in Prison. Months.	Period in Prison. Days.	Where Interred.	Disease.	Whether Contracted before or after Admission.	Probable Cause of Disease.	Remarks.
1	200/21	...	W. W.	19	Edinburgh.	Sheriff-Court.	1862 June 5	12 Months' Hard Labour.	1862 June 10.	1863 Jan. 7	6	29	Precincts of the Prison.	Pneumonia . .	After . .	Unknown	This lad was of imbecile mind and scrofulous.
2	...	394/20	J. M'K. or M'K.	56	Stirling.	Circuit-Court.	1861 Sept. 16	8 Years' Imprisonment	1861 Nov. 16	1863 Feb. 3	14	19	Do.	Cancer of Uterus	Before .	Do. . .	Disease of long standing.
3	76/9	...	P. P. or S.	50	Edinburgh.	High Court of Justiciary.	1850 May 16	Found to be insane, and not a proper object for trial, and ordered to be detained in Prison until liberated in the due course of law.	1850 March 20 Untried on May 13. Removed to Edinburgh for trial and brought back on 17th May.	1863 April 24	13 Years 1 month.	5	Do.	Gradual decay of Insanity . .	After . .	Insanity	
4	...	401/21	M. P. or M.	35	Perth .	Circuit-Court	1862 Sept. 29	4 Years' Imprisonment.	1862 Nov. 22	1863 April 30	5	9	Do.	Dropsy . . .	Before .	Liver Disease	Worn out on admission from dissipation.
5	...	393/20	M. C. or Y.	39	Stirling.	Do.	1861 Sept. 16	8 Years' Imprisonment.	1861 Nov. 16	1863 June 6	18	22	Do.	Paralysis . . .	After . .	Rupture of blood-vessel on brain.	
6	209/22	...	J. E.	45	Cupar.	Sheriff-Court.	1863 April 17	9 Months' Imprisonment.	1863 May 2	1863 July 12	2	11	Do.	Heart Disease .	Before .	Unknown	Hopeless on admission.
7	415/21	...	W. H. M'G.	20	Wigtown.	Do.	1862 Nov. 14	12 Months' Imprisonment.	1862 Dec. 2	1863 Oct. 17	10	16	Do.	Pneumonia . .	After . .	Cold	Probably caught cold after being at work in the bake-house.
8	...	282/21	M. L. M. or T.	30	Edinburgh.	High Court of Justiciary.	1862 March 10	4 Years' Imprisonment.	1862 Aug. 23	1863 Dec. 30	16	8	Do.	Gastric Fever .	Do. . .	Atmospheric	This woman seemed convalescing, but suddenly sank.

I certify that the dates of death, the diseases, whether before or after admission, probable cause of disease of the Prisoners above-named, and the relative remarks, are correct, the columns having been filled up under my direction.

J. B. Thomson, *Resident Surgeon.*

I certify that the current numbers, names, ages, where tried, by whom tried, dates of sentence, sentences, dates of admission, period in prison, and where interred, are correct; and also that means were used to acquaint the relatives of the above-named Prisoners, in order that they might have an opportunity of removing the bodies for interment, if they wished to do so.

Fred S. Pakkyn,
Governor.

General Prison, Perth, 11th January 1864.

No. XVIII.—Return by the Resident Surgeon of the General Prison at Perth, applicable to those Prisoners who have been confined in the Department for Criminal Lunatics during the year 1863.

	M.	F.	TOTAL.
Insane in Custody at 31st December 1862,	20	10	30
Admitted during 1863,	2	2	4
Total during 1863,	22	12	34
Liberated and removed in 1863,	2	0	2
Remaining in Custody at 31st December 1863,	20	12	32

No.	C/n.	Name.	Age on committal to Prison. M.	Age on committal to Prison. F.	Whence brought.	Brought to Lunatic Department.	Afterwards transferred to Lunatic Department.	Date of Admission to Lunatic Department.	Offence of which Accused or Convicted.	By what Court Tried.	Judgment of Court or other Judicial proceeding, with Date.	Whether admitted on Judicial Finding or Medical Certificate of Lunacy.	Form of Insanity.	Removed during the year. Date.	Removed during the year. Method.	REMARKS.
1	316/5	J. J., Jr.	11	...	Royal Lunatic Asylum, Glasgow.	1	...	Dec. 25, 1846	Assault .	Sheriff Court, Lerwick.	Found not to be a fit subject for trial on account of imbecility and dumbness, and sentenced to imprisonment until further orders of the Court, or of the High Court of Justiciary, 5th May 1845.	Judicial Finding.	Idiocy .	.....	.....	*Naturaliter Idiota;* Mischievous, dumb.
2	222/5	E. L.	...	35	Do.	1	...	... 29, ...	Murder . .	Circuit Court, Jedburgh.	Found to be insane and not fit for trial, and sentenced to be imprisoned until further orders of the High Court of Justiciary, 18th September 1845.	Do.	Homicidal Mania.	.. ...	.....	Had hallucinations, and was liable to violent paroxysms of mania; murdered her mother under the delusion that she was a witch.
3	95/6	T. M'K.	37	...	Glasgow Prison.	1	...	May 4, 1847	Murder . .	Circuit Court, Glasgow.	On trial, found to be insane, and not an object of punishment, and sentenced to be detained in Prison all the days of his life, or until sufficient caution be found for his safe keeping in custody during life, 6th May 1839.	Do.	Do.	.....	.....	Had hallucinations; never had lucid intervals.
4	111/6	A. R.	30	...	Stirling Prison.	1	...	... ...	Assault . .	Sheriff Court, Stirling.	Found to be insane and not a fit subject for trial, and sentenced to be detained in Prison, subject to future orders of Court, 26th May 1841.	Do.	Mania.	.....	....	Has delusions about his being a great personage; has scarcely ever been heard to speak for years.
5	169/6	T. B.	25	...	Ayr Prison	1	...	July 9, ...	Assault with intent to ravish.	Circuit Court of Justiciary, Ayr.	Found to be insane and not a fit subject of trial, and sentenced to be detained in custody until further orders of the High Court of Justiciary, 15th September 1843.	Do.	Do.	.....	.....	
6	242/6	M. P.	....	34	Morningside Lunatic Asylum.	1	...	... 23, ...	Wilful fire-raising and malicious mischief.	Circuit Court of Justiciary, Jedburgh.	Found to be unfit for trial from the state of her mind, and to be detained in Prison until further orders of the High Court of Justiciary, 4th April 1842.	Do.	Do.	.....	.....	
7	76/9	P. P. or S.	50	....	Edinburgh Prison.	1	...	Mar. 29, 1850	Murder .	High Court of Justiciary, Edinburgh.	Found to be insane and not a proper object of trial, and to be detained in custody until further orders of Court, 16th May 1850.	Do.	Homicidal Mania.	24th April	Died.	A powerful and dangerous man, with a strong homicidal tendency; he murdered two persons in one night.
8	171/9	J. D.	28	...	Dumbarton Prison.	1	...	June 15, ...	Assault, with intent to rob	Sheriff Court, Dumbarton.	Found to be insane and not fit for trial, and ordered to be detained in Prison until removed therefrom by competent authority, 7th June 1850.	Do.	Mania .	.....	.....	
9	172/9	W. K.	22	...	Perth County Prison.	1	...	... 18, ...	Murder . .	Circuit Court, Perth.	Found not in a fit state to be put on his trial, and the diet deserted *pro loco et tempore*, and grants warrant to commit him to the Prison of Perth, therein to be detained until further orders of the Court of Justiciary regarding him, 26th Sept. 1850.	Do.	Homicidal Mania	.....	.....	*Naturaliter Idiota;* was confined in Lunatic Wing untried from 18th June, until brought before the Circuit Court.
10	310/9	M. R.	27	...	Stirling Prison.	1	...	Nov. 12, ...	Theft by house-breaking and previous conviction.	Circuit Court, Stirling.	Found to be insane and not fit for trial, and to be detained in Prison until further orders of Court, 12th April 1850.	Do.	Mania .	.....	.....	

Return by the Resident Surgeon, applicable to those Prisoners who have been confined in the Department for Criminal Lunatics—*continued.*

No.	C/n.	Name.	Age on committal to Prison. M.	Age on committal to Prison. F.	Whence brought.	Brought to Lunatic Department.	Afterwards transferred to Lunatic Department.	Date of Admission to Lunatic Department.	Offence of which accused or convicted.	By what Court tried.	Judgment of Court or other Judicial proceeding, with Date.	Whether admitted on Judicial Finding or Medical Certificate of Lunacy.	Form of Insanity.	Removed during the year. Date.	Removed during the year. Method.	REMARKS.
11	27/10	R. B. or M.	...	30	Edinburgh Prison.	1	...	Mar. 14, 1851	Assault . .	High Court of Justiciary, Edinburgh.	Found to be insane and not a proper object of trial, and ordered to be detained in Prison until further orders of Court, 12th March 1851.	Judicial Finding.	Mania.	....	.....	
12	133/11	I. B.	...	50	Perth County Prison.	1	...	May 14, 1852	Murder . .	Circuit Court of Justiciary, Perth.	On trial, found to have been insane at the time of committing the offence, and not an object of punishment, and adjudged to be detained in Prison all her life, or at least until further orders of Court, 29th April 1852.	Do.	Homicidal Mania.	.....	.....	Murdered her mother; is a hypochondriacal and ill-tempered woman.
13	74/12	J. D. S.	24	...	Glasgow Prison	1	...	Mar. 18, 1853	Murder. .	Circuit Court of Justiciary, Glasgow.	Death, but commuted to transportation for life, on account of insanity, 4th January 1853.	Medical Certificate.	Do.	.....	...	
14	234/13	H. M'N	27	...	Ayr Prison	1	...	July 22, 1854	Rape. .	Circuit Court, Ayr.	Found to be insane, and not fit for trial, and adjudged to be imprisoned until further orders of the Court of Justiciary, 18th April 1854.	Judicial Finding.	Mania.	.....	.....	
15	470/14	W. G. T.	35	...	Perth County Prison.	1	...	Oct. 13, 1855	Assault to the effusion of blood and serious injury of the person	Circuit Court of Justiciary, Perth.	Found, from the state of his intellect, not a proper object for trial, and to be detained in Prison subject to the future orders of the High Court, 2d October 1855.	Do.	Idiocy.	.....	.....	*Naturaliter Idiota.*
16	247/15	M. F. or M'L.	...	28	Glasgow Prison.	1	...	July 15, 1856	Murder	Circuit Court of Justiciary, Glasgow.	Found to have been insane at the time of committing the act charged, and not a proper object of punishment, and adjudged to be detained in Prison subject to the future orders of the High Court of Justiciary, 2d May 1856.	Do.	Homicidal Mania.	.....	.....	In the puerperal state, and, under a fit of jealousy, destroyed her child.
17	43/16	H. S.	27	...	Edinburgh Prison.	1	...	Feb. 19, 1857	Murder .	High Court of Justiciary, Edinburgh.	Found to be insane, and not fit for trial, and ordered to be detained in the General Prison at Perth, subject to future orders of the Court, 16th February 1857.	Do.	Do.	.....	.....	When in the Greenock poorhouse, murdered one of the paupers.
18	358/16	A. M'P.	26	...	Inverness Prison.	1	...	Dec. 21, 1857	Murder .	Circuit Court of Justiciary, Inverness.	Found to be insane at the time he committed the act, and adjudged to be detained in Prison, subject to future orders of the High Court of Justiciary, 30th September 1857.	Judicial Finding.	Do.	.....	.....	Under delusions—murdered three persons, his father, mother, and aunt, in one night. Had a relapse of the homicidal impulse in April 1861, of which some details appear in the Medical Report for 1861.
19	203/17	D. C.	37	...	Perth County Prison.	1	...	July 30, 1858	Murder .	Circuit Court of Justiciary, Perth.	Ordered to be kept in custody until her Majesty's pleasure be known, 7th October 1858.	Do.	Do.	.....	.....	Has delusions that he is visited by good and evil spirits; also by the three Persons in the Godhead. Irritable, passionate, proud.
20	214/17	T. A. S. or F. or T. or T.	39	...	Edinburgh Prison.	1	...	Aug. 14, 1858	Murder .	High Court of Justiciary, Edinburgh	Found to be insane and not fit for trial, and ordered to be kept in custody until her Majesty's pleasure be known, 19th July 1858.	Do.	Do.	.....	.....	Has delusions, that poison has eaten away his brain and stomach; suicidal.
21	41/18	A. M.	23	...	Perth County Prison.	1	...	Feb. 22, 1859	Murder .	High Court of Justiciary.	Found to have been insane, and ordered to be kept in custody until Her Majesty's pleasure be known, 16th Nov. 1858.	Judicial finding.	Do.	.....	.....	Certified insane on admission; but has shown no mental disorder or delusion here. On the 30th Jan. 1861 was certified as sane, and, on the authority of the Prison Managers, was transferred to Main Prison on 5th March 1861, and put to prison service. Returned to Lunatic Department proper on the 17th December 1862.
22	88/15	C. M'K.	...	21	Glasgow Prison.	...	1	Dec. 20, ...	Theft and previous conviction.	Circuit Court, Glasgow.	15 years' transportation, 8th Jan. 1856, .	Medical Certificate	Mania.	.....	.....	Admitted to Main Prison, March 19, 1856; Imbecile, May 7, 1859; sent to Imbecile Ward at its opening in Aug. 1859. Has delusions that she gets poison and rats in her food. Violent, threatens, and strikes. Formerly in Brixton and Millbank.
23	177/18	I. S.	...	24	Edinburgh Prison.	...	1	Sept. 8, ...	Theft and previous conviction	High Court of Justiciary.	8 years' penal servitude, 14th Feb. 1859,	Do.	Mania.	.....	.....	On admission imbecile, and sent to Imbecile Ward; was formerly insane, and three years in an asylum. Has again

				Prison.					Stirling.	be kept in custody until Her Majesty's pleasure be known, 21st Sept. 1860.		mania.			delusion was that she and her family are to be burned in the Poorhouse at Stirling, and to avert this fate she threw herself and two of her children into the canal at Falkirk; one of the children was drowned. Reported sane, 3d July 1862.
25	69/20	R. A. H.	...	27	Edinburgh Prison.	...	1	May 4, 1861	Theft and previous conviction.	High Court of Justiciary.	8 years' penal servitude, 4th Feb. 1861.	Do.	Mania.	.....	.....	R. A. H. was here formerly a convict under sentence of 4 years' penal servitude; always regarded as of weak mind; re-admitted weak-minded and violent. Insane delusions, soon after re-admission, took possession of her mind, that strange beings visited in her cell and tormented her. She became noisy, turbulent, and incoherent.
26	189/20	A. M'K. or M'G.	...	28	Perth Prison.	1	..	May 24, ...	Murder.	Circuit-Court, Perth.	Found to have been insane, and ordered to be kept in custody until Her Majesty's pleasure be known, 6th April 1861.	Judicial finding.	Homicidal Mania.	.....	.....	Murdered her own boy, 4 years old, and attempted suicide under religious excitement after attending revival meetings. Reported as sane, 8th July 1862.
27	277/20	J. H.	50	...	Edinburgh Prison.	...	1	April 8, 1862	Theft, falsehood, fraud, and wilful imposition.	Sheriff-Court, Edinburgh.	18 months' imprisonment, 8th August 1861.	Medical Certificate.	Mania.	Jan. 22.	Sent back to Main Prison recovered, but imbecile.	Has delusions of various kinds; that he has had visits of angels; got glimpses of heaven, and that he has found out sources of great wealth and honour; incoherent.
28	116/21	W. C.	46	...	Ditto.	1	...	... 15, ...	Murder.	High Court of Justiciary.	Found to have been insane, and ordered to be kept in custody until Her Majesty's pleasure be known, 10th March 1862.	Judicial finding.	Homicidal Mania.	.....	.....	Still insane; talks of the person he murdered as alive; obscene in his conduct.
29	217/21	R. P.	36	...	Glasgow Prison.	1	...	June 26, ...	Murder.	Circuit-Court, Glasgow.	Found to have been insane, and ordered to be kept in custody until Her Majesty's pleasure be known, 26th Sept. 1861.	Do.	Do.	.....	.....	This man was admitted June 26, 1862, and since that time has shown no symptoms of insanity. He murdered his own child under a fit of mania consequent upon habits of intemperance. Certified sane, 18th November 1862.
30	395/21	H. S., Jun.	30	...	Fort-Charlotte.	1	...	Nov. 19, ...	Assault.	Sheriff-Court, Lerwick.	Found to have been insane, and ordered to be kept in custody until Her Majesty's pleasure be known, 14th Oct. 1862.	Do.	Mania.	.....	.....	This man's certificate bears that he believes in witchcraft, and that he can cure diseases by transferring them to himself.
31	17/22	T. D.	40	...	Glasgow Prison.	1	...	Jan. 7, 1863.	Assault with intent to ravish.	Circuit-Court, Glasgow.	Found to have been insane, and ordered to be kept in custody until Her Majesty's pleasure be known, 23d December 1862.	Do.	Epileptic Mania.	.....	.....	On admission reported to have had epilepsy, succeeded by maniacal excitement at different times; also, that he held delusions. Since his admission he has had epileptic attacks, and in January made assaults upon the persons of fellow-prisoners.
32	392/20	J. M'C. or A.	...	37	Stirling Prison.	...	1	April 15, ...	Theft and previous conviction.	Circuit-Court, Stirling.	4 years' penal servitude, 16th Sept. 1861.	Medical Certificate.	Mania.	... ..	.....	After receiving a letter of an unpleasant nature from her daughter, this prisoner became irritable, anxious, and full of remorse; also, alarmed about the state of her soul. She was associated in the Imbecile Ward for a few days, but became worse; turbulent, noisy, and incoherent. She had led a dissipated life.
33	75/21	C. C.	...	30	Glasgow Prison.	..	1	Oct. 12, ...	Theft and previous conviction.	Circuit-Court, Glasgow.	6 years' penal servitude, 27th Dec. 1861.	Do.	Do.	.....	.....	This prisoner was here formerly a convict, and insane. After 4 years' penal servitude she was liberated of imbecile mind, and soon after was confined in an Asylum. She was re-admitted imbecile and associated, continuing much the same until 12th October 1863, when she became violent and incoherent, and was certified insane.
34	414/22	C. N. or N.	27	...	Dundee Prison.	...	1	Dec. 14, ...	Forgery and uttering a Bill of Exchange.	Circuit Court, Perth.	15 months' imprisonment, 18th Sept. 1863.	Do.	Do.	.....	.....	Laboured under mental excitement before imprisonment, and was represented by some to be insane from habits of dissipation.

General Prison, Perth, 11th January 1864.

J. B. THOMSON, *Resident Surgeon.*

No. XIX.—Return for the Year 1863, of Prisoners put, by the authority of the Resident Surgeon, in Association, as better suited to their Mental Condition than Separation, with the reasons for Associating in each case.

No.	Current Number.	Name.	Age when committed to Prison M.	Age when committed to Prison F.	Prison whence Received.	Date of Sentence.	Duration of Sentence.	Date of Admission.	Date of putting on Treatment.	Condition.	Probable Cause of Condition.	Whether before or after Admission.	At the end of the Year. Not in Prison.	At the end of the Year. In Prison. In Association.	At the end of the Year. In Prison. In Separation.	At the end of the Year. In Prison. In Lunatic Department.	No.	Remarks.
1	452/18	M. B.		26	Dundee.	Oct. 3, 1859.	6 yrs.	Nov. 19, 1859.	Nov. 19/59.	Epileptic.	Congenital.	Before.		1			1	Here formerly—often in prisons.
2	149/19	B. K.		26	.....	April 11, ...	Life.	May 26, ...	May 26, ...	Suicidal.	Remorse.	Do.			1		2	Suicidal, and suffering remorse for having murdered her child.
3	167/19	E. S.		19	Glasgow.	... 23, ...	3 yrs.	... 28, ...	... 29, ...	Suicidal.	Melancholy.	Do.	1 Liberated, Jan. 23,				3	Was found suspended in cell—often violent, and strongly suicidal.
4	333/20	P. A.	17		Glasgow.	Oct. 2, 1861.	18 ms.	Oct. 14, 1861.	Oct. 14/61.	Epileptic.	Unknown.	Do.	1 Do. April 2,				4	A weak-minded epileptic—crime, fire-raising.
5	361/20	C. E. or H.		38	Stirling.	Sept 12, ...	18 ...	... 16, ...	Jan. 19/62.	Epileptic.	Anxiety.	Do.	1 Do. Mar. 17,				5	Had occasionally epileptic attacks, which arose from mental distress—mind weak.
6	256/20	T. H.	21		Edinburgh.	July 8, ...	18 ...	July 16, ...	.. 17, ...	Weak-minded.	Unknown.	Do.	1 Do. Jan. 8,				6	Could not bear separation—set fire to his mattress—stupid, and without self-control.
7	42/21	N. G.	28		.....	Jan. 23, 1862.	15 ...	Jan. 31, 1862.	... 31, ...	Imbecile.	Congenital	Do.	1 Do. April 23,				7	Imbecile—was insane—here formerly.
8	35/21	C. M'K or M'K.		38	Nairn.	Jan. 8, ...	18 ...	... 27, ...	... 23, ...	Suicidal.	Weak-minded	Do.	1 Do. July 8,				8	Reported suicidal on admission.
9	26/21	W. C.	21		Edinburgh.	Jan. 6, ...	12 ...	... 10. ...	Feb. 21, ...	Epileptic.	Unknown.	After.	1 Do. Jan. 6,				9	Says he was discharged from the army for fits.
10	209/20	L. M.		21	.....	May 20, 1861.	3 yrs.	June 14, 1861.	... 27, .	Do.	Do.	Do.	1 Do. Dec. 20,				10	A violent person, took a fit in punishment cells.
11	75/21	C. C.		30	Glasgow.	Dec. 27, ...	6 yrs.	Mar 19, 1862.	Mar. 19/62.	Imbecile.	Was Insane.	Before.				1 Oct. 12,	11	Was here formerly—a convict—was insane—mind far gone.
12	440/18	J. R. or D.		56	.....	Oct. 3, 1859.	5 yrs.	Nov. 19, 1859.	... 25, ...	Do.	Old Age.	Do.	1 Do. Oct. 3,				12	Imbecile from old age and congenital causes.
13	476/18	C. R.		70	.....	Oct. 6, ...	10 yrs	... 22, ...	.....	Do.	Do.	Do.		1			13	Do. from age—in hospital.
14	234/20	W. M'K.	40		Edinburgh.	June 24, 1861.	12 ms.	July 1, 1861.	April 6, ...	Epileptic.	Unknown.	Do.	1 Do. June 24,				14	Epileptic on admission.
15	332/20	W. S.	21		Glasgow.	Oct. 2, ...	12 ...	Oct. 14, ...	... 10, ..	Weak-minded.	Imprisonment.	Do.	1 Do. Oct. 2,				15	Ignorant—intractable, and unfit for separation—also suicidal.
16	118/21	P. T.	42		Dunfermline.	April 11, 1862.	9 ...	April 19, 1862.	... 19, ...	Epileptic.	Unknown.	Do.	1 Do. Jan. 12,				16	Epileptic on admission.
17	54/21	J. W.	28		Edinburgh.	Feb. 3, ...	18 ...	Feb. 12, ...	... 20, ...	Weak-minded.	Do.	Do.	1 Do. Aug. 3,				17	Was insane—and is unfit for separation.
18	123/21	E. R. or B.		25	Aberdeen.	April 12, ...	12 ...	April 21, ...	... 21, ...	Epileptic.	Congenital.	Do.	1 Do. April 13,				18	Epileptic on admission, and of very imbecile mind.
19	129/21	M. D. or D.		60	Edinburgh.	Mar. 6. ...	12 ...	... 25, ...	.. 25, ...	Do.	Do.	Do.	1 Do. March 6,				19	On admission, bordering on insanity—mind still very weak.
20	140/21	M. J.		20	Glasgow.	April 23, ...	12 ...	May 3, ...	May 23, ...	Suicidal.	Imbecile.	Do.	1 Do. April 23,				20	Has frequently attempted suicide—of very imbecile mind.
21	151/21	D. M'C.	19		.....	.....	18 ...	.....	... 8, ...	Do.	Feigned.	Do.	1 Do. Oct. 23,				21	
22	175/21	N. L.	20		Aberdeen.	... 24, ...	18 ...	... 13, ...	... 13, ...	Do.	Imbecile.	Do.	1 Do. Oct. 24,				22	Here formerly.
23	189/21	I. M'I..	36		Glasgow.	May 20, ...	9 ...	May 28, ...	... 28, ...	Epileptic.	Congenital.	Do.	1 Do. Feb. 20,				23	Epileptic on admission.
24	157/21	C. M'F.		28	Stirling.	April 18, ...	15 ...	... 5, ...	.....	Weak-minded.	Remorse.	Do.	1 Do. July 18,				24	Somewhat weak-minded, and unfit for separation.
25	200/21	W. W.	19		Edinburgh.	June 5, ...	12 ...	June 10, ...	June 20, ...	Do.	Congenital.	Do.	1 Died, Jan. 7,				25	His countenance and manner showed great imbecility.
26	222/21	J. G.	27		Glasgow.	.. 25, ...	9 ...	July 2, ...	July 2, ...	Epileptic.	.....	Do.	1 Liberated, Mar. 25,				26	Epileptic on admission.
27	158/21	M. S.	23		.....	April 23, ...	15 ...	May 6, ...	... 8, ...	Hypochondriac.	Weak-minded	Do.	1 Do. July 23,				27	
28	233/21	J. M'K.	18		Paisley.	July 8, ...	18 ...	July 12, ...	July 12, ...	Suicidal.	Imbecile.	Do.		1			28	Here formerly—of very weak intellect.
29	382/20	G. T.	30		Edinburgh.	Oct. 30, 1861.	15 ...	Nov. 8, 1861.	Dec. 28/61.	Imbecile.	Separation.	After.	1 Do. Jan. 30,				29	His mind gave way on separation.
30	266/21	C. R.		17	Dundee.	April 16, 1862.	4 yrs.	Aug. 21, 1862.	Aug 21/62.	Epileptic.	Unknown.	Before.		1			30	Epileptic on admission.
31	295/21	J. B. or B.		15	Edinburgh.	Aug. 20, ...	9 ...	Aug. 27, ...	... 27, ...	Juvenile.	Age.	Do.	1 Do. May 20,				31	Associated for her tender years.
32	367/21	J. J.	68		Selkirk.	Sept. 23, ...	15 ...	Oct. 14, ...	Oct. 14, ...	Epileptic.	Unknown.	Do.	1 Do. Dec. 23,				32	Epileptic on admission.

33	323/21	J. M'A.	31		Glasgow.	... 18, ...	18 ...	Sept. 27, ...	... 27, ...	Do.	Do.	Do.				1							33	Concealed his fits—but information of them was got from the Prison of Glasgow that he was an epileptic.
34	389/21	J. M'I. or M'L.		28	.....	... 28, ...	Life.	Nov. 11, ...	Nov. 11, ...	Careworn.	Anxiety.	Do.					1						34	Delicate—allowed a companion for a short time on account of the horrid murder she committed, and the circumstances attending it.
35	211/21	P. G.	19		Edinburgh.	June 12, ...	12 ms.	June 20, ...	... 13, ...	Delusion.	Separation.	After.	1	Liberated,	June 12,								35	Has a delusion that he is to die from rupture—there is a hereditary tendency to insanity.
36	413/21	I. C.	21		Dundee.	Nov. 21, ...	12 ...	Nov. 27, ...	... 27, ...	Epileptic.	Accident.	Before.	1	Do.	Nov. 21,								36	Epileptic on admission.
37	133/21	R. M'K.	18		Edinburgh.	April 17, ...	18 ...	April 25, ...	Dec. 13, ...	Imbecile.	Delusional.	After.	1	Do.	April 17,								37	Has delusions about being visited by ghosts.
38	426/21	W. K.	19		Wigtown.	Dec. 2, ...	12 ...	Dec. 17, ...	... 17, ...	Epileptic.	Congenital.	Before.	1	Do.	Dec. 2,								38	Epileptic on admission, and very imbecile.
39	260/21	J. M.	55		Airdrie.	Aug. 12, ...	12 ...	Aug. 16, ...	... ...	Imbecile.	Unknown.	Do.	1	Do.	Aug. 12,								39	Of imbecile mind, and unfit for separation.
40	277/20	J. H.	50		Edinburgh.	Aug. 8, 1861.	18 ...	... 13, 1861.	Jan. 1/63.	Weak-minded.	Was Insane.	After.	1	Do.	Feb. 9,								40	The prisoner was insane, and recovered before liberation—see below, No. 57.
41	35/22	A. G.		22	Paisley.	Dec. 22, 1862.	4 yrs.	May 31, 1863.	... 31, ...	Suicidal.	Weak-minded	Before.				1							41	Strongly suicidal.
42	15/22	J. B.		33	Edinburgh.	... 26, ...	18 ms.	... 6, ...	... 6, ...	Epileptic.	Congenital.	Do.				1							42	Was insane—here formerly—very imbecile.
43	57/22	G. M.	57		Dunfermline.	Feb 6, 1863	9 ..	Feb. 14, ...	Feb. 14, ...	Suicidal.	Imbecile.	Do.	1	Do.	Nov. 6,								43	Attempted suicide before trial.
44	150/22	H. D.	18		Glasgow.	... 24, ...	9 ...	April 1, ...	April 1, ...	Epileptic.	Unknown.	Do.	1	Do.	Nov. 24,								44	Here formerly—epileptic.
45	392/20	J. M'C. or A.		37	Stirling.	Sept. 16, 1861.	4 yrs.	Nov. 16, 1861.	... 4, ...	Weak-minded.	Confinement.	After.									1	Ap. 15/63	45	Sent to lunatic department, 15th April 1863—much excited, and incoherent.
46	306/22	M. J. F.		15	Paisley.	April 23, 1863.	15 ms.	May 2, 1863.	May 2, ...	Juvenile.	Age.	Before.				1							46	
47	239/22	J. W.	33		Perth.	... 22, ...	12 ...	... 12, ...	... 12, ...	Epileptic.	Unknown.	Do.				1							47	
48	259/21	E. M.		31	Airdrie.	Aug. 12, 1862.	14 ...	Aug. 16, 1862.	... 20, ...	Excited.	Weak-minded	Do.	1	Do.	Oct. 12,								48	Her father was here, also weak-minded.
49	36/22	S. C.		47	Glasgow.	Dec. 22, ...	6 yrs.	Jan. 31, 1863	June 8, ...	Imbecile.	Congenital.	Do.					1						49	Here formerly—a convict.
50	226/22	B. C.		16	.....	April 22, 1863.	12 ms.	May 11, ...	... 20, ...	Juvenile.	.....	Do.				1							50	
51	361/22	A. S.	24		Wick.	July 7, ...	24 ...	July 25, 1861.	July 25, ...	Imbecile.	Congenital.	Do.				1							51	
52	413/20	M. B.		22	Glasgow.	Sept. 26, 1861.	4 yrs.	Nov. 19, ...	Aug. 18, ...	Do.	Do.	Do.					1						52	Mind far gone.
53	380/22	T. H.	21		Edinburgh.	Aug. 18, 1863.	12 ms.	Aug. 22, 1863.	... 22, ...	Do.	Was Insane.	Do.				1							53	On admission, reported as recently in Morningside Asylum.
54	364/20	A. C. L.		35	.....	Sept. 25, 1861.	3 yrs.	Oct. 19, 1861.	Oct. 5, ...	Do.	Congenital.	Do.				1							54	
55	412/22	A. M'I.	16		.....	Oct. 1, 1863.	18 ms.	Oct. 5, 1863.	... 5, ...	Do.	.....	Do.				1							55	
56	435/22	E. C.		14	Hamilton.	Sept. 29, ...	24 ...	Oct. 12, ...	... 12, ...	Juvenile.	.....	Do.				1							56	
57	160/22	J. H.	50		Edinburgh.	Mar. 13, ...	24 ...	April 11, ...	... 31, ...	Epilepsy.	Was Insane.	Do.				1							57	Here formerly—insane.
58	483/22	M. M'F.		39	Glasgow.	Oct. 1, ...	4 yrs.	Nov. 2, ...	Nov. 2, ...	Do.	Congenital.	Do.				1							58	Here formerly—imbecile and paralytic, etc.
59	414/22	C. N. or N.	27		Dundee.	Sept. 19, ...	15 ms.	Oct. 7, ...	Dec. 9, ...	Imbecile.	.....	Do.									1	Dec. 14.	59	Weak-minded on admission.
60	566/22	J. M.	47		Stirling.	Dec. 25, ...	18 ...	Dec. 31, ...	... 31, ...	Epileptic.	Unknown.	Do.				1							60	

General Prison, Perth, 11th January 1864.

J. B. THOMSON, *Resident Surgeon.*

(No. XIX. *continued.*)

No. XX.—RETURN relative to Female Convicts in the Prison of Ayr, for the year ended 31st December 1863.

I. Accommodation :—

Number of Cells,	99

II. Convicts :—

At commencement of the year,	...
Admitted during the year,—	
From the General Prison at Perth,	20
From Local Prisons in Scotland,	64
Total admitted, and who have been in the Prison,	84
Removed, viz.—	
To the General Prison,	18
In custody at the end of the year,	66
Average daily number throughout the year,	35

III. Punishments :—

Number of Cases of Punishment,	28
Number of Prisoners who have been punished,	14
Number of Prisoners who have *not* been punished,	70

IV. Education and Ages of Convicts in Custody at 31st December 1863 :—

	15 Years and under 20.	20 Years and under 25.	25 Years and under 30.	30 Years and under 40.	40 Years and under 50.	50 Years and upwards.	Total.
Could not read,	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Could read a little,	2	4	3	2	3	1	15
Could read well,	1	9	8	14	13	6	51
Total,	3	13	11	16	16	7	66
Could not write,	...	2	1	4	1	2	10
Could write a little,	2	11	8	11	12	5	49
Could write well,	1	...	2	1	3	...	7
Total,	3	13	11	16	16	7	66

V. Sentences of Convicts in Custody at 31st December 1863 :—

3 Years.	4 Years.	5 Years.	6 Years.	7 Years.	8 Years.	10 Years.	12 Years.	15 Years.	21 Years.	Life.	Total.
7	30	2	14	...	7	2	...	1	2	1	66

VI. Sickness of Convicts :—

On Register at the commencement of Year.	Number put on Register during the Year.	Total.	Number Removed from Register.	Number on Register at 31st December 1863.
None.	9	9	2	7

Of these there were—

Slightly ill,	5	Contracted before Admission,	8
Seriously ill,	4	Contracted after Admission,	1

Prison of Ayr, 21st January 1864.

Wm. B. M'Kissock, *Governor.*

To the Managers appointed under the Prisons Administration Act, Edinburgh.

No. XXI. Particulars relating to 32 Convicts released on Orders of License by the Secretary of State, from the General Prison for Scotland at Perth, during the Year ended 31st December 1863.

No.	C/n.	Initials.	Offence.	Date of Sentence.	Sentence.	Recorded Number of Prison Offences.	Recorded Weekly Conduct.						Longest period remissible in Secretary of State's Scale.	Time deducted from longest period.	Date of Liberation.	How Disposed of.
							Very Good.	Good.	Indifferent.	Bad.	Very Bad.	Total Number of Weeks.				
1	448/18	C. T. or L.	Theft and prev. con.	Oct. 3, 1859.	4 years' penal serv.	None.	17	132	..	...	...	149	9 months.	None.	Jan. 5, 1863.	Returned to Dundee, where her parents were willing to receive her.
2	450/18	M. F. or G.	Ditto.	... 3, ...	Ditto.	Do.	2	146	1	...	...	149	Ditto.	None.	... 5, ...	Returned to her husband in Dundee, who is able and willing to support her.
3	463/18	S. W.	Ditto.	... 3, ...	Ditto.	One	..	144	3	2	...	149	Ditto.	None.	... 5, ...	Went to Glasgow, where her mother was willing to receive her.
4	470/18	S. M. or F.	Ditto.	... 4, ...	Ditto.	None.	63	86	...	...	...	149	Ditto.	None.	... 5, ...	To be cared for by one of the Scripture-readers.
5	473/18	M. A. L.	Assault and robbery.	... 4, ...	Ditto.	One.	4	133	11	...	1	149	Ditto.	None.	... 5, ...	Went to Glasgow, where her parents were willing to receive her.
6	169/19	A. L. or S.	Ditto.	... 4, ...	Ditto.	None.	...	125	3	...	...	128	Ditto.	None.	... 5, ...	Went to Dundee in search of work as a factory girl.
7	471/18	H. M. or G.	Theft and prev. con.	... 4, ...	Ditto.	Do.	117	32	...	...	...	149	Ditto.	None.	... 5, ...	Went to "The Home," Dundee.
8	464/18	A. C. or B.*	Ditto.	... 3, ...	Ditto.	One.	9	138	1	1	...	149	Ditto.	None.	... 6, ...	Returned to Glasgow, where her husband was willing to receive her.
9	454/18	A. M. or C.	Theft, habit and repute, and prev. con.	... 4, ...	Ditto.	None.	6	140	3	...	...	149	Ditto.	None.	... 6, ...	Went to Stirling, where her friends promised to support her.
10	442/18	J. M'L. or B.	Theft and prev. con.	... 6, ...	Ditto.	Do.	3	143	3	...	...	149	Ditto.	None.	... 6, ...	Went to Paisley, expecting work as a seamstress.
11	475/18	H. C.	Robbery and Theft.	... 6, ...	Ditto.	One.	...	147	1	1	...	149	Ditto.	None.	... 6, ...	Went to Dundee in search of employment as a mill-worker.
12	167/19	E. S.	Assault and prev. con.	April 23, 1860.	3 years' penal serv.	Four.	...	84	8	9	13	114	6 months.	3 months.	... 23, ...	Went to Glasgow, where her sister was willing to receive her.
13	200/15	M. B. or M.†	Theft and prev. con.	... 29, 1856.	15 years' transport.	One.	..	103	..	...	...	103	Reconvicted License Holder, and excluded from scale, but allowed 8 years.	None.	Feb. 6, ...	Went to Ratho, where her son resides.
14	443/18	I. H.	Ditto.	Nov. 7, 1859.	4 years' penal serv.	One.	39	114	...	1	...	154	9 months.	None.	... 7, ...	Went to "The Rescue Home," Edinburgh.
15	444/18	J. M'K.	Theft.	... 7, ...	Ditto.	Two.	...	143	10	1	...	154	Ditto.	None.	... 7, ...	Went to Edinburgh, where her father was willing to receive her.
16	445/18	E. C.‡	Theft and prev. con.	... 7, ...	Ditto.	None.	...	151	1	1	1	154	Ditto.	None.	... 7, ...	Went to Edinburgh, where her mother was willing to receive her.
17	446/18	R. A. M'C. or C.	Theft and prev. con.	... 9, ...	Ditto.	Do.	...	150	4	...	...	154	Ditto.	None.	... 9, ...	Do. do.
18	447/18	A. M'P.	Assault, with intent to destroy the life of her child.	... 9, ...	Ditto.	Do.	12	142	...	...	...	154	Ditto.	None.	... 9, ...	Returned to Inverness, where her mother resides.
19	77/19	A. H. or J. or F.	Theft by house-breaking, and prev. con.	... 10, ...	Ditto.	Do.	...	140	...	...	...	140	Ditto.	None.	... 10, ...	Escorted to Edinburgh, by a Prison Officer and left in the Model Lodging House.
20	462/18	M. A. T. or D.	Theft, and prev. con.	Oct. 3, ...	Ditto.	Six.	...	138	7	2	2	149	Ditto.	6 weeks.	... 14, ...	Returned to Manchester, where her friends reside.
21	449/18	E. M'K. or P.	Ditto.	... 3, ...	Ditto.	Four.	1	138	6	4	...	149	Ditto.	6 weeks.	... 14, ...	Went to Glasgow, where her mother was willing to receive her.
22	154/19	J. H.	Robbery.	Nov. 28, ...	Ditto.	None.	37	94	2	...	...	133	Ditto.	None.	... 28, ...	Went to "The Shelter," Edinburgh.
23	483/18	B. K.	Theft and prev. con.	Sept. 29, ...	Ditto.	Five.	...	131	12	2	2	147	Ditto.	2 months.	... 28, ...	Went to Falkirk, where her mother was willing to receive her.
24	321/19	E. M'K.	Theft by house-breaking, and prev. con.	Sept. 11, 1860.	3 years' penal serv.	None.	...	110	...	...	...	110	6 months.	None.	Mar. 11, ...	Went to Dundee, where one of the teachers obtained employment for her.
25	328/19	E. C.	Theft and prev. con.	Sept. 18, ...	Ditto.	None.	2	107	1	...	...	110	Ditto.	None.	... 18, ...	Went to "The Home," Dundee.

* License revoked by the Secretary of State, and convict re-admitted into the General Prison 9th June 1863.

† Specially liberated on account of assistance rendered to the Officers at the disturbance in the Chapel on 20th December 1862: but license afterwards revoked by the Secretary of State, and convict sent to the Prison of Millbank.

‡ License revoked by the Secretary of State, and convict readmitted into the General Prison on 26th March 1863.

PARTICULARS relating to 82 CONVICTS released on Orders of License by the SECRETARY of STATE, from the GENERAL PRISON FOR SCOTLAND AT PERTH, during the **Year ended 31st December 1863**—*continued.*

No.	C/n.	Initials.	Offence.	Date of Sentence.	Sentence	Recorded Number of Prison Offences.	Recorded Weekly Conduct.						Longest period remissible in Secretary of State's Scale.	Time deducted from longest period.	Date of Liberation.	How Disposed of.
							Very Good.	Good.	Indifferent.	Bad.	Very Bad.	Total Number of Weeks.				
26	308/19	M. M.	Theft.	Sept. 25, 1860.	3 years' penal serv.	One.	...	106	3	1	...	110	6 months.	None.	Mar. 25, 1863.	Went to Dundee, where her sister was willing to receive her.
27	355/15	M. A. K.	Robbery or Theft and prev. con.	... 30, 1856.	8 years' penal serv.	Eight.	1	103	19	4	...	127	18 months.	None.	... 28, ...	Went to Glasgow, where her mother was willing to receive her.
28	309/19	C. M.	Theft.	... 25, 1860.	3 years' penal serv.	Two.	...	107	1	1	1	110	6 months.	14 days.	April 8, 1863.	Went to Dundee, where her mother was willing to receive her.
29	310/19	E. F.	Ditto.	... 25, ...	Ditto.	Do.	...	106	1	1	2	110	Ditto.	14 days.	... 8, ...	Went to Dundee, where her mother and step-father were willing to receive her.
30	342/18	M. O. or B.	Ditto.	April 20, 1858.	6 years' penal serv.	One.	2	160	...	1	...	163	Reconvicted License Holder, and excluded from scale, but allowed 1 year.	None.	... 20, ...	Went to her daughter-in-law in Ayr.
31	234/18	M. W. or D.	Theft, habit and repute, and prev. con.	April 21, 1859.	5 years' penal serv.	None.	2	160	1	...	...	163	12 months.	None.	... 21, ...	Returned to Dundee, where she expected to obtain employment.
32	339/17	M. M'K.	Theft and prev. con.	Oct. 14, 1858.	6 years' penal serv.	Two.	...	153	8	2	...	163	18 months.	2 weeks.	... 28, ...	Went to Dundee, where her sisters promised to receive her and provide work for her.
33	154/17	J. L.	Ditto.	April 29, 1858.	Ditto.	Three.	14	146	1	2	...	163	Reconvicted License Holder, and excluded from scale, but allowed 1 year.	None.	... 29, ...	Went to Dundee, where she expected to find employment as a mill-worker.
34	348/17	J. S.	Ditto.	Sept. 23, 1858.	Ditto.	Five.	1	145	8	4	1	159	18 months.	6 weeks.	May 4, ...	Went to Glasgow in search of work.
35	176/17	C. M'C. or H.	Ditto.	May 6, 1858.	Ditto.	One.	3	146	...	1	...	150	Reconvicted License Holder, and excluded from scale, but allowed 1 year.	None.	... 6, ...	Do. do.
36	231/18	P. M. or B.*	Ditto.	April 19, 1859.	5 years' penal serv.	One.	1	139	19	4	...	163	12 months.	1 month.	... 19, ...	Went to live in Stirling.
37	168/19	M. P.	Assault and robbery.	Dec. 28, 1859.	4 years' penal serv.	Nine.	...	105	20	10	3	138	9 months.	2 months.	... 28, ...	Went to Dalry, where her mother was willing to receive her.
38	151/19	M. J R.	Theft and prev. con.	Mar. 12, 1860.	Ditto.	One.	57	92	...	1	...	150	Ditto.	None.	June 12, ...	Went to Edinburgh, her place of residence,
39	430/14	M. C. or R.	Reset of Theft and prev. con.	April 20, 1855.	21 years' transport.	None.	3	139	...	...	...	142	Scale does not apply. Ordered to be reported for June.	None.	... 20, ...	Went to Aberdeen, where her husband was willing to receive her.
40	23/20	C. C.	Theft and prev. con.	Dec. 26, 1860.	3 years' penal serv.	One.	...	114	...	1	...	115	6 months.	None.	... 26, ...	Went to Dundee, where a R. C. Priest promised to provide work for her.
41	311/15	M. P.	Culpable Homicide.	April 22, 1856.	15 years' transport.	Seven.	...	131	9	6	..	146	8½ years.	8 months and 12 days.	July 4, ...	Escorted by a Prison Officer to Stirling, and placed in the train for Tillicoultry, where her friends reside, and were willing to receive her.
42	137/19	J. S. or P.	Theft and prev. con.	... 10, 1860.	4 years' penal serv.	None.	2	153	...	...	...	155	9 months.	None.	... 10, ...	Went to live with a married daughter in Dunfermline.
43	146/19	M. S. or D.	Ditto.	... 10, ...	Ditto.	Do.	91	64	...	...	...	155	Ditto.	None.	... 10, ...	Went to Dundee in search of work as a seamstress or washerwoman.
44	150/19	M. S.	Ditto.	... 12, ...	Ditto.	Do.	...	154	1	..	...	155	Ditto.	None.	... 13, ...	Went to Falkirk in search of out-door work.
45	145/19	A. C. or T.	Ditto.	... 12, ...	Ditto.	Do.	10	144	1	...	...	155	Ditto.	None.	... 13, ...	Went to Dundee, where her family promised to support her.
46	176/18	J. W.	Ditto.	Jan. 17, 1859.	6 years' penal serv.	One.	2	171	2	1	...	176	18 months.	None.	... 17, ...	Went to Edinburgh expecting to obtain employment as a domestic servant.
47	170/19	J. M'M. or J.	Theft, habit and repute, and prev. con.	April 20, 1860.	4 years' penal serv.	None.	...	148	7	...	...	155	9 months.	None.	July 20, 1863.	Returned to Inverness, where her husband was willing to receive her.
48	156/19	A. L. or B.	Theft and prev. con.	... 23, ...	Ditto.	Do.	23	132	...	...	...	155	Ditto.	None.	... 23, ...	Went to live with a daughter in Greenock.
49	157/19	M. M'O.	Ditto.	... 23, ...	Ditto.	Do.	47	108	...	...	...	155	Ditto.	None.	... 23, ...	Went to Glasgow in search of work.
50	158/19	M. A. or M.	Ditto.	... 23, ...	Ditto.	Do.	9	146	...	...	...	155	Ditto.	None.	... 23, ...	Returned to her husband in Glasgow.
51	166/19	I. B. or C.†	Robbery and theft, and prev. con.	... 23, ...	Ditto.	One.	...	153	1	1	..	155	Ditto.	None.	... 23, ...	Went to live with a sister in Glasgow.
52	159/19	C. M'I.	Theft and prev. con.	... 24, ...	Ditto.	None.	25	130	...	...	...	155	Ditto.	None.	... 24, ...	Admitted to "The Rescue Home," Edinburgh.
53	131/19	C. B.	Ditto.	... 26, ...	Ditto.	Do.	8	147	...	...	...	155	Ditto.	None.	... 25; ...	Went to live with a sister in Liverpool, who promised to obtain employment for her.

			prev. con.												
55	162/19	M. M'K. or W.‡	Ditto.	... 27, 1860.	4 years' penal serv.	Four.	...	143	8	3	1	155	9 months.	None.	... 27, ...	Went to Glasgow in search of work as a factory hand.
56	138/19	A. M.	Theft, habit and repute, and prev. con.	... 17, ...	Ditto.	Two.	...	144	6	3	2	155	Ditto.	2 weeks.	... 31, ...	Received into "The Home," Dundee.
57	152/19	J. K.	Theft and prev. con.	May 9, 1860.	Ditto.	One.	...	151	7	1	...	159	Ditto.	None.	Aug. 10, 1863.	Went to "The Model Lodging House," Edinburgh.
58	320/18	M. R. R.	Ditto.	July 21, 1857.	7 years' penal serv.	One.		...	...	...	...	...	Reconvicted License Holder, and excluded from scale, but allowed 1 year.	3 weeks.	... 11, ...	Returned to Edinburgh, where her parents were willing to receive her.
59	147/19	A. B.	Ditto.	April 10, 1860.	4 years' penal serv.	Five.	...	120	27	6	2	155	9 months.	6 weeks.	... 21, ...	Went to Dundee, where her friends were willing to receive her.
60	225/17	E. J. L. or R.	Ditto.	July 23, 1858.	6 years' penal serv.	Four.	1	34	6	1	...	42	Reconvicted License Holder, and excluded from scale, but allowed 1 year.	1 month.	... 24, ...	Went to Edinburgh, where her mother was willing to receive her.
61	223/19	M. W. or J.	Robbery.	May 28, 1860.	4 years' penal serv.	One.	...	140	3	...	1	144	9 months.	None.	... 28, ...	Went to Glasgow.
62	261/18	C. D.	Theft and prev. con.	Dec. 22, 1858.	6 years' penal serv.	Ten.	...	138	22	10	1	171	18 months.	2½ months.	Sept. 7, 1863.	Went to Glasgow, where her father was willing to receive her.
63	347/17	E. T.	Ditto.	Sept. 22, ...	Ditto.	None.	14	144	1	...	...	159	18 months.	None.	... 22, ...	Went to live in Hamilton.
64	357/15	M. M'D.	Robbery, theft, and prev. con.	... 30, 1856.	15 years' transport.	Do.	42	84	1	...	...	127	Reconvicted License Holder, and excluded from scale, but allowed 8 years.	None.	... 30, ...	Went to live with a relative in Glasgow.
65	440/18	I. R. or D.	Theft and prev. con.	Oct. 3, 1859.	5 years' penal serv.	Do.	23	166	...	...	...	189	1 year.	None.	Oct. 3, ...	Went to Greenock.
66	160/19	C. R. or M'D.	Ditto.	April 25, 1860.	4 years' penal serv.	Nine	...	129	18	4	4	155	9 months.	10 weeks.	... 3, ...	Returned to Glasgow, where her parents reside.
67	348/18	C. M'K. or W.	Culpable homicide.	... 22, 1857.	15 years' transport.	None.	14	143	...	...	...	157	8½ years.	None.	... 22, ...	Went to her sister in Montrose.
68	265/18	M. R. or M'G.	Theft and prev. con.	... 27, 1859.	6 years' penal serv.	Do.	...	189	...	...	...	189	18 months.	None.	... 27, ...	Went to Glasgow to seek her son.
69	478/18	J. M'M. or A.	Uttering base coin.	... 13, ...	Ditto.	Two.	...	184	4	1	...	189	Ditto.	14 days.	.. 27, ...	Went to her sister in Perth.
70	224/19	C. C.	Theft and prev. con.	July 16, 1860.	4 years' penal serv.	Do.	...	149	2	2	...	153	9 months.	14 days.	... 30, ...	Went to her mother in Edinburgh, who promises to receive and support her.
71	344/18	J. T.	Ditto.	April 19, 1859.	6 years' penal serv.	Two.	1	179	6	1	2	189	18 months.	14 days.	Nov. 2, 1863.	Went to Dundee to seek employment in a factory.
72	451/18	M. S.	Ditto.	Oct. 3, ...	5 years' penal serv.	Two.	...	186	...	1	2	189	1 year.	1 month.	... 3, ...	Went to Dundee, where her father promises to receive her.
73	326/19	M. L. or H.	Ditt	Sept. 11, 1860.	4 years' penal serv.	None.	16	132	...	...	...	148	9 months.	None.	Dec. 11, 1863.	Returned to her husband in Greenock.
74	315/19	A. W.	Robbery. *	... 12, ...	Ditto.	None.	..	147	1	...	...	148	Ditto.	None.	... 12, ...	Went to Glasgow to seek employment as a factory hand.
75	316/19	E. M'C. or D.	Robbery and assault.	... 12, ...	Ditto.	None.	...	146	2	...	...	148	Ditto.	None.	... 12, ...	Went to Glasgow, where she was offered employment as a domestic servant.
76	317/19	J. S.	Ditto.	... 12, ...	Ditto.	None.	...	148	...	...	...	148	Ditto.	None.	... 12, ...	Returned to Glasgow.
77	325/19	I. M. or M.	Theft and prev. con.	... 12, ...	Ditto.	None.	...	148	...	...	...	148	Ditto.	None.	... 12, ...	Went to Stirling, where her son promised to receive her.
78	327/19	M. J. or D.	Theft.	Sept. 14, 1860.	Ditto.	None.	6	142	...	...	...	148	Ditto.	None.	... 14, ...	Went to live in Glasgow.
79	209/20	L. M.	Theft and prev. con.	May 20, 1861.	3 years' penal serv.	Four.	...	81	9	16	7	113	6 months.	1 month.	... 21, ...	Returned to her mother at Manchester, who promised to receive her.
80	280/18	C. F.	Ditto.	Dec. 23, 1856.	15 years' transport.	None.	...	166	...	...	...	166	Reconvicted License Holder, and excluded from scale, but allowed 8 years.	None.	... 23, ...	Went to Dundee, where work had been promised her.
81	357/17	L. O.	Ditto.	Sept. 28, 1858.	7 years' penal serv.	None.	...	194	2	1	...	197	21 months.	None.	... 28, ...	Went to Edinburgh.
82	365/17	H. M. or Q.	Ditto.	... 29, ...	Ditto.	None.	1	193	3	...	...	197	Ditto.	None.	... 29, ...	Went to Glasgow.

* Reconvicted of theft at the High Court of Justiciary on 16th November 1863, and sentenced to 8 years' penal servitude.

† License revoked by the Secretary of State, and caption papers forwarded to the Directors of Convict Prisons in England on 25th November.

‡ Full period granted on account of assistance rendered to the Officers at the disturbance in the Chapel on 20th December 1862, but Convict reconvicted of theft at the Circuit Court, Glasgow, on 21st December 1863, and sentenced to 8 years' penal servitude.

No. XXII.—TABLE of the whole Assessments laid on at Meetings of the Prison Boards for the Counties in Scotland, **in the Year 1863,** in terms of "The Prisons (Scotland) Administration Act 1860," together with the Apportionments of such Assessments among the Landward Parts and Burghs respectively, according to the value of Property.

Counties, and Royal and Parliamentary Burghs situated therein.	For Current Expenses under § 32, and Apportionment thereof.	For Building Assessment under § 33, and Apportionment thereof.	Total Yearly Value of Property on which Assessment is divided and apportioned per § 34.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1. Aberdeen—			
Landward part,	1,176 16 10	. .	631,200 0 0
Aberdeen,	378 14 8	...	203,117 10 0
Peterhead,	30 18 4	...	16,575 17 4
Inverury,	9 14 4	...	5,208 11 1
Kintore,	3 15 10	...	2,028 4 1
	1,600 0 0	...	858,130 2 6
2. Argyle—			
Landward part,	466 12 0	...	320,635 19 6
Campbeltown,	4 2 7	...	2,838 10 0
Oban,	20 9 10	...	14,083 2 9
Inveraray,	8 15 7	...	6,015 9 0
	500 0 0	...	343,573 1 3
3. Ayr—			
Landward part,	1,065 6 6	...	852,911 12 4
Ayr,	57 19 2	...	46,431 3 1
Kilmarnock,	60 5 2	...	48,245 11 0
Irvine,	16 9 2	...	13,168 7 0
	1,200 0 0	...	960,756 13 5
4. Banff—			
Landward part,	187 10 2	...	174,752 15 10
Banff,	9 6 10	...	8,710 17 0
Cullen,	3 3 0	...	2,930 19 9
	200 0 0	...	186,394 12 7
5. Berwick—			
Landward part,	314 18 4	...	340,789 12 10
Lauder,	2 1 8	...	2,252 12 0
	317 0 0	...	343,042 4 10
6. Bute—			
Landward part,	100 0 8	...	37,267 0 0
Rothesay,	69 19 4	...	26,066 0 0
	170 0 0	...	63,333 0 0
7. Caithness—			
Landward part,	194 11 3	...	14,047 4 0
Wick,	55 8 9	...	4,002 14 0
	250 0 0	...	18,049 18 0
8. Clackmannan—			
Landward part,	320 0 0	...	66,620 1 0

Counties, and Royal and Parliamentary Burghs situated therein.	For Current Expenses under § 32, and Apportionment thereof.	For Building Assessment under § 33, and Apportionment thereof.	Total Yearly Value of Property on which Assessment is divided and apportioned per § 34.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
16. Inverness—			
Landward part,	419 3 4	...	226,408 0 0
Inverness,	56 18 7	...	30,750 0 0
	476 1 11	...	257,158 0 0
17. Kincardine—			
Landward part,	188 8 0	...	198,653 13 10
Inverbervie,	1 12 0	...	1,710 12 6
	190 0 0	...	200,364 6 4
18. Kinross—			
Landward part,	120 0 0	30 0 0	56,705 18 0
	120 0 0	30 0 0	56,705 18 0
19. Kirkcudbright,—			
Landward part,	293 2 1	141 8 0	281,915 10 1
Kirkcudbright,	6 2 2	2 18 11	5,872 16 4
New Galloway,	0 15 9	0 7 8	756 12 3
	300 0 0	144 14 7	288,544 18 8
20. Lanark—			
Landward part,	4,571 12 7	...	1,161,385 19 7
Glasgow,	6,139 15 6	...	1,559,762 0 0
Airdrie,	94 9 5	...	22,600 0 0
Hamilton,	99 9 11	...	25,275 17 6
Rutherglen,	58 8 11	...	14,847 16 6
Lanark,	36 3 8	...	9,191 17 8
	11,000 0 0	...	2,793,063 11 3
21. Linlithgow—			
Landward part,	334 3 5¾	...	206,912 1 4
Linlithgow,	12 13 6½	...	7,848 19 8
Queensferry,	3 2 11¾	...	1,950 16 3
	350 0 0	...	216,711 17 8
22. Nairn—			
Landward part,	97 6 2	...	28,006 13 6
Nairn,	22 13 10	...	6,530 15 6
	120 0 0	...	34,537 9 0
23. Orkney—			
Landward part,	157 14 10	...	44,071 14 0
Kirkwall,	22 5 2	...	6,218 9 6

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
9. Dumbarton—									
Landward part,	215	0	0	...			192,867	8	6
Dumbarton,	18	0	0	...			10,687	6	10
	233	0	0	...			203,554	15	4
10. Dumfries—									
Landward part,	454	8	0	...			460,608	0	0
Annan,	8	5	7	...			8,394	7	0
Dumfries,	32	13	4	...			33,105	10	0
Lochmaben,	1	14	6	...			1,747	4	0
Sanquhar,	2	18	7	...			2,970	9	0
	500	0	0	...			506,820	10	0
11. Edinburgh—									
Landward part,	1610	13	5	...			466,501	0	0
Edinburgh,	2855	18	2	...			827,157	0	0
Leith,	398	16	3	...			115,508	0	0
Musselburgh,	58	17	4	...			17,049	0	0
Portobello,	75	14	10	...			21,938	0	0
	5000	0	0	...			1,448,153	0	0
12. Elgin—									
Landward part,	216	5	5½	...			138,127	10	5
Elgin,	32	7	0½	...			20,662	15	8
Forres,	11	7	6	...			7,264	13	9
	260	0	0	...			166,054	19	10
13. Fife—									
Landward part,	776	15	2	...			629,145	4	8
Anstruther Easter,	4	17	2	...			3,935	3	11
Anstruther Wester,	1	15	9	...			1,450	15	4
Auchtermuchty,	2	18	4	...			2,364	13	8
Burntisland,	12	10	9	...			10,156	0	6
Crail,	3	12	8	...			2,942	0	1
Cupar,	15	16	1	...			12,799	19	5
Dunfermline,	34	2	9	...			27,650	6	7½
Dysart,	16	3	0	...			13,079	19	0
Earlsferry,	0	12	3	...			496	5	6
Falkland,	2	14	0	...			2,187	12	0
Inverkeithing,	3	13	5	...			2,974	17	8
Kilrenny,	3	19	11	...			3,241	5	4
Kinghorn,	4	7	3	...			3,532	17	6½
Kirkcaldy,	32	17	2	...			26,613	4	0
Newburgh,	4	15	5	...			3,866	4	9½
Pittenweem,	5	14	1	...			4,617	11	8
St. Andrews,	22	14	10	...			18,412	9	0
	950	0	0	...			769,466	10	8½
14. Forfar—									
Landward part,	930	18	5	...			484,624	9	4
Arbroath,	70	10	3	...			34,486	0	0
Brechin,	32	2	8	...			15,714	11	1
Dundee,	452	15	4	...			221,432	7	7
Forfar,	31	5	3	...			15,290	2	0
Montrose,	72	8	1	...			35,410	17	2
	1650	0	0	...			806,958	7	2
15. Haddington—									
Landward part,	368	16	0	...			293,448	6	2
Haddington,	13	11	4	...			10,795	8	11
Dunbar,	12	8	0	...			9,867	7	10
North Berwick,	5	4	8	...			4,166	14	0
	400	0	0	...			318,277	16	11
24. Peebles—									
Landward part,	170	8	7	...			93,754	12	0
Peebles,	9	11	5	...			5,623	7	8
	180	0	0	...			99,377	19	8
25. Perth—									
Landward part,	733	6	4	...			794,960	1	10
Perth,	65	10	3	...			71,022	10	6
Culross,	1	3	5	...			1,265	15	6
	800	0	0	...			867,248	7	10
26. Renfrew—									
Landward part,	1,100	11	8	...			349,001	9	11
Paisley,	251	17	9	...			79,874	8	10
Greenock,	368	0	5	...			116,701	0	0
Port-Glasgow,	59	0	11	...			18,725	5	8
Renfrew,	20	9	3	...			6,487	14	3
	1,800	0	0	...			570,789	18	8
27. Ross & Cromarty—									
Landward part,	512	14	8	...			194,475	6	2
Dingwall,	13	18	6	...			5,282	2	4
Tain,	10	2	1	...			3,832	14	4
Fortrose,	7	19	4	...			3,020	18	0
Cromarty,	5	5	5	...			1,999	4	0
	550	0	0	...			208,610	4	10
28. Roxburgh—									
Landward part,	683	0	8	48	15	9	384,113	13	4
Jedburgh,	16	19	4	1	4	3	9,542	16	8
	700	0	0	50	0	0	393,656	10	0
29. Selkirk—									
Landward part,	135	17	5	...			64,137	19	0
Selkirk,	19	2	7	...			8,664	12	4
	155	0	0	...			72,802	11	4
30. Stirling—									
Landward part,	861	2	7	...			399,624	16	2
Stirling,	93	12	10	...			43,452	15	0
Falkirk,	45	4	7	...			20,991	1	10
	1,000	0	0	...			464,068	13	0
31. Sutherland—									
Landward part,	188	0	11	...			56,175	8	0
Dornoch,	1	19	1	...			584	0	0
	190	0	0	...			56,759	8	0
32. Wigtown—									
Landward part,	314	9	11	...			173,793	6	6
Stranraer,	21	16	11	...			12,073	1	6
Wigtown,	9	4	0	...			5,083	4	0
Whithorn,	4	9	2	...			2,464	1	4
	350	0	0	...			193,413	13	4
33. Zetland—									
Landward part,	160	0	0	76	5	9	28,666	11	8½
	160	0	0	76	5	9	28,666	11	8½
Total,	32,171	1	11	301	0	4	13,911,955	15	11

(No. XXII. *Continued.*)

No. XXIII.—Tables containing Classified Statements of the Current Expenses

1. Abstract of Returns of Expenditure under the Prison Boards of the several Counties, chargeable

COUNTIES.	NAMES OF PRISONS.	Expenditure for the Year ended 30th June 1863. For Prisons.	For Insane Prisoners boarded out.	For Prisoners from each County in Prisons of other Counties.	For General Management.	For Retired Allowances.	For Interest.	Total Expenditure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s.
1. Aberdeen	Aberdeen	1,492 2 11						
	Peterhead	120 1 5						
	Huntly	32 12 10	...	...	155 0 10	123 4 0	27 13 11	1,978 1
	Fraserburgh	27 5 5						
2. Argyle	Inveraray	227 0 6						
	Campbeltown	222 5 0¾						
	Lochgilphead	56 7 9	...	...	63 2 2	...	...	616 18
	Tobermory	48 2 10						
3. Ayr	Ayr	1,345 13 2						
	Kilmarnock	344 12 10	...	...	76 6 8	...	...	1,766 12
4. Banff	Banff	289 8 10						
	Cullen	12 1 3	...	...	47 11 8½	...	...	368 7
	Keith	19 5 7½						
5. Berwick	Greenlaw	291 6 3½						
	Dunse	71 17 2½			37 11 1	...	...	404 13 1
	Coldstream	0 3 0						
	Lauder	1 5 9	...	...				
	Earlston	2 10 7						
6. Bute	Rothesay	274 12 10	...	...	15 0 0	20 0 0	...	309 12 1
7. Caithness	Wick	220 6 1¾	...	...	25 0 0	...	...	245 6
8. Clackmannan	Alloa	334 3 8	...	...	36 5 0	...	...	370 8
9. Dumbarton	Dumbarton	336 18 0						
	Kirkintilloch	33 16 11	...	...	28 0 0	...	...	429 10
	Helensburgh	30 15 3						
10. Dumfries	Dumfries	556 9 7	...	...	47 13 9	...	...	604 3
11. Edinburgh	Edinburgh	5,966 6 1						
	Court Buildings	172 14 9						
	Canongate	0 6 9	...	...	347 7 10	201 0 0	22 6 6*	6,769 9
	Musselburgh	59 7 8½						
12. Elgin	Elgin	320 9 9½						
	Forres	16 8 0	...	0 2 0	23 5 2	...	0 4 6	360 9
13. Fife	Cupar	722 9 10						
	Dunfermline	347 19 4	...	1 12 5	93 19 4	10 8 2	2 4 6	1,178 13
14. Forfar	Arbroath	62 14 4						
	Brechin	32 7 4						
	Dundee	1,630 9 6	...	49 4 4	139 15 6	26 10 0	...	†2,462 0
	Forfar	418 18 3						
	Montrose	102 0 10½						
15. Haddington	Haddington	378 4 7						
	Dunbar	29 3 7	...	...	35 10 0	...	10 0 0	452 18
16. Inverness	Inverness	636 5 0						
	Fort-William	142 10 5½						
	Portree	128 19 9½	...	...	53 14 4	...	...	1,075 5
	Lochmaddy	113 15 8½						
17. Kincardine	Stonehaven	206 19 6	...	...	26 1 0	...	...	233 0
18. Kinross	Kinross	134 10 10	...	...	12 19 11	...	...	147 10
19. Kirkcudbright	Kirkcudbright	320 17 9						
	Maxwelltown	44 6 5	...	...	33 13 9	...	...	398 17 11
20. Lanark	Glasgow	10,479 2 1						
	Airdrie	743 13 4						
	Hamilton	699 10 3	...	...	361 8 1	90 0 0	138 12 3	12,852 4 7
	Lanark	339 18 7						
	Carry forward,	30,641 16 1	...	50 18 9	1659 6 1½	471 2 2	201 1 8	33,024 4 9

* The County Board have also out of their funds contributed £500 towards the support of Reformatories.

† The County Board further expended a sum of £69, 12s. 1d. for removing prisoners from the Prisons of Arbroath, Brechin, and Dundee, which were close to the Prisons of Dundee and Forfar; as also £3, 5s. 2d. for expenses connected with Lunacy Board, together £72, 17s. 3d.

several Prisons in Scotland, for the Year ended on 30th June 1863. No. XXIII.

General Fund for Current Annual Expenses, for the Year ended 30th June 1863

COUNTIES.	NAMES OF PRISONS.	Expenditure for the Year ended 30th June 1863. For Prisons.	For Insane Prisoners boarded out.	For Prisoners from each County in Prisons of other Counties.	For General Management.	For Retired Allowances.	For Interest.	Total Expenditure.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
	Brought forward,	30,641 16 1	...	50 18 9	1659 6 1½	471 2 2	201 1 8	33,024 4 9½
1. Linlithgow	Linlithgow	417 5 6	...	...	46 18 2	...	...	464 3 8
2. Nairn	Nairn	103 19 11	...	...	15 6 1	...	...	119 6 0
3. Orkney	Kirkwall	118 14 9	...	...	33 0 8	5 0 0	...	156 15 5
4. Peebles	Peebles	194 15 11	...	...	25 15 2	...	...	220 11 1
5. Perth	Perth	1,071 6 7¼	...	...	62 2 0	...	...	1,267 11 11¼
	Dunblane	134 3 4						
6. Renfrew	Paisley	1,471 11 0½	...	...	148 13 1	...	3 10 2	2,233 3 7½
	Greenock	544 12 7						
	Pollockshaws	64 16 9						
7. Ross and Cromarty	Dingwall	194 16 6	...	...	168 0 9	...	...	568 18 2½
	Tain	83 6 9½						
	Cromarty	44 7 2½						
	Stornoway	78 6 11½						
8. Roxburgh	Jedburgh	542 14 2	...	...	57 4 10	7 0 0	4 16 2	709 0 8
	Hawick	61 4 7						
	Kelso	36 0 11						
9. Selkirk	Selkirk	155 1 8¾	...	...	33 7 11	...	...	188 9 7¾
10. Stirling	Stirling	1,084 13 2½	...	2 2 1	60 19 7	15 0 0	...	1,233 2 0½
	Falkirk	70 7 2						
11. Sutherland	Dornoch	183 12 2	...	...	24 9 0	14 0 0	...	222 1 2
12. Wigtown	Stranraer	222 8 0½	...	...	64 0 9	...	...	447 17 3½
	Wigtown	161 8 6						
13. Zetland	Fort-Charlotte	168 18 7	...	...	16 6 11	...	...	185 5 6
	Total,	37,850 9 0	...	53 0 10	2415 11 0½	512 2 2	209 8 0	41,040 11 0½

No. XXIV.—Abstract of Returns of Expenditure under the Prison Boards of the Several Counties in Scotland, chargeable on the Special Fund for Building, Altering, and Repairing Local Prisons, in the year ended 30th June 1863.

COUNTIES.	PRISONS.	Expenditure for the Year ended 30th June 1863. For Prisons.	For Interest.	For Stamps.	Total.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1. Aberdeen	Aberdeen	51 19 5			
	Peterhead	17 4 7½			
	Huntly	0 11 0	...	...	70 18 0½
	Fraserburgh	1 3 0			
2. Argyll	Tobermory	738 0 0	...	...	738 0 0
3. Ayr	Ayr	117 18 2	...	...	117 18 2
4. Fife	Cupar	37 0 0			
	Dunfermline	44 16 0	1 8 4	...	83 4 4
5. Forfar	Dundee	283 5 0			
	Forfar	65 5 0	...	...	348 10 0
6. Haddington	Dunbar	240 0 0	...	...	240 0 0
7. Lanark	Glasgow	68 7 3			
	Hamilton	37 11 0	...	...	114 5 4
	Lanark	8 7 1			
8. Orkney	Kirkwall	14 10 0	...	...	14 10 0
9. Peebles	Peebles	...	5 12 0	...	5 12 0
10. Perth	Perth	53 4 11	...	...	53 4 11
11. Renfrew	Paisley	32 8 9			
	Greenock	31 3 7	...	...	101 2 6
	Pollockshaws	37 10 2			
12. Roxburgh	Jedburgh	25 8 0	...	...	25 8 0
13. Selkirk	Selkirk	5 15 6	...	...	5 15 6
14. Stirling	Stirling	20 16 5	...	...	20 16 5
	Total,	1932 4 10½	7 0 4	...	1939 5 2½

2. Classification of the Current Expenditure (exclusive of Labour Account) in each Prison in Scotland, for the Year ended 30th June 1863.

COUNTIES.	PRISONS.	Salaries and Wages.	Furniture, Fittings, and Utensils.	Prison Diet.	Contingent Alimentary Charges.	Clothing.	Bedding.	Lighting.	Fuel.	General Contingent Charges, including ordinary Current Repairs not Charged against the Building Fund.	TOTAL.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1. Aberdeen	Aberdeen	859 13 6	11 8 10	262 17 4	6 14 5	42 5 11	7 17 0	66 19 11	84 10 9	149 15 3	1,492 2 11
	Peterhead	65 0 0	1 10 11	11 16 5	...	1 3 11	...	3 16 9	16 1 2	20 12 3	120 1 5
	Huntly	15 3 0	0 18 8	1 14 10	...	...	0 10 8	1 9 4	8 13 8	4 2 8	32 12 10
	Fraserburgh	17 2 0	1 13 6	2 6 0	...	...	...	1 0 6	1 16 4	3 7 1	27 5 5
2. Argyle	Inveraray	153 4 0	...	26 17 9	...	5 0 0	0 5 0	10 10 0	17 9 0	13 14 9	227 0 6
	Campbeltown	127 16 0	9 10 2¼	43 7 4½	3 19 8	4 0 0	3 0 0	4 7 0	23 7 6	2 17 4	222 5 0¾
	Lochgilphead	43 3 0	...	0 9 11	0 0 6	...	...	1 12 8	9 0 0	2 1 8	56 7 9
	Tobermory	32 0 0	...	3 12 7	0 8 9	1 3 0	1 7 0	1 0 6	8 11 0	...	48 2 10
3. Ayr	Ayr	694 8 6	...	240 19 8	...	99 5 5	5 8 6	39 12 2	58 14 4	207 4 7	1,345 13 2
	Kilmarnock	173 14 0	1 10 9	86 19 6	3 3 9	11 4 4	2 11 6	10 19 4	17 4 4	37 5 4	344 12 10
4. Banff	Banff	139 6 0	8 5 7½	63 10 10½	0 18 0	8 3 2½	6 3 6	8 15 10½	25 8 6	28 17 3	289 8 10
	Cullen	8 17 0	0 1 0	0 17 6	0 2 9	...	...	0 4 0	0 16 0	1 3 0	12 1 3
	Keith	11 2 0	1 6 2	0 7 9	...	0 1 6	...	...	2 16 3	3 11 11½	19 5 7½
5. Berwick	Greenlaw	152 5 4	0 6 3	48 15 4½	1 13 4	18 19 6	11 16 8½	6 4 9½	28 17 1¾	22 7 10½	291 6 3½
	Dunse	24 4 3	...	22 1 9	0 12 4	...	...	2 2 8	4 9 8	18 6 6½	71 17 2½
	Coldstream	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0 3 0	0 3 0
	Lauder	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 5 9	1 5 9
	Earlstown	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2 10 7	2 10 7
6. Bute	Rothesay	75 15 0	12 16 10½	71 9 2½	11 14 5	30 17 8	9 4 0	9 6 6	22 18 6	30 10 8	274 12 10
7. Caithness	Wick	115 17 0	4 12 11	59 15 3¾	3 0 0	1 7 0	2 0 6	9 17 0	17 16 0	6 0 5	220 6 1¾
8. Clackmannan	Alloa	189 6 0	4 16 10	63 6 3	0 2 7	15 5 7	2 14 8	10 16 10	18 9 2	29 5 9	334 3 8
9. Dumbarton	Dumbarton	221 12 0	3 18 0	67 4 9	2 16 0	11 10 0	3 0 6	7 0 6	14 14 3	5 2 0	336 18 0
	Kirkintilloch	12 2 0	...	5 13 5	...	...	...	1 18 8	5 0 0	9 2 10	33 16 11
	Helensburgh	17 5 0	...	3 11 6	...	...	...	1 18 8	2 2 7	5 17 6	30 15 3
10. Dumfries	Dumfries	299 8 0	22 11 3	133 16 1	6 1 4	17 15 5	8 8 11	20 9 2	28 14 0	19 5 5	556 9 7
11. Edinburgh	Edinburgh	2,421 19 8	204 13 11	1,377 1 8	89 14 1	461 19 7	...	128 16 11	263 8 11	1018 11 4	5,966 6 1
	Court Buildings' Prison	86 0 9	1 2 7	39 4 1	0 5 5	...	...	11 12 11	14 8 4	20 0 8	172 14 9
	Canongate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0 6 9	0 6 9
	Musselburgh	44 6 11	...	2 2 0½	...	...	...	3 1 6	3 4 0	6 13 3	59 7 8½
12. Elgin	Elgin	156 9 7	3 13 1	58 6 2½	13 9 1½	8 10 0	7 11 8½	8 14 9	25 19 11	37 15 5	320 9 9½
	Forres,	15 0 0	...	1 8 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	16 8 0
13. Fife	Cupar	405 8 4	3 7 5	124 8 1	3 18 8	3 12 5	3 17 6	23 18 10	49 19 2	103 19 5	722 9 10
	Dunfermline	225 1 8	2 17 3	34 4 3	3 8 4	6 2 6	5 11 9	8 19 7	16 10 0	45 4 0	347 19 4
14. Forfar	Arbroath	46 7 10	0 2 8	3 8 8	0 0 9½	...	...	0 18 9½	2 10 6	9 5 1	62 14 4
	Brechin	19 6 5	...	1 10 10	0 0 8½	...	...	0 8 11	1 1 7	9 18 10½	32 7 4

16. Inverness	Inverness	380 2 9½	...	100 4 9½	4 14 0	21 6 11½	11 3 8	24 18 0	33 2 4½	60 12 5	636 5 0
	Fort-William	95 0 0	0 8 0	12 19 8	0 2 3	3 7 7	0 1 0	3 10 0	6 18 9	20 3 2½	142 10 5½
	Portree	80 0 0	2 2 1½	7 10 5	0 12 7	1 15 4½	0 5 9	2 3 7	8 10 0	25 19 11½	128 19 9½
	Lochmaddy	81 0 0	...	3 10 9	0 6 7	0 19 5	0 19 5	2 2 0	8 15 4½	16 2 2	113 15 8½
17. Kincardine	Stonehaven	138 18 11	2 12 11	37 11 2	2 17 9	2 0 0	0 7 0	4 6 8	12 7 2	5 17 11	206 19 6
18. Kinross	Kinross	72 0 0	0 16 0	19 4 11½	1 3 6	4 1 1	...	3 6 1	8 7 1½	25 12 1	134 10 10
19. Kirkcudbright	Kirkcudbright	213 4 0	3 12 10	53 17 9	...	3 15 4	...	7 14 0	21 13 0	17 0 10	320 17 9
	Maxwelltown	25 0 0	2 13 3	4 16 4	...	1 4 0	...	0 16 11	6 2 1	3 13 10	44 6 5
20. Lanark	Glasgow	3,453 9 4	262 10 4	2,507 9 10	213 19 9	1,251 6 2	265 5 4	296 8 0	294 15 5	1,933 17 11	10,479 2 1
	Airdrie	316 16 0	13 16 6½	162 3 6½	6 8 0	47 9 9½	7 1 2	18 5 8½	28 16 4	142 16 3	743 13 4
	Hamilton	306 0 0	23 14 7	144 2 9½	7 14 1	36 2 2½	8 18 6	20 12 0	30 13 6	121 12 7	699 10 3
	Lanark	194 14 5	1 6 4	39 15 6½	1 13 8½	9 15 7	14 18 9	10 13 6	24 16 8	42 4 1	339 18 7
21. Linlithgow	Linlithgow	193 5 4	...	94 4 1	3 3 11	5 8 10	13 6 4	17 5 11	14 19 0	75 12 1	417 5 6
22. Nairn	Nairn	68 0 0	...	8 1 9	...	1 10 8	...	3 5 0	10 18 1	12 4 5	103 19 11
23. Orkney	Kirkwall	95 0 0	...	8 15 11	...	...	...	2 4 6	0 13 7	12 0 9	118 14 9
24. Peebles	Peebles	90 0 0	15 10 9	30 7 10	...	10 0 1	...	4 4 9	25 8 4	19 4 2	194 15 11
25. Perth	Perth	549 10 0	7 16 3	271 12 10½	20 2 4½	48 2 5½	22 14 3½	29 14 7	40 14 7¾	80 19 1¾	1,071 6 7¼
	Dunblane	83 0 0	2 15 11½	18 16 6½	...	0 19 1	...	5 17 0	9 18 8½	12 16 0½	134 3 4
26. Renfrew	Paisley	630 4 3	26 6 7	338 12 5	28 17 11	76 19 0	31 4 11	53 5 11	70 18 11	215 1 1½	1,471 11 0½
	Greenock	281 16 4	4 5 5	102 10 0½	3 19 0½	29 2 1	15 10 0	13 13 9	36 1 6	57 14 5	544 12 7
	Pollockshaws	25 4 10	1 1 10	11 16 9	...	...	...	4 11 0	5 1 0	17 1 4	64 16 9
27. Ross and Cromarty	Dingwall	130 16 6	4 7 8½	25 14 7	2 12 7	1 6 11	0 8 4	6 9 7½	19 11 0	3 9 3	194 16 6
	Tain	40 4 0	3 1 0	8 6 5½	0 3 0	1 4 10	1 9 3	2 18 6	15 2 4	10 17 5	83 6 9½
	Cromarty	31 10 0	0 19 10	1 12 4	...	...	...	1 14 0	5 18 3	2 12 9½	44 7 2½
	Stornoway	42 5 0	0 12 7	8 3 1½	0 6 6	...	...	4 19 1½	15 3 9	6 16 10½	78 6 11½
28. Roxburgh	Jedburgh	294 4 10	1 3 0	79 18 1	4 2 5	24 5 3	0 18 2	15 18 9	47 1 9	75 1 11	542 14 2
	Hawick	23 10 0	0 9 7	6 3 2½	...	...	...	2 8 0	5 19 11½	22 13 10	61 4 7
	Kelso	15 0 0	0 5 6½	1 8 11½	0 4 2	...	...	1 10 8	3 18 0	13 13 7	36 0 11
29. Selkirk	Selkirk	102 5 0	1 16 7	14 10 11¾	0 16 5	5 12 4	...	3 13 8	9 1 3	17 5 6	155 1 8¾
30. Stirling	Stirling	521 9 10	11 8 11½	238 4 0	5 18 10	52 1 1¾	9 9 8	60 0 7	63 11 10¼	122 8 4	1,084 13 2½
	Falkirk	40 0 0	0 10 0	11 19 11	...	...	0 5 0	1 10 4	4 10 2	11 11 9	70 7 2
31. Sutherland	Dornoch	91 0 0	2 14 8	10 14 9½	2 10 8	5 15 6	4 7 4½	13 2 0	20 15 8	32 11 6	183 12 2
32. Wigtown	Stranraer	111 12 0	0 6 10	22 1 7½	1 1 3½	3 4 6½	1 8 0	5 1 10½	9 5 11	68 5 11½	222 8 0½
	Wigtown	93 18 0	1 2 2½	30 1 2½	0 7 9½	3 14 6½	0 5 4	2 8 4	12 4 11	17 6 2	161 8 6
33. Zetland,	Fort-Charlotte	95 9 9	0 15 4	27 11 10	...	8 0 0	8 4 3½	2 19 10½	12 10 0	13 7 6	168 18 7
		17,103 17 8	797 7 1¾	7,854 13 6¾	486 0 7	2,517 9 5½	527 13 1	1,126 19 9	1,844 12 2¾	5,591 15 11¼	37,850 9 0
25. Perth	General Prison	6,249 3 10	206 12 3	4,587 2 8½	346 11 7	1,230 12 3	228 0 8½	305 0 3	745 0 6	1,571 8 5	15,469 12 6
	Total,	23,353 1 1	1,003 19 4¾	12,441 16 3¼	832 12 2	3,748 1 8½	755 13 9½	1,432 0 0	2,589 12 8¾	7,163 4 4¼	53,320 1 6

(No. XXIII. *Continued.*)

(No. XXIII. *Continued.*)

3. AVERAGE EARNINGS A

Comparative Statement of the Total Number of Criminal Prisoners confined in each of the Prisons each such Prisoner; and the Daily Average Number of such Prisoners; as also of their Aver

COUNTIES.	PRISONS.	Total Number in Confinement during the Year.	Average Duration of Confinement of each Criminal Prisoner. Days.	Average Daily Number in Custody entered to the nearest Unit.	Average Cost per Prisoner for the Year ended 30th June 1863.				
					Salaries and Wages.	Prison Diet.	Clothing.	Bedding.	Lightir
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
					£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s.
1. Aberdeen	Aberdeen	1208	16	54	15 18 5	4 17 4	0 15 8	0 2 11	1 4
2. Argyle	Inveraray	61	28	5	30 12 10	5 7 7	1 0 0	0 1 0	2 2
	Campbeltown	95	31	8	15 19 6	5 8 5	0 10 0	0 7 6	0 10
3. Ayr	Ayr	509	31	43	16 3 0	5 12 1	2 6 2	0 2 6	0 18
	Kilmarnock	252	21	15	11 11 7	5 15 11	0 14 11	0 3 5	0 14
4. Banff	Banff	95	38	10	13 18 7	6 7 1	0 16 4	0 12 4	0 17
5. Berwick	Greenlaw	75	34	7	21 15 1	6 19 4	2 14 3	1 13 10	0 17
6. Bute	Rothesay	109	23	7	10 16 5	10 4 2	4 8 3	1 6 3	1 6
7. Caithness	Wick	85	34	8	14 9 7	7 9 5	0 3 5	0 5 1	1 4
8. Clackmannan	Alloa	112	23	7	27 0 10	9 0 11	2 3 8	0 7 10	1 11
9. Dumbarton	Dumbarton	297	15	12	18 9 4	5 12 1	0 19 2	0 5 1	0 11
10. Dumfries	Dumfries	509	19	27	11 1 9	4 19 1	0 13 2	0 6 3	0 15
11. Edinburgh	Edinburgh Court Buildings' Prison	5,744	23	364	6 16 10 8 12 1	3 17 10 3 18 5	1 6 1 ...	... ...	0 7 1 3
12. Elgin	Elgin	144	33	13	12 0 9	4 9 9	0 13 1	0 11 8	0 13
13. Fife	Cupar	309	27	23	17 12 6	5 8 2	0 3 2	0 3 4	1 0 1
	Dunfermline	108	20	6	37 10 3	5 14 1	1 0 5	0 18 8	1 10
14. Forfar	Dundee	1,276	22	77	9 12 3	4 13 7	1 3 4	0 5 0	0 11
	Forfar	190	31	16	12 15 10	4 16 11	0 7 0	0 4 0	0 13
15. Haddington	Haddington	187	18	9	21 4 5	8 11 9	1 8 11	0 10 0	1 3
16. Inverness	Inverness	174	36	17	22 7 3	5 17 11	1 5 1	0 13 2	1 9
17. Kincardine	Stonehaven	101	22	6	23 3 2	6 5 2	0 6 8	0 1 2	0 14
18. Kinross	Kinross*	50	15	2	...	...	...	...	...
19. Kirkcudbright	Kirkcudbright	210	19	11	19 7 8	4 18 0	0 6 10	...	0 14
20. Lanark	Glasgow	5,609	31	484	7 2 8	5 3 7	2 11 8	0 10 11	0 12
	Airdrie	310	16	36	8 16 0	4 10 1	1 6 5	0 3 11	0 10
	Hamilton	551	21	31	9 17 5	4 13 0	1 3 4	0 5 9	0 13
	Lanark	144	23	9	21 12 9	4 8 5	1 1 9	1 13 2	1 3
21. Linlithgow	Linlithgow	200	37	20	9 13 3	4 14 2	0 5 5	0 13 4	0 17
22. Nairn	Nairn*	37	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
23. Orkney	Kirkwall*	35	21	2	...	...	...	...	...
24. Peebles	Peebles*	92	16	4	...	...	...	...	...
25. Perth	Perth	767	28	58	9 9 6	4 13 8	0 16 7	0 7 10	0 10
	Dunblane*	115	25	4	...	...	...	...	...
26. Renfrew	Paisley	1136	23	73	8 12 8	4 12 9	1 1 1	0 8 7	0 14
	Greenock	543	15	23	12 5 1	4 9 2	1 5 4	0 13 5	0 11 1
27. Ross and Cromarty	Dingwall	80	23	5	26 3 4	5 2 11	0 5 5	0 1 8	1 5 1
28. Roxburgh	Jedburgh	229	22	14	21 0 4	5 14 2	1 14 8	0 1 4	1 2
29. Selkirk	Selkirk*	64	17	3	...	...	...	...	...
30. Stirling	Stirling	576	29	45	11 11 9	5 5 10	1 3 2	0 4 3	1 6
31. Sutherland	Dornoch*	26	14	1	...	...	...	...	...
32. Wigtown	Stranraer	54	34	5	22 6 5	4 8 4	0 12 11	0 5 7	1 0
	Wigtown	54	41	6	15 13 0	5 0 2	0 12 5	0 0 11	0 8
33. Zetland	Fort-Charlotte*	60	18	3	...	...	...	...	...
25. Perth	General Prison	1,238	206	699	8 18 10	6 11 3	1 15 3	0 6 6	0 8
In Scotland	Whole Prisons	25,583	33	2,285	10 4 5	5 8 10	1 12 10	0 6 7	0 12

* In the Prisons marked with an asterisk the average number of Prisoners in custody was under five.

(No. XXIII. *Continued.*)

OST PER HEAD FOR THE YEAR.

which the Average Daily Number in Custody is Five or upwards; the Average Duration of Confinement of Yearly Cost per Head, and Average Earnings, all for the Year ended **30th June 1863.**

Fuel.	Gross Cost per Head, including all Expenses.	Average Earnings per Head available for Prison.	Nett Cost per Head after deducting Earnings.	Earnings of Prisoners who have been in Confinement for Periods of Six Months, or upwards, (under Sentence.)			PRISONS.	COUNTIES.
				Average Daily Number of such Prisoners.	Total Earnings.	Average Earnings.		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	2	1
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.		
1 11 4	27 12 8	2 11 9	25 0 11	1	5 15 5	5 15 5	Aberdeen . . .	1. Aberdeen
3 9 10	45 8 1	1 16 11	43 11 2	...	...	...	Inveraray . . .	2. Argyle
2 18 5	27 15 8	3 2 11	24 12 9	...	...	...	Campbeltown . .	
1 7 4	31 5 11	2 6 10	28 19 1	4	17 0 0	4 5 0	Ayr	3. Ayr
1 2 11	22 19 6	2 4 9	20 14 9	...	...	...	Kilmarnock . .	
2 10 10	28 18 11	5 14 5	23 4 6	1	2 14 0	2 14 0	Banff . . .	4. Banff
4 2 5	41 12 4	0 6 2	41 6 2	...	...	...	Greenlaw . . .	5. Berwick
3 5 6	39 4 8	1 6 5	37 18 3	...	...	...	Rothesay . . .	6. Bute
2 4 6	27 10 9	1 6 11	26 3 10	...	...	...	Wick . . .	7. Caithness
2 12 9	47 14 10	3 4 2	44 10 8	...	...	...	Alloa . . .	8. Clackmannan
1 4 6	28 1 6	2 0 4	26 1 2	1	2 14 3	2 14 3	Dumbarton . .	9. Dumbarton
1 1 3	20 12 2	4 11 9	16 0 5	4	19 10 0	4 17 6	Dumfries . . .	10. Dumfries
0 14 11	16 17 1	2 8 7	14 8 6	30	88 18 9	2 19 3	Edinburgh . .	11. Edinburgh
1 8 10	17 5 6	...	17 5 6	...	...	...	Court Buildings' Prison	
2 0 0	24 13 1	6 5 10	18 7 3	2	13 0 10	6 10 5	Elgin . . .	12. Elgin
2 3 5	31 8 3	3 5 10	28 2 5	...	...	...	Cupar . . .	13. Fife
2 15 0	57 19 11	4 6 6	53 13 5	...	...	...	Dunfermline . .	
0 15 3	21 3 6	4 8 0	16 15 6	6	36 4 3	6 0 9	Dundee . . .	14. Forfar
1 12 9	26 3 8	2 14 4	23 9 4	1	2 12 0	2 12 0	Forfar . . .	
1 19 7	42 0 6	3 18 0	38 2 6	...	...	...	Haddington . .	15. Haddington
1 19 0	37 8 6	8 11 9	28 16 9	2	21 4 11	10 12 6	Inverness . . .	16. Inverness
2 1 3	34 9 11	2 12 8	31 17 3	...	...	...	Stonehaven . .	17. Kincardine
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Kinross . . .	18. Kinross
1 19 4	29 3 5	1 7 11	27 15 6	...	...	...	Kirkcudbright . .	19. Kirkcudbright
0 12 2	21 13 0	2 11 9	19 1 3	48	285 18 4	5 19 2	Glasgow . . .	20. Lanark
0 16 0	20 13 2	2 17 2	17 16 0	3	12 10 6	4 3 6	Airdrie . . .	
0 19 10	22 11 4	1 17 0	20 14 4	3	11 14 6	3 18 2	Hamilton . . .	
2 15 2	37 15 5	2 10 7	35 4 10	1	5 6 10	5 6 10	Lanark . . .	
0 14 11	20 17 3	2 15 8	18 1 7	2	7 19 9	3 19 11	Linlithgow . .	21. Linlithgow
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nairn . . .	22. Nairn
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Kirkwall . . .	23. Orkney
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Peebles . . .	24. Peebles
0 14 0	18 9 5	2 17 4	15 12 1	4	16 8 0	4 2 0	Perth . . .	25. Perth
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Dunblane . .	
0 19 5	20 3 2	2 13 10	17 9 4	12	48 0 0	4 0 0	Paisley . . .	26. Renfrew
1 11 4	23 13 7	1 19 3	21 14 4	...	...	...	Greenock . .	
3 18 2	38 19 3	7 14 2	31 5 1	...	...	...	Dingwall . . .	27. Ross and Cromarty
3 7 3	38 15 4	4 0 3	34 15 1	2	1 7 0	0 13 6	Jedburgh . .	28. Roxburgh
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Selkirk . . .	29. Selkirk
1 8 3	24 2 1	2 5 4	21 16 9	4	10 15 5	2 13 10	Stirling . . .	30. Stirling
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Dornoch . . .	31. Sutherland
1 17 2	44 9 7	2 5 9	42 3 10	...	...	...	Stranraer . . .	32. Wigtown
2 0 10	26 18 1	4 6 3	22 11 10	...	...	...	Wigtown . . .	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Fort-Charlotte . .	33. Zetland
1 1 4	*22 2 7	2 12 9	*19 9 10	†668	1,844 12 3	2 15 3	General Prison .	25. Perth
1 2 8	23 6 8	2 14 6	20 12 2	799	2,454 7 0	3 11 0	Whole Prisons . .	In Scotland

* This includes 3s. 10d. per head for Travelling Expenses of Prisoners to their usual place of residence on liberation.

† Exclusive of Insane.

(No. XXIII. *Continued.*)

4. VIEW of the OUTLAY connected with the Prisoners' Labour in the several Prisons

COUNTIES.	PRISONS.	DEBTOR. Undisposed-of Goods and Materials, and Implements of Labour, on hand at 30th June 1862.	DEBTOR. Outlay this Year for Materials, Implements, Carriage of Goods, &c.	DEBTOR. Loss by Bad Debts.	DEBTOR. Sum of Debit.	CREDITOR. Sales and Deliveries of Work to Purchasers and Employers.	CREDITOR. Furniture and Goods issued for the use of the Prison, other than Implements of Labour.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1. Aberdeen	Aberdeen	47 9 8	100 7 1	...	147 16 9	200 12 0	5 6 4
2. Argyle	Inveraray	12 10 0	1 8 0	...	13 18 0	6 8 8	...
	Campbeltown	3 0 0	3 2 3	...	6 2 3	10 10 7	...
	Lochgilphead	0 18 8	...	...	0 18 8	...	...
	Tobermory	0 10 0	...	...	0 10 0	...	...
3. Ayr	Ayr	72 0 0	75 15 0	...	147 15 0	67 1 10	12 3 2
	Kilmarnock	32 10 4	67 7 9	...	99 18 1	51 16 7	0 10 0
4. Banff	Banff	12 15 6	89 7 10	...	102 3 4	117 7 4	...
5. Berwick	Greenlaw	5 12 6	8 13 1	...	14 5 7	5 13 4	...
6. Bute	Rothesay	..	...	...	...	3 13 11	...
7. Caithness	Wick	54 0 9	...	...	54 0 9	5 12 0	4 15 9
8. Clackmannan	Alloa	4 9 3	4 0 5	...	8 9 8	8 14 11½	...
9. Dumbarton	Dumbarton	7 18 0	37 14 0	...	45 12 0	50 4 6	1 18 9
10. Dumfries	Dumfries	2 10 0	30 7 6	...	32 17 6	62 9 6	4 5 6
11. Edinburgh	Edinburgh	204 5 10½	428 13 6	...	632 19 4½	463 14 7	95 6 8½
12. Elgin	Elgin	25 0 9	127 14 0½	4 5 0	156 19 9½	162 6 4	5 2 8
13. Fife	Cupar	50 0 0	40 15 3	...	90 15 3	99 12 7	...
	Dunfermline	14 15 0	24 3 0	...	38 18 0	36 6 2	0 5 0
14. Forfar	Arbroath	2 2 7½	2 5 1	...	4 7 8½	4 19 1	...
	Brechin	1 14 0	0 0 3	...	1 14 3	1 4 0	...
	Dundee	32 7 7½	25 13 8½	...	58 1 4	247 17 11	16 6 10
	Forfar	41 15 0	12 3 5½	...	53 18 5½	67 9 2	...
	Montrose	57 13 9	0 14 6	...	58 8 3	45 10 1	...
15. Haddington	Haddington	5 4 6	37 7 9½	...	42 12 3½	50 6 1½	...
16. Inverness	Inverness	394 10 8	333 15 4½	10 0 0	738 6 0½	484 4 11	1 10 6
	Fort-William	3 5 0	6 2 3	...	9 7 3	15 0 5	2 2 0
	Portree	3 0 0	...	...	3 0 0	2 12 4	0 5 6
	Lochmaddy	2 0 0	...	...	2 0 0	0 7 8	...
17. Kincardine	Stonehaven	0 2 6	7 18 6	...	8 1 0	21 8 11	...
18. Kinross	Kinross	11 2 10	...	...	11 2 10	2 2 3	...
19. Kirkcudbright	Kirkcudbright	96 9 0	21 16 11	...	118 5 11	37 7 6	5 1 0
20. Lanark	Glasgow	417 17 6	692 13 0	...	1,110 10 6	1,044 9 10	...
	Airdrie	4 10 0	57 3 4	...	61 13 4	111 13 9	...
	Hamilton	14 0 0	48 17 0	...	62 17 0	71 18 7	...
	Lanark	17 16 3	17 17 8	...	35 13 11	29 4 1	...
21. Linlithgow	Linlithgow	22 13 9	54 19 2	...	77 12 11	91 7 10	1 4 10
22. Nairn	Nairn	0 3 0	0 3 0	...	0 6 0	...	...
23. Orkney	Kirkwall	0 13 11½	...	...	0 13 11½	0 13 11½	...
24. Peebles	Peebles	43 17 2	10 12 11	...	54 10 1	26 19 1½	...
25. Perth	Perth	9 17 4½	...	...	9 17 4½	100 5 10½	...
	Dunblane	...	...	...	...	3 9 1	...
26. Renfrew	Paisley	133 1 9	127 16 10½	...	260 18 7½	171 19 6½	...
	Greenock	27 9 10	62 8 5	...	89 18 3	78 9 4	...
27. Ross & Cromarty	Dingwall	9 18 11½	12 5 2½	...	22 4 2	20 6 10	...
28. Roxburgh	Jedburgh	28 12 6	2 12 6	...	31 5 0	14 15 9	4 0 0
29. Selkirk	Selkirk	10 11 2¼	27 0 2	...	37 11 4½	20 11 0	...
30. Stirling	Stirling	57 18 3½	81 13 9	...	139 12 0½	126 19 5¾	10 8 11
31. Sutherland	Dornoch	23 12 0½	4 16 1½	...	28 8 2	6 8 2½	1 8 0
32. Wigtown	Stranraer	14 14 0	25 13 10½	0 10 0	40 17 10½	18 17 9	3 14 0
	Wigtown	9 8 8	9 13 3½	...	19 1 11½	17 11 10	3 14 4
33. Zetland	Fort-Charlotte	7 12 5	1 15 8	...	9 8 1	3 14 0	...
		2,056 2 5¼	2,725 8 6	14 15 0	4,796 5 11¼	4,292 11 1¼	179 9 9½
25. Perth	General Prison,	1,496 12 7½	2,743 17 4	...	4,240 9 11½	2,953 19 1½	1,014 0 5½
	TOTAL,	3,552 15 0¾	5,469 5 10	14 15 0	9,036 15 10¾	7,246 10 2¾	1,193 10 3

(No. XXIII. *Continued.*)

in Scotland, and of the Returns therefrom, in the Year ended **30th June 1863.**

| CREDITOR. | | |

No. XXV.—TRIENNIAL COMPARISON OF AVERAGE

Comparative Statement of the Average Daily Number of Criminal Prisoners in the Prisons and of their Average Yearly Cost per Head, and Average

COUNTIES.	PRISONS.	Average Daily Number in Custody.	Average Yearly Cost per Head in the three Years ended				
			Salaries and Wages.	Prison Diet.	Clothing.	Bedding.	Lighting.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1 Aberdeen .	Aberdeen . .	52	17 5 3	5 0 8	0 16 6	0 4 3	1 3 2
2. Argyle .	Inveraray . .	6	26 0 5	5 17 7	1 0 4	0 3 4	1 18 4
	Campbeltown .	9	14 15 10	5 10 0	0 10 0	0 6 9	0 13 11
3. Ayr . .	Ayr . . .	40	16 18 0	5 8 11	1 2 10	0 1 9	0 19 4
	Kilmarnock .	15	11 6 11	5 13 11	1 1 1	0 4 2	0 13 1
4. Banff . .	Banff . . .	8	14 19 11	7 15 6	0 18 0	0 10 1	1 3 6
5. Berwick .	Greenlaw . .	7	20 9 6	6 2 7	2 14 2	0 19 2	0 16 6
6. Bute . .	Rothesay . .	7	11 7 3	9 18 6	2 17 3	0 13 3	1 4 8
7. Caithness .	Wick . .	7	17 7 7	7 16 8	0 11 4	0 9 10	1 10 0
8. Clackmannan	Alloa . . .	6	32 3 0	9 1 1	2 7 10	0 9 8	1 17 11
9. Dumbarton .	Dumbarton . .	14	16 3 11	5 10 5	0 18 0	0 4 9	0 11 7
10. Dumfries .	Dumfries . .	25	12 5 9	5 7 0	0 12 5	0 5 8	0 17 4
11. Edinburgh .	Edinburgh . . }	350	7 1 7	4 3 6	1 16 11	...	0 8 7
	Court Buildings . }		8 1 4	4 2 0	...	...	1 3 4
12. Elgin . .	Elgin . . .	9	16 10 7	5 16 0	0 15 9	0 11 8	0 19 0
13. Fife . .	Cupar . .	18	23 3 7	5 16 8	0 13 3	0 1 4	1 2 1
	Dunfermline .	6	35 1 1	5 8 0	0 15 8	0 6 3	1 7 4
14. Forfar . .	Dundee . .	72	10 5 8	4 19 11	1 0 9	0 5 6	0 11 0
	Forfar . .	15	13 15 9	5 4 6	0 9 7	0 6 3	0 13 7
15. Haddington .	Haddington .	9	19 18 11	8 11 6	1 3 7	0 7 9	1 4 11
16. Inverness .	Inverness . .	13	31 0 11	6 10 6	1 7 4	0 13 0	1 19 7
17. Kincardine .	Stonehaven .	5	27 2 4	5 5 11	0 6 11	0 2 1	0 14 9
18. Kinross .	Kinross* . .	...	...	...	...	...	...
19. Kirkcudbright	Kirkcudbright .	10	22 14 8	4 17 9	0 7 10	0 0 8	0 15 9
20. Lanark .	Glasgow . .	470	7 4 1	5 0 10	2 7 6	0 11 8	0 12 1
	Airdrie . .	32	9 17 6	4 12 9	1 8 2	0 2 8	0 12 4
	Hamilton . .	30	10 7 2	4 15 3	1 3 7	0 4 4	0 12 9
	Lanark . .	8	24 11 9	5 1 0	1 0 8	0 17 4	1 0 10
21. Linlithgow .	Linlithgow . .	15	14 7 2	4 18 1	0 10 4	0 7 0	0 12 8
22. Nairn . .	Nairn* . .	...	...	...	...	...	...
23. Orkney .	Kirkwall* . .	...	...	...	...	...	...
24. Peebles .	Peebles* . .	...	...	...	...	...	...
25. Perth . .	Perth . . .	51	10 18 1	5 0 9	0 16 4	0 5 7	0 13 7
	Dunblane . .	...	...	...	...	...	...
26. Renfrew .	Paisley . .	71	8 14 9	4 17 5	1 6 4	0 5 8	0 17 0
	Greenock . .	20	14 8 8	4 13 2	1 6 11	0 8 7	0 13 10
27. Ross & Cromarty	Dingwall* . .	...	...	...	...	...	...
28. Roxburgh .	Jedburgh . .	16	18 6 11	5 17 0	1 12 10	0 8 11	0 19 1
29. Selkirk . .	Selkirk* . .	...	...	...	...	...	...
30. Stirling .	Stirling . .	44	11 16 4	5 13 4	1 0 4	0 5 10	1 8 6
31. Sutherland .	Dornoch* . .	...	...	...	...	...	...
32. Wigtown .	Stranraer . .	7	16 8 10	5 1 8	0 17 4	0 7 10	0 17 4
	Wigtown . .	5	17 18 3	7 0 5	0 11 10	0 3 1	0 11 8
33. Zetland .	Fort-Charlotte* .	...	...	...	...	...	...
25. Perth . .	General Prison .	667	9 1 3	6 17 8	1 11 4	0 6 2	0 11 2
In Scotland .	Whole Prisons .	2176	10 12 7	5 12 10	1 13 10	0 6 5	0 13 9

* In the Prisons marked with an asterisk the Average Number of Prisoners in Custody was under five.

YEARLY COST PER HEAD AND EARNINGS. No. XXV.

f Scotland in which the Average Daily Number of Prisoners in Custody is Five or upwards ;
Yearly Earnings in the Three Years ended **30th June 1863.**

ne 30, 1863. Fuel.	Gross Cost per Head including all Expenses.	Average Earnings per Head, available for the Prison.	Nett Cost per Head, after deducting Earnings.	Average Earnings of Prisoners who have been in Confinement Six Months, or upwards, under Sentence.	PRISONS.	COUNTIES.
9	10	11	12	13	2	1
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		
1 16 4	29 11 2	2 11 11	26 19 3	4 17 11	Aberdeen . .	1. Aberdeen
3 2 2	40 12 3	1 9 8	39 2 7	...	Inveraray . .	2. Argyle
2 17 4	27 2 10	2 14 11	24 7 11	...	Campbeltown .	
1 9 2	29 8 3	2 15 6	26 12 9	5 3 0	Ayr . . .	3. Ayr
1 0 9	22 16 5	3 1 6	19 14 11	...	Kilmarnock . .	
3 12 8	34 9 4	4 4 0	30 5 4	3 9 0	Banff . . .	4. Banff
3 16 10	38 5 4	0 13 7	37 11 9	...	Greenlaw . .	5. Berwick
2 15 4	37 3 8	1 11 5	35 12 3	3 2 6	Rothesay . .	6. Bute
2 14 10	32 7 9	1 4 3	31 3 6	...	Wick . .	7. Caithness
3 2 9	55 2 4	2 19 6	52 2 10	...	Alloa . . .	8. Clackmannan
1 4 1	25 10 6	2 1 0	23 9 6	2 16 5	Dumbarton . .	9. Dumbarton
1 5 5	21 11 0	4 18 7	16 12 5	...	Dumfries . .	10. Dumfries
0 16 3	18 18 5	2 15 2	16 3 3	3 9 3	Edinburgh . .	11. Edinburgh
1 7 7	17 0 3	...	17 0 3	...	Court Buildings .	
2 11 11	32 2 1	6 10 4	25 11 9	4 16 3	Elgin . . .	12. Elgin
3 3 5	39 18 8	3 3 7	36 15 1	...	Cupar . . .	13. Fife
2 13 7	54 17 6	4 1 8	50 15 10	...	Dunfermline .	
0 15 9	21 11 1	4 4 1	17 7 0	5 10 8	Dundee . .	14. Forfar
1 14 11	26 14 6	3 12 1	23 2 5	4 5 0	Forfar . .	
2 7 2	40 19 6	3 8 0	37 11 6	...	Haddington . .	15. Haddington
2 6 9	49 5 7	14 13 6	34 12 1	11 4 9	Inverness . .	16. Inverness
2 2 1	36 6 9	2 4 4	34 2 5	...	Stonehaven .	17. Kincardine
...	...	...	...	...	Kinross* . .	18. Kinross
2 0 4	33 6 1	2 2 10	31 3 3	...	Kirkcudbright .	19. Kirkcudbright
0 12 10	21 11 9	2 14 0	18 17 9	5 19 1	Glasgow . .	20. Lanark
0 17 0	21 18 10	2 14 4	19 4 3	4 0 0	Airdrie . .	
1 1 0	22 18 4	2 6 0	20 12 4	5 4 4	Hamilton . .	
3 0 9	41 10 1	2 10 7	38 19 6	4 13 10	Lanark . .	
0 18 4	26 14 8	3 4 5	23 10 3	4 2 8	Linlithgow . .	21. Linlithgow
...	...	...	...	...	Nairn . .	22. Nairn
...	...	...	...	...	Kirkwall . .	23. Orkney
...	...	...	...	...	Peebles . .	24. Peebles
0 15 3	20 11 0	3 6 6	17 4 6	4 15 2	Perth . . .	25. Perth
...	...	...	...	...	Dunblane . .	
1 0 7	20 16 6	2 19 5	17 7 1	5 7 10	Paisley . .	26. Renfrew
1 15 10	26 10 10	1 19 11	24 10 11	...	Greenock . .	
...	...	...	...	...	Dingwall* . .	27. Ross & Cromarty
2 14 5	35 0 0	3 13 6	31 6 6	2 9 10	Jedburgh . .	28. Roxburgh
...	...	...	...	...	Selkirk* . .	29. Selkirk
1 8 5	24 11 6	2 4 5	22 7 1	2 18 4	Stirling . .	30. Stirling
...	...	...	...	...	Dornoch* . .	31. Sutherland
1 12 4	33 18 8	2 9 9	31 8 11	...	Stranraer . .	32. Wigtown
2 3 6	32 10 6	2 5 7	30 4 11	...	Wigtown . .	
...	...	...	...	...	Fort-Charlotte* .	33. Zetland
1 1 11	*22 17 3	3 2 4	*19 14 11	3 5 2	General Prison .	25. Perth
1 4 1	24 6 0	2 19 9	21 6 3	3 11 0	Whole Prisons .	In Scotland

* These sums include the average cost per head for travelling expenses of prisoners to and from the prison, amounting to 6s. 7d.

No. XXVI.—Abstract of Account of Expenses incurred by the Prison Managers (Scotland), through the Prison Boards of the several Counties, under Orders issued by the Secretary of State, in the conveyance of Convicts in charge of Escort Officers from Prisons in Scotland to Prisons in England, to the General Prison at Perth, and the re-conveyance of Officers, for the Year 1863.

	Prisons whence Removed.	Prisons to which Removed.	Convicts Removed		Employed in Service.		Railway Fares.	Allowances according to Rule.	Total.
			To Station Prisons.	To Convict Prisons.	No. of Officers.	No. of Days.			
1	Edinburgh,	Millbank,	...	8	3	4	£26 16 0	£9 14 6	
2	Edinburgh,	Ditto,	...	4	1	4	9 18 0	5 14 0	
3	Kirkcudbright,	Ditto,	...	1	2	4	.....	14 11 5	
4	Glasgow,	Ditto,	...	14	4	4	37 0 8	15 1 6	
5	Glasgow,	Ditto,	...	11	3	4	28 12 4	12 19 6	
6	Aberdeen to Edinburgh,	Ditto,	1	...	...	...	.....	3 14 7	
7	Ayr to Edinburgh,	Ditto,	1	...	...	...	.....	2 6 8	
8	Banff to Edinburgh,	Ditto,	1	...	...	...	.....	7 14 9	
9	Greenlaw to Edinburgh,	Ditto,	1	...	...	...	.....	3 11 7	
10	Dundee to Edinburgh,	Ditto,	2	...	...	...	.....	4 10 8	
11	Dundee do. ...	Ditto,	1	...	...	...	.....	2 11 0	
12	Forfar to Edinburgh,	Ditto,	1	...	...	...	.....	2 10 7	
13	Paisley to Glasgow,	Ditto,	1	...	...	...	.....	3 5 8	
			9	38	13	20	£102 7 0	£88 6 5	£190 13 5
	General Prison, Perth, ...	Chatham,	.....	8	3	5	£25 18 0	£9 17 3	
		Do. including 5 to Woking removed at same time,	.....	16	5	5	49 9 2	13 5 10	
	General Prison, Perth, ...	Portsmouth,	.....	20	5	5	55 10 0	21 16 4	
		Do. including 3 to Woking,	.....	12	4	5	35 3 0	16 7 10	
			.....	56	17	20	£166 0 2	£61 7 3	£227 7 5
1	Aberdeen,	General Prison,	.....	2	2	...	.....	£5 16 0	
2	Aberdeen,	Ditto,	.....	1	2	...	.....	3 15 0	
3	Ayr,	Ditto,	.....	4	3	...	.....	13 5 8	
4	Ayr,	Ditto,	.....	3	2	...	.....	9 0 8	
5	Ayr,	Ditto,	.....	18	4	...	.....	16 19 6	
6	Rothesay,	Ditto,	.....	1	2	...	.....	4 15 6	
7	Dumfries,	Ditto,	.....	3	3	...	.....	11 10 3	
8	Elgin,	Ditto,	.....	1	2	...	.....	6 5 5	
9	Cupar,	Ditto,	.....	1	2	...	.....	2 7 11	
10	Edinburgh,	Ditto,	.....	5	2	...	.....	5 17 9	
11	Edinburgh,	Ditto,	.....	11	3	...	.....	10 5 9	
12	Edinburgh,	Ditto,	.....	2	2	...	.....	4 3 0	
13	Edinburgh,	Ditto,	.....	3	2	...	.....	4 17 5	
14	Edinburgh,	Ditto,	.....	5	2	...	.....	6 7 0	
15	Edinburgh,	Ditto,	.....	8	3	...	.....	7 17 10	
16	Edinburgh,	Ditto,	.....	1	1	...	.....	2 3 9	
17	Dunfermline,	Ditto,	.....	1	1	...	.....	2 11 3	
18	Dundee,	Ditto,	.....	2	2	...	.....	3 9 10	
19	Dundee,	Ditto,	.....	1	1	...	.....	1 16 0	
20	Forfar,	Ditto,	.....	1	2	...	.....	2 9 4	
21	Inverness,	Ditto,	.....	1	2	...	.....	7 0 6	
22	Glasgow,	Ditto,	.....	10	4	...	.....	11 6 6	
23	Glasgow,	Ditto,	.....	10	4	...	.....	11 9 6	
24	Glasgow,	Ditto,	.....	11	4	...	.....	12 9 2	
25	Glasgow,	Ditto,	.....	8	3	...	.....	10 1 6	
26	Glasgow,	Ditto,	.....	1	2	...	.....	2 18 10	
27	Glasgow,	Ditto,	.....	10	4	...	.....	11 6 6	
28	Glasgow,	Ditto,	.....	6	3	...	.....	8 5 0	
29	Glasgow,	Ditto,	.....	1	...	...	.....	*0 5 0	
30	Perth,	Ditto,	.....	2	...	...	.....	2 13 6	
31	Perth,	Ditto,	.....	1	...	...	.....	1 7 6	
32	Perth,	Ditto,	.....	2	...	...	.....	2 13 6	
33	Paisley,	Ditto,	.....	2	2	...	.....	5 8 10	
34	Paisley,	Ditto,	.....	2	2	...	.....	5 8 10	
35	Stirling,	Ditto,	.....	3	2	...	.....	4 13 7	
			.....	144	75	...	.....	£223 3 1	£223 3 1
1	General Prison,	Ayr,	.....	20	4	...	.....	£15 5 8	
2	Aberdeen,	Ditto,	.....	1	2	...	.....	7 10 5	
3	Banff,	Ditto,	.....	1	2	...	.....	10 7 7	
4	Rothesay,	Ditto,	.....	1	2	...	.....	4 7 6	
5	Dumfries,	Ditto,	.....	1	2	...	.....	3 19 0	
6	Alloa,	Ditto,	.....	1	2	...	.....	4 15 7	
7	Edinburgh,	Ditto,	.....	1	2	...	.....	4 3 5	
8	Edinburgh,	Ditto,	.....	6	3	...	.....	10 4 5	
9	Edinburgh,	Ditto,	.....	1	2	...	.....	4 2 7	
10	Edinburgh,	Ditto,	.....	7	3	...	.....	11 6 7	
11	Dundee,	Ditto,	.....	4	2	...	.....	8 17 6	
12	Dundee,	Ditto,	.....	1	2	...	.....	5 14 1	
13	Dundee,	Ditto,	.....	4	3	...	.....	10 19 5	
14	Forfar,	Ditto,	.....	1	2	...	.....	5 17 7	
15	Kirkcudbright,	Ditto,	.....	1	2	...	.....	5 10 10	
16	Glasgow,	Ditto,	.....	8	3	...	.....	8 6 6	
17	Glasgow,	Ditto,	.....	14	5	...	.....	12 4 6	
18	Perth,	Ditto,	.....	2	2	...	.....	7 3 0	
19	Paisley,	Ditto,	.....	2	2	...	.....	4 1 0	
20	Stirling,	Ditto,	.....	3	2	...	.....	6 5 11	
21	Stirling,	Ditto,	.....	2	2	...	.....	5 13 4	
22	Wigtown,	Ditto,	.....	1	2	...	.....	5 7 5	
				83	53	...	.....	£162 3 10	£162 3 10
									£803 7 9

No. XXVII.

STATE OF ACCOUNTS

OF THE

MANAGERS APPOINTED UNDER "THE PRISONS (SCOTLAND) ADMINISTRATION ACT."

I.—FUNDS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MANAGERS AND REMOVAL OF PRISONERS.

Receipts—being Charge.

1. Balances due upon accounts brought from last account, 1862,—		
For incidental expenses,	£101 19 9	
For removal of Convicts,	73 1 3	
For removal of prisoners sentenced to imprisonment,	61 8 2	
		£236 9 2
2. Cash received from the Queen's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer in full of Issues to defray the expenses of the Managers, viz.:—		
7th July 1863,	£50 0 0	
1st Oct. „	50 0 0	
		100 0 0
3. Cash received from the Queen's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer in full of Issues to defray the expenses of removal of convicts sentenced to penal servitude under Secretary of State's warrants, viz.:—		
30th March 1863,	£200 0 0	
7th July „	200 0 0	
1st October „	200 0 0	
22d December „	200 0 0	
		800 0 0
4. Cash received from the Queen's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer in full of Issues to defray the expenses of removal of prisoners sentenced to imprisonment, under orders of the Managers, viz.:—		
30th March 1863,	£200 0 0	
7th July „	200 0 0	
1st October „	200 0 0	
22d December „	100 0 0	
		700 0 0
5. Interest accrued upon "Managers' expenses account" with Bank of Scotland,		6 0 6
6. Amount overstated by Governor of Cupar Prison for removing a prisoner,		0 1 0
AMOUNT OF CHARGE,		£1842 10 8

Expenditure—being Discharge.

1. Payments of current Expenses of the Managers incurred in the year 1863, viz.:—		
(1.) Board's Chambers, &c.:—		
Rent,	£26 0 0	
Public and Municipal burdens,	3 9 11	
Postages, parcels, coals, water, gas, and other petty disbursements,	58 10 5	
(2.) Expenses of Managers visiting the General Prison at Perth,	57 13 3	
		£145 13 7
2. Payments on account of expenses of removal of convicts under Secretary of State's warrants,		743 19 7
3. Payments on account of removal of prisoners sentenced to imprisonment under orders of Managers,		488 18 11
4. Balance due by Managers, carried to account for 1864, viz.:—		
For incidental expenses,	£62 6 8	
For removal of convicts,	129 1 8	
For removal of prisoners sentenced to imprisonment,	272 10 3	
		463 18 7
AMOUNT OF DISCHARGE,		£1842 10 8

II.—EXPENSES OF THE SPECIAL WORKS AT GENERAL PRISON.

Receipts—being Charge.

1. Balance of Money left in Bank by the late General Board,		£374 10 4
2. Cash issued from the Treasury to the Contractor for Works on the Lunatic Department, on Certificate by the Managers, as follows:—		
1st October 1863,	£300 0 0	
23d October 1863,	400 0 0	
		700 0 0
3. Bank interest on the above balance to 31st December 1863,		8 0 6
		£1082 10 10

Expenditure—being Discharge.

1. Payments to Contractor for Works on the Lunatic Department,	£700 0 0
2. Balance at Credit of Managers in Bank of Scotland, at 31st December 1863,	£382 10 10
	£1082 10 10

III.—EXPENSES OF MAINTAINING FEMALE CONVICTS IN THE PRISON OF AYR.

Charge.

Cash issued from the Treasury,	£532 13 8

Discharge.

Payments to Prison Board of Ayrshire, per the Queen's Remembrancer,	£532 13 8

PUBLIC WORKS, IRELAND.

THIRTY-SECOND REPORT

FROM THE

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS, IRELAND:

WITH THE

APPENDICES.

LAW REFORM

1863.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

DUBLIN:
PRINTED BY ALEXANDER THOM, 87 & 88, ABBEY-STREET,
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1864.

[3359]

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PUBLIC WORKS, IRELAND.

THIRTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

FROM

THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS IN IRELAND.

TO THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF HER MAJESTY'S TREASURY.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR LORDSHIPS,

WE have the honour to submit our Thirty-secnod Annual Report, embracing, in the usual manner, the several services intrusted to our management, viz. :—

Accounts :—
- Loans for Public Works, Advances, and Repayments.
- Sanctions for Grants.

Public Buildings.
- Supply of Coals to Public Offices.

Landed Property Improvement, including—
- Drainage of Lands, &c.
- Erection of Farm Buildings.
  - Do. Scutch Mills.
  - Do. Labourers' Dwellings.

Arterial Drainage, with Improvement of Navigation and Water-power.

Harbours.

Inland Navigations.

Ormeau Bridge.

Post Roads.

LOANS AND GRANTS FOR PUBLIC WORKS.

STATEMENTS of outstanding Loans made for PUBLIC WORKS will be found in the APPENDIX; and the following is an Abstract of the funds which have from time to time been sanctioned, showing the amounts issued on account of each description of Loans, the Amounts remitted, and the Repayments on Account, to the 31st March, 1864; also the Sums issued and Repaid within the year.

SANCTIONS.						For what purpose issued.	Advances.				Remissions.			Repayments to Her Majesty's Exchequer.					
							Total to 31st March, 1864.			In the year ended 31st March, 1864.				Total to 31st March, 1864.			In the year ended 31st March, 1864.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s. d.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£ s. d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Act 1 & 2 Wm. IV., c. 33,	744,650	0	0			Public Works,	1,253,089	18	8	6,930	0	0	4,331 2 3	1,365,565	6	4	16,656	4	10
Act 6 & 7 Wm. IV., c. 108,	100,000	0	0																
Act 1 & 2 Vic., c. 88,	46,000	0	0																
Total issued in Exchequer Bills,				890,650	0 0														
Act 6 & 7 Vic., c. 44, continued by various Acts to 24 & 25 Vic., c. 85, granting £15,000 per quarter,	1,410,000	0	0			Relief Works, 9 Vic., c. 1,	226,349	19	11	—			156,678 1 10	88,338	1	3	—		
Act 9 & 10 Vic., c. 108,	145,000	0	0																
Act 10 & 11 Vic., c. 106,	370,000	0	0																
Act 12 Vic., c. 23,	200,000	0	0																
Act 11 & 12 Vic., c. 51,	138,648	15	7			Arterial Drainage,	2,075,893	17	8	—			1,187,047 0 2	894,955	18	4	72,234	12	2
Act 13 & 14 Vic., c. 31,	800,000	0	0																
				3,063,648	15 7														
Act 9 & 10 Vic., c. 107, for the Employment of the Labouring Poor,	—			4,797,648	12 1	County Relief Works,	4,597,778	2	11	—			4,294,947 18 3	302,830	4	8	—		
						Labouchere Drainage,	199,870	9	2	—			—	207,678	1	6	11,083	15	4
Act 2 & 3 Vic., c. 61, for the Improvement of Shannon Navigation,	—			294,090	0 0	Shannon Navigation,	294,090	0	0	—			—	329,913	7	11	—		
Act 10 Vic., c. 32, for Land Improvement,	1,500,000	0	0																
Act 12 Vic., c. 23, do.,	300,000	0	0																
Act 13 & 14 Vic., c. 31, do.,	200,000	0	0																
				2,000,000	0 0	Drainage, Farm-buildings, Labourers' dwellings, &c.,	1,746,037	4	4	58,830	0	0	—	1,356,750	1	8	101,025	2	6
Total Sanctions,	—			11,046,037	7 8		10,393,109	12	8	65,760	0	0	5,643,004 2 6	4,546,031	1	8	200,999	14	10
Deduct Advances,	—			10,393,109	12 8														
Balance available for further Advances,	—			652,927	15 0														
Viz.:—																			
Public Works Loan Fund,	398,964	19	4																
Land Improvement,	253,962	15	8																

SANCTIONS FOR GRANTS.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
By Act 1 & 2 Wm. 4, c. 33, for Public Works,	50,000 0 0	
By Act 1 Vic., c. 21, for Public Works,	50,000 0 0	
By Act 1 & 2 Vic., c. 88 (portion of £50,000), appropriated to Grants for Public Works,	4,000 0 0	
By Act 6 & 7 Vic., c. 44, for Public Works,	21,000 0 0	
		125,000 0 0
By Act 9 Vic., c. 1, in aid of Relief Works,	50,000 0 0	
By Act 9 & 10 Vic., c. 108, do.	175,000 0 0	
		225,000 0 0
By Act 2 & 3 Vic., c. 61, in aid of the Improvement of the Shannon Navigation,	—	290,717 0 0
By Act 9 Vic., c. 3, for Piers and Harbours,	50,000 0 0	
By Act 10 & 11 Vic., c. 75, for do.,	40,000 0 0	
		90,000 0 0
For Navigation in connexion with Drainage, Act 5 & 6 Vic., c. 89,	—	141,073 0 0
		871,790 0 0

PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

Public Buildings.

The necessary works have been executed during the past year for the due repair and maintenance of all the Public Buildings in the Board's charge.

Dublin District.

The extensive additions to the Constabulary Depot, Phœnix Park, which have been sanctioned by the Treasury, are being rapidly executed by the Contractor. These new buildings and alterations are intended to provide accommodation for 10 officers and 200 men additional.

The buildings of the new Record Depository at the Four Courts are also proceeding expeditiously.

The additions to Dundrum Central Criminal Lunatic Asylum have been in part executed. The works are still going on, and will be all finished within the current financial year.

These works are—

1. Additional accommodation for 50 patients.
2. Six cells for noisy patients.
3. Library.
4. Turkish bath.
5. Tank.
6. Yard walls and drains.
7. New kitchen.
8. Conversion of old kitchen into dining-hall.

Coals and Firewood.

This service continues to be performed with the same satisfactory results as described in previous Reports.

The number of public departments supplied, the consumption of Coals and Firewood, and the cost for the year are as under:—

Number of Departments.	Tons of Coals supplied.	Tons of Firewood supplied.	Total Cost.
			£ s. d.
107	4,992	119½	4,230 6 2

Improvements in the Phœnix Park.

During the past year the improvements authorized by their Lordships, and for which the necessary funds have been voted by Parliament, have been proceeded with; the operations being more particularly confined to the drainage, formation of ground around Wellington Testimonial, and of new roads and paths.

The ordinary maintenance of the Park has also been duly attended to.

Public Buildings.

Customs Buildings.

Works of maintenance and repair of considerable extent have been executed at the various Custom Houses.

At Cork Custom House, the stores having been let on lease by the Commissioners of Customs, the premises have been put in thorough repair by the Crown.

Quay walls have also been underpinned and pointed—a work much required, and which has been satisfactorily executed.

It having been found that the roof of the great Sugar Store of the Dublin Custom House was in a dangerous state, the Board, with their Lordships' approval, took measures to strengthen and repair it. The work has been satisfactorily executed, and the roof restored to its original level.

Coast-Guard Stations.

The following new Coast-Guard Stations have been finished, and transferred to the Officers of that department, viz.:—

Keele, county Mayo,	to accommodate	1 Chief Officer and 4 men.
Darby's Point, do.,	„	8 „
Howth, county Dublin,	„	4 „
Dalkey, do.	„	5 „
Lough Shinny, do.,	„	4 „
Sutton (additions to), do.,	„	3 „
Carrickfergus, county Antrim,		1 Chief Officer and 6 „
Ballyhalbert, county Down,	„	3 „
Cappagh, county Clare,	„	7 „
Crosshaven, county Cork,	„	1 Chief Officer and 11 „
Roche's Point, do.,	„	1 Chief Officer and 9 „
Old Head (Kinsale), do.,	Boat-house and Rocket-shed.	

The new Stations which are at present in progress are—

Tarbert, county Kerry,	6 cottages.			
Lackeen, do.,	houses for	1 Chief Officer,	1 Chief Boatman,	and 4 men.
Ross, county Mayo,	1 „	1 „		5 „
Roscarberry, county Cork,	2 cottages.			
Bullsmouth, county Mayo,	8 cottages.			
Howth, county Dublin,	6 cottages.			

The last-named is an additional building required to give accommodation to the full complement of the Station.

Works of repair and maintenance have been executed during the past year at 138 Coast-Guard Stations.

The erection of the following, viz.:—Donaghadee, Balbriggan, Bonmahon, and Upper Cove, Kinsale, will be commenced in a short time.

Post Offices.

Extensive alterations and improvements have been effected at both Belfast and Limerick Post Offices, to afford adequate accommodation for the increasing business of both offices.

National School Buildings.

The new Model School at Sligo has been satisfactorily completed, and transferred to the Officers of the Board of National Education.

The works of the Model School at Cork have been commenced, and are being rapidly proceeded with.

The plans for Enniskillen new Model School are being prepared, and the works will be commenced as soon as authorized.

Numerous alterations and additions have been made in the several District and Minor Model Schools.

Eleven new ordinary literary National Schools, vested in the Board of National Education, have been built under the Board's direction and superintendence; two-thirds of the cost being paid for out of the public funds.

Works of repair and maintenance were effected to 215 ordinary literary (*i.e.* elementary) schools during the year; while considerable works of improvement, such as enlargement of school-rooms, erection of porches, enclosing walls to school-grounds, substituting boarded for earthen floors, entrance gates, &c., were also executed at 23 of those schools.

Public Buildings.

The Queen's Colleges.

Considerable additions have been made to the Dissecting Rooms and the Demonstration Theatre of Galway College.

The works of the restoration of the west wing of Cork College, which was destroyed by fire in May, 1862, are far advanced towards completion.

A story has been raised on the south corridor of Belfast College to afford accommodation for the Drawing Classes of the Engineering Department.

Maynooth College.

Under the provisions of the Act 23 & 24 Vict., cap. 104, at the request of the Trustees of the College, and with the sanction of the Lords of the Treasury, the Board entered into contracts for the following works, viz.:—

1. Building new Infirmary.
2. Gas factory, stores, yard, and dwelling.
3. Gas mains and fittings.
4. Gas cooking range.
5. Heating apparatus.
6. Library and Museum fittings, &c.

The first and last are in an advanced stage, and progressing rapidly to completion. The remainder are all satisfactorily finished.

District Probate Registries.

The works of alteration and improvement required to fit a portion of Limerick Custom House for a Probate Registry have been effected.

The new building, intended for a Probate Registry, in Cork, is now complete, and will soon be occupied by the Officers of the Registry.

LAND IMPROVEMENT.

Land Improvement.

In making this our Seventeenth Annual Report, relating to the operations under the Land Improvement Acts, we have little to introduce of a novel character in regard to the works that have been executed during the year 1863; but it may be important to state that in consequence of the three unpropitious seasons of 1860, 1861, and 1862, the labouring population were reduced, especially in 1862, to an unusually destitute state; and in consequence that an increased exertion was made during the year 1863 to give reproductive employment on works, especially those connected with Land Improvement, as will be seen by the following table of expenditure during the successive years from the commencement in 1847 to the present time:—

Number of Applications for Loans, under the Land Improvement Acts, received in each year since the commencement of operations in 1847 to the 31st March, 1864 (inclusive), and the Amount Issued in each year during the same period.

	No. of Applications.	Amount Issued.
1847, June to December (inclusive),	1,354	£72,790
1848,	571	356,160
1849,	643	379,836
1850,	436	250,324
1851,	280	145,653
1852,	164	88,542
1853,	154	53,454
1854,	123	49,290
1855,	98	33,180
1856,	108	28,513
1857,	114	27,674
1858,	112	34,524
1859,	111	29,334
1860,	135	26,080
1861–2,	154	36,656
1862–3,	184	61,375
1863–4,	138	58,830

Land Improvement.

By this table it will be seen that the amount of employment had been gradually increasing during the unfavourable years from £26,000 in 1860, to £58,830 in 1863. In the year 1862 the amount expended was £61,000, and, no doubt, the small diminution in 1863, has been caused by the comparatively productive harvest of that year, in which the produce of potatoes was above the late averages both in quantity and quality, and of oats, the rent-paying crop in the tillage districts, was equally abundant; but, unfortunately, the market price was unusually low, and, in consequence, the landed proprietors and large farmers were less anxious to undertake the risk of borrowing money, apprehending that the return consequent on thorough drainage and other agricultural improvements would not as fully repay the expenditure as heretofore. Should the harvest of the present year, 1864, be equal to, or exceed that of 1863, we may anticipate increased confidence among the farming class, and greater anxiety to undertake drainage works will be felt.

The above observations refer chiefly to the tillage districts of the midland and southern districts. In the north-eastern, where flax cultivation prevails, employment is abundant and the wages of the labourer high; and in the pasture and butter-producing parts of the midland and southern districts, in most cases the agricultural labourers have had more than usual employment at fair wages, consequent on the high price of beef, mutton, and butter, together with the comparatively low prices of Indian meal and potatoes.

It should be observed, however, that in all parts of Ireland farmers suffer considerably from the scarcity and consequent high price of cattle and sheep, caused partly by disease, but much more so from the small farmers, during the last three years, having been obliged to sell the old as well as young stock to enable them to purchase food; and there are at the present time very few of that class holding land varying from 20 to 100 acres who have any cattle to sell to the grazing farmers; and, consequently, the lands sown with oats in the spring of 1863, were not sufficiently manured, and the result has been a small return.

In regard to the system adopted in carrying out the Land Improvement Works we have only to repeat what has been already stated in previous reports, that all the works have been carried out strictly according to the systematic arrangements laid down in our original books of instruction, having reference to each department; and that the landed proprietors, without exception, who have undertaken and executed works of improvement under our general superintendence, have expressed themselves as fully satisfied with the result, and admit that it has tended materially, and at a moderate cost, to increase the value of their estates, and has given a stimulus to agricultural improvement, and in many cases has been the precursor of systematic husbandry, according to the recognised rotative system of agriculture.

Up to the 31st March, 1864, 4,001 loans have been sanctioned by your Lordships; but, as mentioned in previous Reports, during the period which elapsed between the year 1847, when the first loans were made, and the termination of the period now reported on, considerable sums which have been so sanctioned, have been cancelled by this Board, under the powers given in the Act 13th and 14th Vic., cap. 31.

At the close of the financial year ending March, 1864, there remained unappropriated out of the fund of £2,000,000 voted by Parliament for the Land Improvement service in Ireland, the sum of £159,332. The sum issued on account of works up to the 31st March, 1864, amounted to £1,746,037, of which £1,659,584 has been expended on the loans which have been completed, and £86,453 has been issued on loans in progress and those which have not been finally closed.

These totals comprise 272 loans amounting to a sum of £95,360, which have been sanctioned to proprietors for the erection of farm buildings, and thirty-three loans amounting to £16,150, for the erection of labourers' dwellings, particulars respecting which we furnish under their respective heads.

The following is a tabular statement, according to districts and counties, of the amount, of applications for loans and the amounts issued, for all classes of works under the several Land Improvement Acts, up to the 31st March, 1864:—

AMOUNTS of APPLICATIONS and ISSUES.

Name of County.	No. of Applications.	Amount Applied for. £ s. d.	Amount Issued. £ s. d.	Total No. of Applications.	Total Amount Applied for. £ s. d.	Total Amount Issued. £ s. d.
NORTHERN DISTRICT.						
Antrim,	102	204,822 17 6	80,278 0 0			
Londonderry,	86	122,415 6 2	34,798 0 0			
Donegal,	178	205,159 8 4	87,151 0 0			
Fermanagh,	85	122,755 16 11	38,145 0 0			
Tyrone,	146	143,464 19 8	52,790 0 0			
Armagh,	48	46,445 12 6	12,268 0 0			
Down,	41	50,221 8 0	22,489 0 0			
				686	895,285 9 1	327,919 0 0
MIDLAND AND EASTERN.						
Cavan,	79	62,892 15 8	18,001 0 0			
Monaghan,	62	79,483 12 3	23,029 0 0			
Longford,	90	57,146 17 6	24,946 0 0			
Louth,	50	66,576 15 7	22,145 0 0			
Meath,	118	129,882 15 0	53,620 0 0			
Westmeath,	83	62,419 11 7	24,755 0 0			
Dublin,	92	55,059 13 3	22,727 0 0			
Kildare,	109	62,300 17 11	28,203 0 0			
King's,	102	61,874 11 5	20,553 0 0			
Queen's,	172	167,378 6 0	58,180 0 0			
Wicklow,	110	93,703 4 7	40,166 0 0			
Carlow,	126	126,956 11 6	56,559 0 0			
Kilkenny,	125	128,981 14 2	44,811 0 0			
Wexford,	173	179,392 17 0	73,022 0 0			
				1,491	1,334,050 3 5	510,717 0 0
WESTERN.						
Sligo,	106	129,321 3 5	43,102 0 0			
Leitrim,	104	115,149 17 9	39,315 0 0			
Mayo,	242	337,348 10 8	97,784 0 0			
Roscommon,	186	159,928 13 3	76,030 0 0			
Galway,	383	367,505 19 9	113,635 0 0			
Clare,	167	170,955 4 1	47,646 0 0			
				1,188	1,280,209 8 11	417,512 0 0
SOUTHERN.						
Limerick,	350	320,585 15 8	134,699 0 0			
Tipperary,	290	181,020 17 0	83,472 0 0			
Waterford,	88	87,124 0 9	33,430 0 0			
Cork,	590	397,425 16 6	129,329 0 0			
Kerry,	266	483,455 13 1	108,959 0 0			
				1,584	1,469,612 3 0	489,889 0 0
			Total,	4,949	4,979,157 4 5	1,746,037 0 0

THOROUGH DRAINAGE, &c.

The reports of our Inspectors still bear testimony to the beneficial results of the operations carried out under loans for the improvement of land by drainage, fencing, &c., and to the general appreciation of the proprietors and occupiers of land.

The number of acres that have been thorough-drained under the Land Improvement Acts from the commencement up to the 31st March in this year amounts to 213,225 acres, which has been effected at an average cost of £5 per acre. Of this quantity 5,765 acres have been drained during the period from 1st April, 1863, to 31st March, 1864. A considerable portion of the land drained has been subsoiled.

FARM BUILDINGS.

For the erection of farm buildings, 272 loans, amounting to a sum of £95,360, have been sanctioned to proprietors, of which 218 loans, amounting to £75,960, have been completed in the undermentioned counties :—

Land Improvement.

LOANS for FARM BUILDINGS which have been closed.

Name of County.	No. of Loans.	Amount sanctioned.	Total Amount Issued.	Name of County.	No. of Loans.	Amount sanctioned.	Total Amount Issued.
		£	£			£	£
Antrim, . .	4	1,050	1,050	Longford, .	4	1,400	1,400
Carlow, . .	5	1,550	1,550	Louth, . .	3	1,100	1,100
Cavan, . .	4	1,200	1,200	Mayo, . .	17	6,800	5,860
Cork, . .	29	9,300	8,760	Meath, . .	4	1,700	1,700
Clare, . .	4	1,450	1,450	Monaghan, .	1	300	300
Donegal, .	5	1,050	1,050	Queen's, .	5	2,150	2,050
Down, . .	3	1,000	1,000	Roscommon, .	16	5,400	5,130
Dublin, . .	6	2,400	2,400	Sligo, . .	4	2,500	2,140
Fermanagh, .	1	100	100	Tipperary, .	23	9,550	8,490
Galway, .	17	4,700	4,300	Tyrone, .	3	950	950
Kerry, . .	11	3,660	2,950	Waterford, .	1	200	200
Kildare, . .	12	3,200	3,180	Westmeath, .	5	2,450	1,970
Kilkenny, .	4	100	100	Wexford, .	4	1,350	1,350
King's, . .	2	450	450	Wicklow, .	3	1,650	1,500
Leitrim, . .	1	300	300				
Limerick, .	17	6,950	6,550	Totals, .	218	75,960	70,530

Of the remaining fifty-four loans for Farm Buildings which have been sanctioned, twenty-six, amounting to a sum of £9,500, have not been proceeded with, and therefore do not appear in the following table of—

UNCOMPLETED LOANS for FARM BUILDINGS.

County.	Applicant.	Amount sanctioned.			Amount Issued.		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Armagh, . .	Ralph S. O'Bre, . .	200	0	0	120	0	0
Cork, . . .	Edmond S. Coppinger, .	200	0	0	40	0	0
Donegal, . .	David Gilliland, . .	200	0	0	40	0	0
Dublin, . .	Walter S. Brinkley, . .	250	0	0	50	0	0
Fermanagh, . .	Marchioness of Ely, . .	650	0	0	520	0	0
Galway, . .	Peter Blake, . . .	350	0	0	280	0	0
,, . .	John T. Lopdell, . .	250	0	0	250	0	0
,, . .	Messrs. D'Arcy, . .	450	0	0	450	0	0
Kerry, . .	The Knight of Kerry, .	300	0	0	60	0	0
Kilkenny, . .	David Hewetson, . .	300	0	0	120	0	0
,, . .	The Earl of Bessborough, .	200	0	0	80	0	0
Limerick, . .	George Vandeleur, . .	600	0	0	360	0	0
,, . .	The Earl of Dunraven, .	700	0	0	420	0	0
,, . .	,, . .	400	0	0	240	0	0
,, . .	,, . .	250	0	0	150	0	0
,, . .	,, . .	350	0	0	210	0	0
,, . .	Charles Conyers, . .	150	0	0	150	0	0
,, . .	Richard Bourke, . .	200	0	0	40	0	0
Sligo, . .	Charles Tottenham, . .	200	0	0	200	0	0
,, . .	F. A. Knox Gore, . .	400	0	0	400	0	0
Tipperary, . .	R. W. White, . . .	200	0	0	200	0	0
Tyrone, . .	George Vesey Stewart, .	500	0	0	400	0	0
,, . .	Thomas S. Irwin, . .	200	0	0	200	0	0
,, . .	The Marquis of Abercorn, .	1,000	0	0	400	0	0
,, . .	Andrew M'Creight & wife .	200	0	0	160	0	0
Westmeath, . .	William Magill, . .	250	0	0	250	0	0
Wexford, . .	Harry Alcock, . . .	450	0	0	450	0	0
Wicklow, . .	William Fox, . . .	500	0	0	300	0	0
		9,900	0	0	6,540	0	0

LABOURERS' DWELLINGS.

The Act 23rd Vic., c. 19, authorizing us to advance money for the erection of dwellings for agricultural labourers, continues to be productive of much benefit; and the landed proprietors appear most anxious to avail themselves of its provisions. We have received since the passing of the Act 60 applications; and 33 loans, amounting to £16,150, have been sanctioned by your Lordships.

The following schedule shows the loans for labourers' dwellings in progress.

Land Improvement.

LOANS for LABOURERS' DWELLINGS in progress.

Applicant.	County.	Amount applied for.	Amount sanctioned.	No. of Instalments ordered.	Amount authorized to be issued.	Date of last order for issue.
		£	£		£	
The Earl of Howth,	Dublin,	1,000	1,000	2	400	22nd Jan., 1864.
George Le Hunte,	Wexford,	200	200	3	120	18th Jan., 1864.
The Earl of Courtown,	„	800	800	4	640	2nd Nov., 1863.
Harry Alcock,	„	500	500	1	100	24th July, 1863.
Thomas Braddell,	„	200	200	3	120	28th Oct., 1863.
Herbert F. Hore,	„	360	350	1	70	2nd March, 1864.
The Marquis of Londonderry,	Down,	960	950	3	480	18th March, 1864.
Sir George C. Colthurst, Bart.,	Cork,	400	350	2	140	29th May, 1862.
Ditto,	„	715	550	1	110	5th Jan., 1863.
The Earl of Longford,	Westmeath,	1,000	1,000	2	400	2nd June, 1863.
William E. Smyth,	„	200	200	1	40	16th Aug., 1862.
Arthur Kavanagh,	Carlow,	1,000	1,000	5	1,000	24th June, 1863.
Philip J. Newton,	„	805	800	3	480	16th Dec., 1863.
D. W. P. Beresford,	„	1,000	1,000	5	1,000	26th June, 1863.
The Right Hon. John Wynne,	Sligo,	900	900	1	180	27th June, 1862.
A. U. Gledstanes,	Tyrone,	200	200	1	40	31st July, 1862.
Deane Mann,	„	350	250	1	50	13th Feb., 1864.
John Hurly,	Kerry,	242	200	2	80	29th May, 1863.
W. B. Forde,	Down,	400	400	2	120	13th Feb., 1863.
Philip O'Reilly,	Longford,	203	200	5	200	12th Jan., 1864.
John P. Fitzgerald,	Waterford,	350	350	5	350	9th Feb., 1864.
		11,785	11,400		6,120	

Following the arrangement heretofore adopted, we now introduce extracts from the reports received from several of our Inspectors, who have been engaged in the examination of works during the year 1863 :—

NORTHERN DISTRICT.

Northern, Dublin and other Districts.

We shall commence with this District, in which a sum of £10,370 has been issued since the 31st March, 1863, in the following proportions :—

Antrim, £1,530; Londonderry, £1,460; Donegal, £60; Fermanagh, £2,310; Tyrone, £4,500; Armagh, £410; Down, £100.

Mr. Wm. F. Irwin, Inspector of Drainage.

Mr. William F. Irwin, Chief Inspector of Drainage under the Land Improvement Acts, reports that within the past year, when viewing works in progress, "I have taken advantage of the opportunity afforded me of examining drainages, some of which have been executed for several years, for the purpose of ascertaining the permanent efficiency of tile drainage as compared with drainages on which broken or field stones have been used as a conduit for the water; and I have the satisfaction to state that on the whole both systems have been successful; and where failures were observed, they have been generally caused by parties sinking the minor drains so deep that sufficient fall was not allowed for the proper discharge by the sub-mains into the main drain. Although as a rule deep or four-feet drains should be adopted, cases will frequently arise where the fall will not admit of the minor drains being sunk to that depth without injuring, in a great degree, the final discharge into the main drain. I would not willingly lay tiles in minor drains with a fall of less than one inch in thirty feet, or where broken stone is used, with less fall than two inches in thirty feet.

"There is little of novelty to remark in regard to ordinary thorough drainage; but I find that in many localities, especially in the county Meath pasture lands, heretofore looked upon as dry feeding grounds, owing to the unusual wetness of the last three years are now producing rushes; and the proprietors are either draining them under Land Improvement, or in a similar manner from private funds. The same cause has in many cases induced parties executing works to drain more closely than formerly; but I rarely find any person who has executed drainage works—the minors having a depth of four feet—think of substituting drains of a less depth.

"In regard to the dwellings for labourers which have been completed within the past year, I would instance those erected by Mr. Andrews, on the estate of the Marquis of Londonderry, in the county of Down, as giving the necessary accommodation at a moderate cost. The same may be said of dwellings erected on the estate of Mr. Henry Alcock, in the county of Wexford; and Lord Courtown and Mr. George Le Hunte have also erected dwellings for labourers in the same county."

Land Improvement.

Mr. William P. Prendergast, Inspector of Land Improvement Works for the counties of Fermanagh, Cavan, Leitrim, and adjoining portions of Tyrone, Sligo, and Roscommon, reports :—

Counties of Fermanagh, Cavan, and Leitrim, &c. Mr. William P. Prendergast, Inspector of Drainage.

"In Fermanagh the improvements on the estates of Sir James Emerson Tennent, the "Marquis of Ely, Captain Archdall, and the Rev. Dr. Magee have been continued, and in "the neighbouring parts of the county of Tyrone, on the properties of the Marquis of "Abercorn, Captain Deane Mann, and Captain Perry M'Clintock; in Cavan, on the pro- "perties of the Marquis of Headfort, Sir John Young, Bart., the Rev. Mr. Waring, and the "Rev. Mr. Roberts; in Leitrim, on those of the Right Honourable John Wynne, Mr. "William Jones, Mr. Hugh O'Beirne, Mr. Hugh Lyons Montgomery, and the Rev. Mr. "Wilkins; also on Mr. Wynne's Sligo estate, and on a farm of Mr. Martin's, in the neigh- "bouring part of Roscommon.

"There have been but few applications for new loans, owing, I believe, to the opinion, "still very generally entertained by landowners through the west and north-west of "Ireland, that it is not worth their while to lay out money in drainage and improvement "of land in the occupation of tenants; and as the greater number of the resident gentry "in these counties have already improved the land in their own occupation, they do not "now often apply for further loans, except where large farms come into their own hands. "In such cases those who had loans many years ago readily avail themselves of the "facilities afforded by the Act, proving that they have been satisfied with the result.

"Mr. Brinkley, for instance, and Mr. Wynne, in Sligo; Mr. Montgomery, in Leitrim; "Lord Abercorn and Sir Hervey Bruce, in Tyrone; and Mr. Waring, in Cavan, were "amongst the earliest who had loans—fifteen or sixteen years ago—and have continued "till the present time.

"A succession of wet seasons has caused rushes to appear in grass lands that did not "show them before, and to return in places where they had been apparently banished by "thorough drainage and subsequent management of the ground; and the cold retentive "clays of Leitrim, Cavan, and Fermanagh, show so little present improvement under these "circumstances, that there would seem to be less inducement than formerly to expend "money on thorough drainage; nevertheless, so much has the wish for it spread of late "years, that all through the country small pieces of drainage are seen on farms where it "was never before thought of (executed from private resources, and generally on the "system which the farmers have seen carried out under the Board).

"The demand, also, for tiles in Fermanagh and Leitrim has been such that the supplies "were insufficient, and Lord Enniskillen and Mr. D'Arcy Irvine are increasing their tile- "works. If, therefore, notwithstanding these drawbacks, and of the extreme difficulty of "improving cold, retentive clays in wet seasons, the neglect of the owners who rarely "keep main outlets clear, the low prices for produce, and the general depression of "farmers, the demand for draining-tiles increases in the districts where most loans under "the Act have been expended, it is to be inferred that thorough drainage is better "understood than formerly, and the benefit of it more generally recognised; and the "specification now usually given by the Board for retentive clay land (viz., drains four "feet deep and thirty feet apart), is that most commonly followed by those who drain "with private funds after observing the work done by loan in their neighbourhood.

"The usual cost is now about five pounds per statute acre; and in my district there are "generally as many able-bodied men as any one chooses to employ, to go through the "severe labour of sinking drains by task-work, at prices that give them an average of a "shilling a-day, or to work by the day at a shilling (and frequently for ten pence a-day, "in Cavan and Leitrim).

"There have been but few applications for loans for building cottages, and some pro- "prietors object to the maximum amount allowed by the Board as too low to cover the "cost of such dwellings as they would like to erect, but this applies chiefly to those who "wish to build in the vicinity of their own residences, while proprietors generally omit "to build for ordinary labourers, because they cannot get rents that would return what "they consider a sufficient interest on the outlay.

"Mr. Wynne, of Hazelwood, built three substantial two-storied cottages outside his "demesne with the assistance of a loan from the Board, but they have cost about £100 "each, which is more than the amount allowed by the Board; and they are for labourers "that will probably be chiefly employed by himself, and not for the ordinary workpeople "of the country.

"Loans for building farm offices have not been often sought for latterly in my district, "owing to causes similar to those already alluded to—the general depression of the farming "interest, and the doubt most proprietors feel concerning the return to be obtained from "tenants for such outlay. The Marquis of Abercorn has finished a first-class modern

"steading on the Scotch plan, in the county of Tyrone, during the last year. It cost him more than the amount allowed by the Board, and is in all respects a first-rate set of offices. *Land Improvement.*

"He has by degrees consolidated a number of small holdings in the neighbourhood of Baron's Court, and established two large farms, with first-class offices, under Scotch managers (one on each side of the valley in which his demesne is situated); drained and reclaimed a considerable part of the land formerly uncultivated; and (having commenced about fifteen years ago) he has now obtained loans to the full extent allowed under the Acts. He expresses himself satisfied with the mode of working under the Board, and with the provisions of the Acts, except as to the restrictions in the amount of loans to one owner; for as regards estates so extensive as his, there is room to expend many times the amount now obtainable.

"No applications for loans to build flax scutching-mills have been made in my district, but Major John Irvine's agent, Mr. Atthill, informs me that he intends to apply for loans to build two in the county Fermanagh, as he is convinced of the necessity of promoting the cultivation of flax as a most profitable crop in a thickly populated country, and that the most important step is to provide scutch-mills. He has already taken great pains, as he informs me, to procure good seed for distribution among his tenants, and looks forward to their profiting largely by the crop. His agent, who has also watched the cultivation of flax among the farmers on the skirts of the county Tyrone for many years, states that only for the flax crop of last season they could not have paid their rent. He is of opinion that flax does not damage the land, because no grass is better than that grown after flax—the proper rotation being green crop manured, then followed by flax, and then grass; but I conceive that this is the result of the *special pulverization of the soil in flax cultivation, which, so far as grass is concerned, compensates for the exhausting nature of the crop.*

"As the subject of flax excites so much interest at the present time, and the utility of scutch-mills, for which the Board can issue loans, is so generally recognised, I may mention that the most experienced men I meet, where flax is grown in my district, inform me that the profit of flax varies more largely than perhaps that of any other crop; that from £25 to £30 profit per Irish acre is quite usual on suitable land, dry and friable, and more is often cleared; and that £12 per acre might be quoted as a low average profit (round Cootehill and Ballibay, for instance), even where land is cold, poor, and not free from weeds. The fact of the great variation in profit (depending on the season, the markets, and other circumstances) seems to give a special zest to farmers in cultivating this crop. I may here mention that flax grows well in all drained, friable soils, when well pulverized and clean (limestone land included); for the tenants of Colonel Leslie, of Glasslough, grow excellent flax, of superior quality, on his estate in a limestone district of the county Monaghan. But the flax must not be steeped in hard water; and, in fact, so much depends on the management of the flax after the crop is grown, that I attribute the superiority of the North to the long experience of the people in its manipulation, and not so much to the qualities of the soil; and I believe that it will succeed equally well in any other part of Ireland, when the people become familiar with the different manual operations required.

"I was told that in the vicinity of the town of Cootehill a shopkeeper sold last year a single acre of good flax ground for £8, and that the tenant sold the produce for £50; and it is calculated that after paying for seed, rent, and labour, and all deductions, he must have cleared £30 on the one Irish acre, equal to £18 10*s.* per statute acre, and even larger profits are not uncommon.

"Examples of this kind attract the attention of landholders, small and great, and so many people are employed in the management of flax crop, from the sowing to the scutching, that, in addition to the ordinary one of profit, it has become very popular among the working population. The competition for farms in these populous flax-growing districts is still very remarkable, notwithstanding the large emigration; and £10 per acre (Irish) is readily given for the 'tenant-right' of land held by yearly tenancy at a rent of thirty shillings per acre and upwards.

"Separate reports on each loan having been furnished during the progress of the work —the details of ordinary cases do not come into this general summary; but it is desirable to select those of special interest or variety that may afford information, and I will therefore conclude with an account of the improvement of Sir J. Emerson Tennent's estate (at Tempo, in the county Fermanagh), which is very remarkable and satisfactory to all concerned.

"This property formerly belonged to the Maguires, the Chiefs of that district, and the old dwelling-house was the original 'Castle Rack-rent' of Miss Edgeworth's well-known tale.

Land Improvement.

"The present owner found the house, plantations, fences, offices, and lands, all in the "most deplorable order; the house unfit to live in and past repair; the plantations ruined "from neglect; the fences broken down; so that the grazing (which is close to the town "of Tempo) was open to trespass on all sides, the fine meadow land of the demesne "spoiled by the periodical floods which had torn away the banks of a small river flowing "through the valley, and the margins of some small lakes turned into mere useless "swamps.

"In 1861 Sir Emerson Tennent informed me of his wish to improve the property, and "after examining the ground with his agent, Mr. Sankey, who is perfectly well qualified "for such business, and has an excellent superintendent, Mr. Cowan, long employed on "Sir Arthur Brooke's and other property in the country, we settled on the plans, and "I reported to the Board, recommending their sanction to Sir Emerson's application for "a loan of £2,500, of which only £1,172 has been as yet expended, and a complete "transformation has been effected, that strikes everyone in the neighbourhood with "surprise. With his private funds he built a handsome new house (designed by Mr. "Lanyon), planted largely, and repaired the farm offices; and, with the Land Improvement "Loan, straightened the river course, so as to make it secure against floods, and obtained "some very valuable meadow land; reduced the level of the lakes so as to gain a great "deal on the margins; and thorough drained what was formerly impracticable for want "of outlet; fenced the improved lands, so that they became available for letting as pasture "or tillage. And he has now let the whole at 40*s.* per Irish acre, thus realizing a return "never before obtained; while he has at the same time put a very beautiful place into "complete order for his occasional residence.

"The employment thus given has been of most important service to a large number of "labourers, who would otherwise have been without work and regular money wages. "About seventy men were there at one time last winter.

"Further improvements in farm roads, drainage, and fencing are now in progress, and "Sir Emerson Tennent intends to apply for a loan under the 'Labourers Dwelling Act' "to build some new cottages, which will add much to the condition of the property.

"I consider the whole case as one worthy of special notice and report, because it illus-"trates the utility of the Land Improvement Acts in facilitating so many different kinds "of improvement and work on one property, and supplementing an owner's private "resources, so as to enable him to improve land reproductively, at the same time that he is using his private funds for a dwelling-house and ornamental purposes."

Midland and Eastern District.

In this district there has been issued since 31st March, 1863, £20,515, in the following proportions :—

County of Longford. Mr. Henry M. Bond, Inspector of Drainage.

Cavan, £10; Monaghan, £400; Longford, £2,370; Louth, £720; Meath, £4,710; Westmeath, £490; Dublin, £570; Kildare, £695; King's, £330; Queen's, £3,550; Wicklow, £270; Carlow, £1,480; Kilkenny, £720; and Wexford, £4,200.

Mr. Henry M. Bond, Inspector of Drainage for the county of Longford, reports that "the works on the properties of Lady Fetherston and John L. O'Ferrall, Esq., for which "loans were obtained, under the above acts previous to 1863, are in a forward state, and "will be soon completed. They consist for the most part of main and thorough drainage. "Some of the main drains are very heavy undertakings in consequence of the necessity of "making deep cutting through solid rock; they are, however, being executed in a satis-"factory manner.

"New loans have been applied for and obtained by Mr. William Lewis, £200; Sir "Thomas Fetherston, Bart., £300; Captain Douglass, £1,000; Rev. Essex Edgeworth, "£700; Mr. Henry Dopping, £100; Hon. L. H. King Harman, £3,000; Mr. John "Thompson, £400; Mr. William Bond, £200; and Mr. Philip O'Reilly, for labourers' "dwellings, £200; which shows that at present there is greater anxiety for Land Improve-"ment in the county of Longford than has occurred for several years past.

"On some of the properties on which loans have been obtained in 1863, works are now "in progress, especially on those of the Hon. L. H. King Harman, the Rev. Essex Edge-"worth's, and Captain Douglass', where a great number of men are employed. Labourers "can be had in abundance in consequence of the diminution of tillage caused by the "failure of the cereal crops during the last three years.

"The thorough drainage in this county has been carried out by sinking the minor "drains to the depth of four feet, at distances varying from thirty to forty feet apart, and "in no instance has he heard of any complaint of an unsatisfactory result.

Western District.

Land Improvement.

In this district, comprehending the province of Connaught, with the county of Clare, the sum of £14,560 has been issued since 31st March, 1863, as follows :—

Sligo, £1,800; Leitrim, £2,610; Mayo, £250; Roscommon, £5,840; Galway, £3,700; and Clare, £360.

North-western Districts. Mr. Richard Irwin, Inspector of Drainage.

Mr. Richard Irwin, Inspector of Drainage for the counties of Roscommon and part of Sligo reports that, "numerous works of land improvement have in various parts of the "district been in steady and regular progress during the year; and it may be confidently "stated that in every instance the execution has been excellent, and that the advantages "afforded to the labourers and the small farmers (particularly the latter) were not exceeded "at any former period, not even during the first three or four years of the working of the "Land Improvement Acts.

"In every part of the district the works sanctioned by the Treasury and the Commis-"sioners are being carried out in the most satisfactory manner. In Roscommon, on the "estates of Mr. T. G. W. Sandford, Mr. H. S. Pakenham Mahon, Mr. Christopher French, "Mr. Patrick H. O'Connor, the Hon. and Very Rev. H. M. Browne, Mr. William Murphy, "Mr. John Murphy, Mr. Alonzo Lawler, Mr. Francis Armstrong, Mr. James Glancy, Mr. "Patrick Martin, Mr. Henry Sampy, &c., &c. In Sligo, on the properties of Colonel F. "A. Knox Gore, Mrs. Armstrong (Chaffpool), Colonel Fitzstephen French, M.P.; Mr. "Burton Irwin, Major R. Phibbs, Sir Malby Crofton, Bart.; Mr. Stephen Woulfe "Flanagan, Q.C.; Mr. Henry Brett, C.E.; Mr. Tottenham, M.P.; Very Rev. Hamilton "Townsend; Mr. John Brett, &c. In Mayo, on the estates of Colonel F. A. Knox Gore, "Captain W. F. Smith, &c.; and in Galway, on those of Mr. William Burke, and Mr. "John Lloyd Bagot, &c.

"The improvements in progress on the estates of the above-named proprietors consist "chiefly of thorough drainage, which is now preferred both by proprietors and land-"holders as being the most permanently useful and profitable investment. The material "still used is chiefly stone, which is abundant, or at least easily accessible in most parts of "the district; but the use of tiles is gradually making progress, and in five or six of the "above cases, tiles partly imported from Scotland, and partly supplied from Drumhearney, "or the Hall Tileworks, have been employed with advantage and satisfaction."

Mr. Irwin further states as regards the state of the labouring population that "they "are in a rather more satisfactory state than during the spring of 1863. The potato crop "was good and keeps well, and the oat crop more than an average in quantity and quality; "but the price for oats is so low that the returns are not sufficient, as is usually the case, "to pay the rent. This circumstance is, however, compensated for by a great abundance "of employment, paid in money, and, owing to the facility of transport by the railways, "the cost of Indian meal is very moderate. But if we look to the state of the small "farmers holding land varying from 50 to 100, and even 200 acres in extent, their "circumstances are if possible worse than last year—in most cases they possess very few "or no cattle; they were disposed of gradually for the purchase of Indian meal during the "three previous wet seasons; and, in consequence, they have no manure; and although "the oat land was sown the produce was small. Under these circumstances we need not "be surprised at the numbers who have determined to emigrate. In many cases they "have thrown up their farms not finding any parties, as heretofore, ready to give anything "for them, and at the same time to render themselves liable for the rent. This is a sad "picture, which can only be met by the gradual consolidation of farms."

Mr. Charles Cooper, Inspector of Drainage for the Eastern Division of the county of Galway, reports that "the operations under the Land Improvement Acts for the year "1863 in his district have been of a limited nature; he has made progressive inspections of "works under six loans, and prepared the plans and specifications of works under three "new ones.

"Of the works in progress he refers to them generally with satisfaction; but especially "so in the cases of Mr. Philip Reade, of the Woodparks, Mountshannon; Mr. John Comyn, "of Lisgul; and Mr. William C. B. Trotter, at Raheen. Of these gentlemen Mr. Reade "is entitled to the greatest credit, having brought into profitable cultivation a large tract "of mountain land which previously produced nothing but furze, heath, and rushes, not "worth more than 2*s.* 6*d.* per acre; it is now bearing crops of various kinds, and is well "worth 20*s.* per acre.

"In the cases of the loans made to Mr. Comyn and Mr. Trotter extensive works of main "drainage have been effected which have very much enhanced the value of their proper-"ties, and afforded remunerative employment when much required."

Land Improvement.

Mr. Samuel U. Roberts, Civil Engineer, Inspector of Drainage for the Western District of the county of Galway, reports that "the works under the Land Improvement Act for "the year 1863, have been of limited extent, the most important being that now in progress "on the property of Miss Fanny Grattan, in the enclosure of a marsh near Galway, which "has been subject to tidal flooding: considerable progress has been made with the work, "which is being executed in a very satisfactory manner.

"Mr. John J. Gunning, of Kilroe, has carried out some works of main drainage, reclamation, and fencing, which have been attended with a very profitable return.

"Mrs. Blake, of Dartfield, has also extended the drainage works on her property near "Loughrea, having found the very great benefit which resulted from the works previously "executed.

"Captain O'Hara, of Lenaboy, has executed some very excellent main drainage works "on his property near Oughterard, by means of which a considerable extent of land which "has hitherto been waste will now be brought into cultivation.

"Mr. Bagot has also made considerable progress with the execution of the works at "Ballyturin, near Gort.

"Farm offices are in progress of erection by Mr. J. D'Arcy, of Rocklawn, near Oranmore, "and by Mr. P. Blake, of Crumlin, near Athenry.

"All these works have been executed in a very satisfactory manner, and in every case "the benefit resulting from them has been most satisfactory.

"He attributes the limited extent to which improvement of land has been carried out "under the Act in this district during the past three years, altogether to the very great "depression resulting from the successive wet seasons which we have had, which has more "or less affected every landed proprietor in this district, and has had the effect of preventing any outlay on property which could be avoided, particularly during the change in "agricultural operations which emigration is at present effecting."

Southern District.

In this district the sum of £13,385 has been issued since the end of March, 1863, as follows:—

Limerick, £3,005; Tipperary, £2,340; Cork, £3,110; Waterford, £880; Kerry, £4,050.

County of Tipperary. Mr. John Cox. Inspector of Drainage.

Mr. John Cox, Inspector of Drainage for the county of Limerick, and neighbouring districts of the counties of Kerry and Tipperary, reports that "during the past year, "ending January, 1864, he has, in accordance with instructions, inspected and reported "on the progress of works of drainage, farm buildings, and labourers' dwellings, carried "out under fifteen separate loans, amounting in the aggregate to over £11,000, in this "and in parts of the adjoining counties; the respective proprietors being—viz., the Earl of "Dunraven, Lord Monteagle, Lord Massy, Right Honourable William Monsell, M.P.; "Venerable Archdeacon Goold, Honourable John Massy, Sir T. Bateson, Messrs. Charles "Conyers, J. W. Shelton, T. D'Arcy Evans, J. C. Delmege, Robert Ferguson, Richard "Daly, Charles Philip Roche, Edward Taylor Massy, Stephen E. Collis, Robert Maxwell, "Stephen Dickson Biggs, George Vandeleur, J. B. Hewson, John J. Sullivan, Reverend "Crosby Morgell, &c., and certified bills of measurement for completed works to the "amount of nearly £6,000. He has also, within the same period and district, prepared "preliminary plans, specifications, and estimates for ten new loans, aggregating in amount "over £10,000, for the following proprietors—viz., Right Honourable William Monsell, "M.P.; Messrs. Francis J. Greene, Elyston Eyre Evans, Thomas Sanders, R. R. Conyers "and E. A. Conyers, Edward Hodges Goggin, Henry O'Shea, P. T. Hartigan, D. C. "Harnett, &c.

"In addition to statements and information contained in previous reports there is "not much of interesting novelty to be noticed in the present communication.

"It is admitted on all hands that nothing can be more successful than the operations "carried on under the Land Improvement Acts, yet when one knows the amount of money "still available for like works, and the extent of land still remaining in an unprofitable "state, it appears to be surprising that it should be allowed to continue.

"He has pleasure in reiterating the expression of his previous testimony in favour of "most of the drainages which it has fallen to his lot to have examined or directed; the "deep or four feet system, at intervals of from thirty to forty feet, has, with few exceptions, "become the rule within his district; but he regrets to mention that there are many cases "of extreme neglect of the outfalls, or open mains, which induce a wish there was a "coercive power of remedying.

"Except those built by Archdeacon Goold, on his estate at Athea, there have been no "labourers' dwellings erected under the Act in this county, although, he regrets to add, "they are much needed in many parts of it." *Land Improvement.*

In concluding this Report on our Land Improvement operations during the year 1863, we think it desirable to append a copy of a correspondence caused by a communication received from Lord Naas, relative to the supposed superiority of broken stone, as compared with pipe-tiles, as a conduit for water in thorough-drainage, which correspondence affords some useful information to parties engaged in executing Land Improvement works.

LETTER from the RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD NAAS, M.P., addressed to SIR RICHARD GRIFFITH, BART., CHAIRMAN of the BOARD of PUBLIC WORKS, IRELAND.

"Palmerstown, Naas, December 4, 1863.

"MY DEAR SIR RICHARD,—Would you let me have a copy of the Report of the Inspector on the Stoppage of the Drains at Barrow Rath, when finished. I think that you ought to impress upon all persons who apply for loans, for Land Improvement, the immense superiority of broken stone over tile drainage. I can show stone drainage done twenty-five years ago, in (what is now known to be) an inferior manner, which are running as well as the day they were made; and the ground, which was a snipe bog, is still perfectly dry. I have, however, great doubts as to the advisability of stone and tile mixed, and do not think there is sufficient experience on that point to justify us in forming a decided opinion upon it. There are two requirements in your printed specifications for main drainage which, in my opinion, are of doubtful expediency, if not altogether wrong. The first is with regard to the submains. You desire that they should in all cases be *conduits*, four inches by six (I think). Now our experience is that the submain, made four or five inches deeper than the minor drain, and filled with broken stone to the level of the top of the stones in the minor, is an equally efficient drain, and is far less liable to decay, accident, or stoppage, than a small conduit.

"If the stones in a minor are ten inches deep, the stones in a submain ought to be fourteen, and this is sufficient for most ordinary submains.

"Of course, when a very great number of minors run into one submain, or when several submains converge, the conduit will be necessary, but you would be astonished to see the enormous quantity of water that a broken stone drain, properly made, will discharge with great rapidity.

"In the small sum I propose to apply for, I shall certainly suggest that the submains be broken stone, as I am convinced of their great superiority to every thing else yet discovered for draining land.

"Recollect the common-sense maxim, 'It is easier to stop a two-inch pipe than a fourteen-inch filter.' Your instruction, requiring that all drains should be open in a field before filling, is quite wrong; a drain is never so clean as the moment it is made.

"It is an *indispensable* requirement that the broken stones should be on the ground in position by the side of the future drain before a sod is turned. The submain should be opened first, then the minor at its highest extremity opened; the *moment* it is completed it should be filled, and the submain completed as far as where the next minor empties itself. I would not have a small drain open a single night if I could help it, as twelve hours frost in certain soils will spoil your drain for ever. The great thing is to have the sides of the drain clean; and every minute the drain is left open militates against this result.

"Excuse my sending you this damp sermon; but these details are really very important, and should be put prominently forward.

"I will call on Monday with my application, and would be glad to speak to any of your Inspectors on the subject.

"Ever yours truly,

"(Signed), "NAAS.

"I enclose you a part of Mr. Kennedy's letter."

Part of Mr. KENNEDY'S LETTER referred to.

"MY DEAR LORD NAAS,—Will you kindly obtain from Sir R. Griffith the report of the Inspector who was with me yesterday.

"He saw frogs wired out of a drain at a distance from the outfall of about 120 yards; the pipes at the mouth being closely grated, and the fall being nine inches.

"He also saw us get quantities of roots. I also pointed out to him the roots of grasses growing down through a stony, tenacious, limestone gravel, to the depth of over four feet, in a field in which there were no rushes or other aquarious plants.

"It is a most important matter for the Board of Public Works to investigate, and I am perfectly convinced that they ought at once to adopt a system of stones over pipes; the one acts as a safety valve to the other. I am now taking up an old drain at Newcastle, made with large, round stones, loosely thrown in, and under the level of ground only about two feet; the drain was made about fifty years since, and though partly stopped by clay, and frogs in thousands, it was still running fairly, and there was no sign of roots having got among the stones in the least.

"I therefore think roots will not get among stones."

LETTER from Mr. W. F. IRWIN, CHIEF INSPECTOR of LAND IMPROVEMENT.

"Office, Public Works, Dublin,
"December 14, 1863.

"SIR,—In accordance with instructions to that effect, I, on Wednesday, the 2nd instant, attended at Mr. Robert Kennedy's farm, on the townland of Coolmine, which lies south of the village of Rathcoole, at an average elevation of 500 feet above the level of the sea. It is a grass farm, with a northern aspect. The land falls to the north and east, and the subsoil is a deep clay, with a slight intermixture of gravel. A great

Land Improvement.

portion of this farm has been thorough-drained with tiles and collars, at depths varying from four to five feet. Mr. Kennedy met me, and pointed out some drains which were discharging freely, after which he led to a field where men were engaged clearing out drains, the discharge from which had been impeded by roots of grasses; though in no case, I believe, had actual stoppage taken place. The mode of operation was—Upon the line of minor drains, and at intervals of from fifteen to twenty yards, the drain was opened, and two or three tiles removed; then, at the downstream ope, a wire, something lighter than telegraph wire, with a small, flat loop on end, is passed up through the drain till it reaches the hole next above, and is then drawn back again. Mr. Kennedy informed me that the general result of this operation is, that immediately on the wire being withdrawn, water rushes out, carrying the small rootlets and silt with it, and leaving the drain quite clear. The operation costs about 1½*d.* per Irish perch. This result was not arrived at in my presence; for upon the wire being withdrawn, some rootlets certainly came away, and after two or three operations of the kind, more rootlets and four small frogs were brought out; still the drain required further clearing. The frogs were about 350 feet from the outlet, which had a drop of about eight inches into the open main drain, and was carefully wired. Mr. Kennedy attributes the growth of these roots in a great measure to frogs getting into the tiles, and stopping fine silt, which furnishes food for the rootlets, and in part by his having caused the soil immediately below the sod to be placed next the tiles, which is unusual and objectionable. As to the plan adopted for clearing out these drains, I do not consider it perfect; for though the small rootlets within the pipes be in a great measure removed, or even admit that they are all removed, the roots are still around and about the tiles, and will immediately send out other rootlets in pursuit of the water in the drains. Now, were the drains stopped by ochreous or ferruginous deposits, I believe the plan would be admirable; but where there are roots, I think nothing short of raising the tiles, and perfectly cleansing them, both inside and outside, and relaying them, and placing at least six inches of strong gravel or broken stones over, will be effectual. Since my examination of the above, I have examined eight other cases of tile drainage in different counties, and am glad to be able to report that all are free and working well. But in these cases the subsoils were different from Coolmine, being strong gravels, or yellow or stiff bluish clays. At same time, I made inquiry as to frogs getting into drains after being finished, and with a drop of, say, four inches, into the open drain, but no such occurrence took place in any instance. Where the open drain is on a level with the discharge, frogs frequently, in the tadpole state, are floated in, and afterwards grow, causing obstructions; and I have seen, in the process of tile laying, frogs attempting to pass up the tiles; and a careful tile-layer will never leave his drain without placing a flat stone or other matter in the face of the last laid tile, lest frogs or other vermin might enter the drain in his absence. When the drain is finished, they could be prevented entering, by having a cast-metal pipe of, say sixteen inches in length, set twelve inches in the masonry, and projecting, say four inches, beyond the masonry. This, with a drop of four inches at time of highest flood, into the open drain, and wired, would, I consider, perfectly prevent frogs or other animals from entering. As this may not be an inappropriate place to remark on the materials used in thorough-drainage, in respect to which I would observe, that the material used is in most cases decided by the relative cost; and, no doubt, this should have its weight; but it is not the most vital question, as the nature of the subsoil should always be considered, and which may be classified—

"1st.—Strong gravels and stiff clays, in which roots are not likely to strike deep. These may be drained with either clean broken stones or tiles.

"2nd.—Subsoils of an unsound or shifting or moory nature, where the continuity of the conduit is likely to be disarranged. In such a case I would use tiles and collars, and, where I could obtain them, small slates, or flags, if to be had in the locality, for soles.

"3rd.—Open subsoils, such as abound in county Donegal, in West Carberry, county Cork, and about Kiltiernan, county Dublin. In these cases, I would form a drain with three stones, something like an inverted V, having one of the stones as a sole; the open conduit to be from six to eight inches in height, and about eight inches of small stones placed over; or where the material is of slate or flag, I would place stones, four or five on edge, say eight to twelve inches in height, and above them, other slates or flags on the flat sides, from six to ten inches deep, taking care in all cases to have the top well levelled with small stones or bits of flags previous to returning the soil into the drains.

"4thly.—Subsoils such as Coolmine—deep clays, where roots penetrate deeply. In such cases I would use tiles, without collars, and six to eight inches of strong gravel or broken stones over them. Great care to be used in placing the stones over tiles, for fear of breakage; and in all cases where subsoils are firm, and where tiles are used, I would lay them without collars, as a more perfect joint can be made when the layer can see the joint than where it is covered by a collar. I would pin each joint with a small stone on either side, which would prevent the tile being displaced when the gravel or other material is cast over it. In firm subsoils there could not be any objection to box sewers, where well made and flagged, save the expense; but unless the material be suitable and the shore well built, I consider it a very objectionable drain.

"I am, Sir,

"Your obedient servant,

"W. F. Irwin, Chief Inspector,
"Land Improvement.

"Edward Hornsby, Esq."

Letter addressed to Messrs. William P. Prendergast, Joseph Fishbourne, and Richard Irwin, Land Improvement Inspectors.

"Office of Public Works, Dublin,
"2nd January, 1864.

"Dear Sir,—I am directed by the Chairman of the Board to send herewith two copies of a letter addressed to him by Lord Naas, with a portion of a letter from Mr. Robert Kennedy, and the report of the Board's Chief Inspector, on the subject of the drainage of land.

"The Chairman desires me to request that you will be good enough to favour him with any observations which may occur to you with regard to Lord Naas' views and suggestions, and also in reference to the general question relating to the material to be preferred as a conduit for the water in thorough-draining, without reference to the cost, as such considerations must weigh in many—nay, in most—cases.

"I am, dear Sir,

"Your obedient servant,

"(Signed), "E. Hornsby, Secretary."

Land Improvement.

LETTER from Mr. WILLIAM P. PRENDERGAST, INSPECTOR of LAND IMPROVEMENT.

Reporting on Tile-Drainage, as compared with Broken Stones.

"With reference to the questions of the Board in regard to the security of tile-drainage, and the instances of failure, owing to the tiles choking up with roots of trees or weeds, with frogs or with the red deposit of oxide of iron, and the comparative merits of stone drains, I have to report that, after having had opportunities of observing the practice of many of the most successful tillage-farmers in different parts of Scotland, England, and Ireland, for the last twenty years, and being well aware that there are instances of tile-drains failing in the manner stated, I am still of opinion that, as a general rule, pipe-tiles are the best material for drains. I say this without at all denying that broken stones form a very efficient and secure drain, when properly made, in clay lands; and that where stones are readily obtainable in the field, or near the drains, I would not object to their being used; but it is hardly practicable, in my opinion, for an owner or farmer to drain any large extent of ground rapidly and securely with stones, owing to the difficulty of obtaining such careful and continuous superintendence as is requisite to insure the filling-in of the drains with clean, even-sized stones, when the material is on the field; the cost and labour of quarrying, breaking, and carting, if there are no field stones available, besides the damage which the ground sustains, by poaching the surface with horse and cart traffic, whereby large spaces are, in fact, effectually puddled, as if done purposely to prevent percolation of water. (Those who have tried both are aware of the number of carts brought into and over a field, where the labourers are filling drains with stones, compared with the number required to draw tiles for the same extent of ground.) While, therefore, it is quite practicable, by special care, to drain a few acres of clay land per year well and securely with broken stones, it is hardly possible to take a large farm in hand, and drain it all as quickly as desirable. Stone drains sometimes foul and choke as well as tile-drains. Tiles should be placed in the drains, so that the ends join closely and firmly together (and the best drain is formed by pipe-tiles carefully and *evenly* joined in collars), and to insure this men must be *expressly taught, and employed exclusively* in laying the tiles, while others attend to the cutting and filling-in the clay. It is also known, to practical farmers, that in stone-draining careful men must be expressly taught to put in the stones clean and of even size, and be employed exclusively in putting them in, while others attend to the cutting and filling-in the clay; so that in either case the security of the work is risked when inferior men are in charge of it.

"If a tile be carelessly and unevenly laid, so as to allow one end to sink and the other to rise or tilt-up, an obstruction is caused to the quick, even flow of the water, and a deposit may be formed, which, if the fall is not rapid, may increase, and form an obstruction. In like manner one large stone or clod across the bottom of a broken stone drain will obstruct the passage of water, or a few yards of small stones mixed with half-puddled clay, thrown in on a wet day, while the overseer's eyes may be momentarily turned aside (with a few clean stones thrown over the top, before he looks round again), will spoil a large piece of work; and such things have been known to happen in Ireland.

"Reverting to the comparative merits and security of stone and tile drains, where both are equally well made, I would remark that we have ample experience and examples in the three countries to justify us in the use of tiles, wherever they are cheaper than stones. They have, moreover, some advantages over stones (supposing both are equally secure)—tiles discharge water more rapidly, and with less fall than stones.

"Mr. Kilbee, of Cavan, about fifteen years ago, drained one-half of a field with tiles, and the other half with stones, for the purpose of experiment. The quality of soil (a fair, gravelly clay) was uniform, and the fall was good and equal, and both works were well executed. He used to note the results regularly after heavy rains, both by watching the outlets and the condition of the soil, when turned up in tillage, and always found the tiled part dry several hours sooner than the stoned part, both portions being equally dry after a day; but the part of a day gained by the tiles he considered such an advantage that he preferred them as a material for filling drains, never doubting their permanence and security.

"It may be mentioned, in passing, that the greater the quantity of air introduced into the soil the better; therefore the greater the size and number of open spaces the better; consequently the larger the tiles the better (the limitation being, of course, the cost—but no tiles are now recommended of less than inch-and-half bore); and thus, were it not for the expense, a few inches of small field stones over the tiles, or a flagged pipe, with broken stones over it, would often be adopted. And I happened to be at the late Sir Richard Simeon's, twenty years ago, when he was draining thus, at a cost of about £7 per statute acre, which he stated was fully repaid by the increased value of the land.

"I was on the Dashwood estate, in Oxfordshire, last autumn, where about £12,000 have been already spent in tile-drainage, and the tenant-farmers continue to drain with tiles, and pay 6½ and 7 per cent. on the outlay of the Government and Land Improvement Company's Loans, which would hardly be the case if the work were not permanent.

"In Ireland there are many who have used tiles for above fifteen years, and found them safe, though there are many instances of failure from inferior work, or other causes, as above mentioned.

"Mr. Montgomery and Mr. O'Beirne, of the county Leitrim, are draining with tiles at this moment, and tell me they have tile drains made in 1846 and 1848 still sound and in good order.

"I will conclude, therefore, by remarking—that while it is desirable to make the working of the Land Improvement Act in Ireland as elastic as possible, and to facilitate the progress of every kind of permanent improvement, and therefore to admit of specifications for broken stone drains, flagged pipe drains, with or without small stones over them, stones or tiles with plank under them, in soft bogs, or any work that particular owners may wish for, provided only that it be sound, and that the estate is not charged with any unfair or unusual amount—I still conceive that the Board of Works, as a public office, is justified in recommending pipe tile-drainage by the general practice adopted in the best agricultural districts of England and Scotland, continued now after the experience of twenty years and more.

"WM. P. PRENDERGAST.

"*December*, 1863."

Land Improvement.

LETTER from Mr. JOSEPH FISHBOURNE, INSPECTOR of LAND IMPROVEMENT.

Reporting on Tile-Drainage, as compared with Broken Stones.

"Carlow, 4th January, 1864.

"DEAR SIR,—Referring to the letter from the Right Hon. Lord Naas, M.P., addressed to Sir R. Griffith, Bart., and also extracts from Mr. Robert Kennedy's letter, I have to remark that good thorough-drainage can be effected with pipes or broken stones. Much depends on the capability, care, and attention of the overseer, in the execution of such works with any material.

"I have inspected thorough-drainage with pipes, executed in 1817; and in every year since that date. In most lands pipes have continued to act well; but there are exceptions. In some subsoils there is a tendency to the growth of roots and other fibrous matter. This greatly impedes the discharge; and in some there is a deposit of oxide of iron, which completely stops the pipes in parts of a field, though the drains in others may be discharging freely, and often trees and bushes are allowed to remain too near drains, which entirely close them.

"I have observed like obstructions where broken stones have been used, especially where oxide of iron exists. In such cases it became necessary to open the drains, and leave them open for some time; and when re-made with pipes or stones, the drains worked well. Leaving drains open to the action of the atmosphere for some days is beneficial, in those cases. I have known instances where opening a drain across minors, so as to open each drain stopped by oxide of iron, and leaving this drain open for some days, has had a beneficial effect.

"I am of opinion that submains, such as I recommended, are good and safe—viz., a pipe-tile from 2½ inches to 6 inches in the ope. with broken stones over, varying in size in accordance with the quantity of water to be discharged, and the area of minor drainage for which it is to act.

"Where suitable stones can be procured for forming a conduit, at a cheaper rate than pipe-tiles, I would use them; in either I would place broken stones over the conduit. I much prefer this submain to one formed with broken stones only.

"Minors formed with pipes, and broken stones over, are the safest and most efficient, if the cost be disregarded; but the cost would, in most cases, be increased one-third.

"I have seen drains made with broken stones only, stopped by roots growing into them. Strong soils and subsoils, without oxide of iron, may be well drained either with pipes without collars or with broken stones.

"Where pipes with soles and collars are requisite to prevent silting or moving, I consider thin, narrow boards will be found the best soles. I have seen such extensively used in Ross-shire, N.B., with the best effect, in the minors and submains. These boards remain sound for many years, particularly in moory soils.

"Where the fall is good, and where boulders abound, I have seen thorough-drainage executed in soils much inclined to silting, both in minors and submains, by placing stones at bottom, so as to form a conduit, with broken stones over. Such drains have worked well for many years, and are likely to continue to do so, and they can be cheaply made.

"I believe that if minors be well cleaned before placing pipes in them, and care be taken to prevent frogs getting in until the submain is completed, with six to twelve inches of drop from the mouth of the submain to highest water in outfall, frogs will rarely, if ever, get into those drains. Overseers should be most careful to see that this is *always* attended to.

"Silting often takes place in consequence of the incline of bottoms of drains not being accurately carried out, in flat lands. This frequently occurs, where falls are not sufficient.

"Careful, active, intelligent overseers and good gangers will execute works which will rarely fail.

"I am, dear Sir,

"Your obedient servant,

"J. FISHBOURNE."

LETTER from Mr. RICHARD IRWIN, INSPECTOR of LAND IMPROVEMENT.

Reporting on Tile-Drainage, as compared with Broken Stones.

"Rathmile, Tulsk, 5th January, 1864.

"DEAR SIR,—I have been honoured with your letter of the 2nd, enclosing copies of a communication on the subject of Land Drainage, addressed to the Chairman by Lord Naas, together with extracts from a letter of Mr. Robert Kennedy, and from a practical and instructive report of the Board's Chief Inspector on the same subject.

"I shall commence by stating that my experience with respect to broken stone submains is directly opposed to that of Lord Naas. A well-made broken stone submain, with a moderate declivity, will, no doubt, discharge a large quantity of water; but if the effective discharge be compared with that of the ordinary submain duct, measuring six inches in height, and four inches wide, the superiority of the latter will be very perceptible. Broken stone filling retards the flow of water both in submains and in minor drains, but more particularly in the former, which, in the great majority of cases, have much less fall than the minor drains. On the day after a heavy fall of rain, I have seen a very carefully made broken stone submain quite incapable of discharging the water collected by a moderate number of minor drains (about twelve or fifteen), none exceeding 120 yards in length; while, if an open duct submain (as was actually directed in the specification approved by the Board) had been used, the current in the open duct would have sufficed to discharge the water as fast as it came in from the minor drains. On the contrary, through the broken stones the discharge was so comparatively slow that the conduit was full to the top, and the water, although very perceptibly running off, was yet pressing against the covering sod, and rose some inches when the latter was removed. The broken stone filling in the minor drains was literally full of water for a considerable distance, measured upwards from the submain, and the lower third of the field was quite as wet, if not wetter, than before a drain had been opened in it.

"With reference to Lord Naas' letter relating to submains, his Lordship states, 'he is *convinced of the great superiority of such drains*;' but my experience, of more than thirty years, has convinced me that a broken stone submain is incapable of carrying off with proper velocity the ordinary discharge from the average area of thorough-drainage falling into one submain. The best filling for a submain is, in my opinion, the ordinary

Land Improvement.

stone duct of 6 inches × 4 inches generally approved by the Board. The next best, applicable where slates or thin flagstones are easily had, is formed by placing four or five of such stones on edge, as described in the Chief Inspector's report of 14th December. It is scarcely necessary to add that a conduit of this description discharges water much more freely and more rapidly than the broken stone filling. Another excellent conductor of water is the *drain of three stones*, also referred to by the Chief Inspector; and for the satisfaction of those who attach much importance to broken stones, it may be added that a moderate quantity of small or broken stones is usually combined with the two latter conduits, by being placed over them, as a precaution against possible, but I think very improbable, contingencies. I have also seen an apparently good submain formed by the combination of pipes and broken stones; but as the minor drains were filled with broken stones in the usual manner, I should be apprehensive of silt getting from them into the submain pipes, after heavy rain-falls.

"Having expressed my dissent from his Lordship on the broken stone submain question, I beg to express my full and cordial concurrence on the propriety of having all stones required for draining purposes conveyed on the land before a single drain has been opened. This simple precaution, if properly insisted on, would prevent many losses and inconveniences, now of ordinary occurrence; and the important work of filling the drains would be executed in a neater and more perfect manner.

"With reference to Mr. R. Kennedy's observations on the importance of investigations into the question of the materials to be preferred in conduits intended for the discharge of water collected by thorough-drainage, it appears to me that much useful evidence might be obtained by collecting and comparing the notes and observations of practical men on a subject respecting which there appears to be considerable diversity of opinion. For my own part, I beg to say, with great deference to those who think differently, that my experience obliges me to prefer the open stone duct (or 'the old-fashioned box drain,' as it is often called) to all other conduits whatsoever, both for minor drains and for submains; the submains being constructed with an open duct as prescribed in the specifications generally approved by the Board, and the minor drains similarly; but having a small duct covered with a few inches of small stones usually gathered from the adjoining surface, broken stones being rarely used for the purpose. Some of the advantages of this mode of draining, as it appears to me, are the following:—1st. The water is more freely and more rapidly discharged from the land, and the drainage is thus more perfect. 2nd. There is a free current and circulation through the open ducts, conducing to effective drainage and increased fertility of the land. 3rd. The roots of trees and other plants, which appear to be attracted by pipes and tiles, rarely, if ever, enter stone drains, and (so far as I have been enabled to observe) never, under any circumstances, grow into an open stone duct. I beg further to state, that for several years past I have availed myself of every opportunity which occurred, of seeing and examining places where either minor or submain drains were reported or were supposed to have failed.

"The most common, as well as the most injurious, are those caused by the roots of trees and shrubs; and, so far as I have had opportunities of observing, every tile-drain placed within the influence of roots, particularly of aquatic trees, is usually stopped, even in the course of a single season.

"I have the honour to remain, dear Sir,

"Faithfully yours,

"Richard Irwin.

"E. Hornsby, Esq."

ARTERIAL DRAINAGE,

Arterial Drainage.

With Improvements of Navigation and Water-power, under the Acts 5 & 6 Vic., cap. 89; 8 & 9 Vic., cap. 69; 9 Vic., cap. 4; 10 & 11 Vic., cap. 79; 16 & 17 Vic., cap. 130; 18 & 19 Vic., cap. 110; 19 & 20 Vic., cap. 62; 20 & 21 Vic., cap. 23; and 21 & 22 Vic., cap. 41.

The Board's duties in connexion with the works of Arterial Drainage continued during the past, as in the previous year, to be confined to determining, on the application of proprietors, the amount of increased rent to be paid by tenants holding under leases in respect of the benefit derived by them from improvements in their holdings, resulting from the Drainage operations, and to giving information, assistance, and advice to the Trustees of Districts, on such points connected with their trusts as they might request, and which we have felt it within our province to give, all executive operations having, as stated in the previous year's report, been brought to a close.

No change has taken place in regard to the Board's responsibility in respect of the Clonakilty Slob-lands; and as regards the Shanagolden District, the final adjustment of the accounts in reference to the general expenditure under Arterial Drainage alone remains to be disposed of, the report having been made by the Special Inquiry Commissioners.

The whole expenditure charged against the different undertakings commenced under the Arterial Drainage Acts, including £70,201 for works chargeable to counties, amounted at the end of March, 1863, to £2,384,338; and the repayments in respect thereof amounted to £686,338.

The Act 26 & 27 Vic., cap. 88—"An Act to enable Landed Proprietors to construct Works for the Drainage and Improvement of Lands in Ireland," known as "The Drainage and Improvement of Lands Act (Ireland), 1863"—was passed on the 28th July, 1863, for the purpose of constituting Elective Drainage Districts, to be vested in Drainage Boards formed by the proprietors of the lands. During the remainder of the year numerous applications have been made to us for instructions as to the course of proceeding under the Act, and for permission to inspect plans and other documents relating to districts formerly surveyed and examined under the provisions of the previous Drainage Acts, but

Arterial Drainage.

in regard of which no steps were taken, owing to the suspension of all such works by order of your Lordships.

We have every reason to believe that several Districts, to be formed under the new Act, will shortly be brought under our consideration.

Harbours.

HARBOURS.

Kingstown Harbour.

During the past year the works of the Harbour, Piers, Breakwaters, and Jetties, and all buildings connected with them, have been maintained in an efficient state of repair.

A spur wall has been constructed near the head of the East Pier, to intercept the passage round to the Harbour mouth of large stones in storms, and seems likely to answer the purpose intended. The levelling of the surface of the West Pier, and the continuation of the parapet wall and paving of sea slopes have been greatly advanced, and nearly brought to completion. A new Boat Slip has been formed in front of the Coast Guard Station; and on the Steam Packet Jetty cast iron Bollards have been fixed to prevent the danger of accidents which the mooring of the Packets to the former ones gave rise to.

The following is a return of the Vessels that have used the Harbour during the last year—Mail and Passenger Steamers and Yacht Club Vessels excepted :—

	Number.	Tonnage.
To and from the port of Dublin, waiting wind or tide, sailing vessels,	536	114,407
To and from the port of Dublin, waiting wind or tide, steamers,	12	5,210
From English, Irish, Scotch, and Foreign ports, to Irish ports,	225	17,671
From English, Scotch, and Foreign ports, to English and Scotch ports,	214	20,420
From Irish ports to English, Scotch, and Foreign ports,	102	7,347
From English and Scotch ports, to Foreign ports,	82	14,815
For Orders,	11	2,764
To Kingstown,	477	58,454
Men of War and Cruisers,	14	—
Total,	1,673	241,088
In the previous year the numbers were,	1,626	241,535

Howth Harbour.

The works sanctioned by the Act 26 & 27 Vic., cap. 72, for deepening this harbour, which has for several years been gradually silting up, were commenced shortly after the passing of the Act, and considerable progress has been made with them. The road-surfaces of the piers and approaches, and the other works of the harbour, have been maintained in good repair. The sea-slopes of the piers have received no injury during the past year. —*See Appendix C.*

Dunmore East.

The works of this harbour have been all maintained in good order and repair, and no outlay beyond that for ordinary maintenance has been required.

Donaghadee.

The works have been confined to repairing a breach which had been made in the sea pavement of the southern pier, and the removal of two small accumulations of sand, and to the general maintenance of the works of the harbour, which have all been kept in good repair.—*See Appendix C.*

Inland Navigations.

INLAND NAVIGATIONS.

Shannon Navigation.

The works throughout this navigation have all been maintained in good order. Several new beacons and buoys have been placed to mark the Navigation Channel instead of those which were decayed or removed, and some small shoals between Lough Forbes and Roosky have been removed by dredging. With these exceptions no expense beyond the ordinary outlay for repairs has been incurred.—*See Appendix C.*

River Maigue Navigation.

Inland Navigation.

All the works have been maintained in a safe and satisfactory state of repair.—*See Appendix C.*

Tyrone Navigation—Coal Island Canal.

The expenditure upon this navigation has been confined during the past year to the ordinary works of maintenance, and nothing further is likely to be required during the coming year, the works being all in good order and repair.—*See Appendix C.*

Boyne Navigation.

The works of this navigation have been maintained in a satisfactory state of repair.—*See Appendix C.*

ORMEAU BRIDGE.

Ormeau Bridge.

This bridge over the River Lagan, connecting the counties of Antrim and Down, near Belfast, is a fine structure of four arches of forty-five feet span each, designed by Messrs. Lanyon and Smyth, the Surveyors of the counties named, and contracted for by Messrs. O'Connor & Co., at a sum of £15,006 6*s.*

It was commenced in January, 1861, has been completed in a most satisfactory manner, and has been open to the public since the early part of last year, 1863.

POST ROADS.

Post Roads.

Act 6 and 7 Wm. IV., cap. 116.

On the application of the Postmaster-General, under the 61st section of the above Act, repairs have been executed during the past year on post roads situated in the following counties:—

Cork.	Fermanagh.
Donegal.	Galway.
Down.	Mayo.

These repairs have been executed under the superintendence of the respective County Surveyors, at a cost of £412 1*s.* 3*d.*, repayable by Grand Jury Presentment at subsequent Assizes.

We have the honour to be
Your Lordships' obedient Servants,

(Signed), RICHARD GRIFFITH,
JOHN G. M'KERLIE,
WILLIAM R. LE FANU.

EDWARD HORNSBY, *Secretary.*

Office of Public Works, Dublin,
June 6th, 1864.

APPENDIX A.

LOANS AND GRANTS.

ACCOUNTS.

(A.)—Abstract of the Accounts of the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland, showing the Total of

Reference to Account.	Page.	Heads of Account.	Balances on 31st March, 1863. £ s. d.	Received. £ s. d.
A 1	30	Loans, Advances, and Repayments, viz.:—		
		Loans, 57 Geo. 3, c. 34,		
		„ 1 & 2 Wm IV., c. 33,		
		„ 6 & 7 Vic., c. 44,	2,840 18 6	277,281 8 6
		Arterial Drainage, &c.,		
		Labouchere Drainage,		
		Land Improvement,		
A 2	32	River Drainage Works, 5 & 6 Vic., c. 89, &c.,	—	81 0 0
A 3	32	Land Improvement Preliminaries, 10 Vic., c. 32,	268 17 2	1,599 19 9
A 4	34	Parliamentary Votes and Grants, viz.:—		
		1. Public Buildings, including National Education Buildings, Phœnix Park, Kingstown, Howth, and Donaghadee Harbours,		
		2. New Record Buildings,		
		3. Salaries and Incidents of Office, and Fisheries,		
		4. Convict Prisons,		
		5. Central Criminal Lunatic Asylum, Dundrum,		
		6. Royal Dublin Society,		
		7. Dunmore Harbour,	1,860 5 7	143,835 19 7
		8. Four Courts (Dublin) Extension,		
		9. Westmoreland Lock Hospital,		
		10. Illuminations—Prince of Wales's Marriage,		
		11. House of Industry Hospitals,		
		12. Convicts' Huts, Fort Carlisle,		
		13. Civil Contingencies,		
A 5	40	Miscellaneous Services. viz.:—		
		1. Maintenance of Post Roads,		
		2. Receivers' Accounts for Loans,		
		3. Inland Navigations:—Shannon,		
		„ Boyne,		
		„ Tyrone, &c.,		
		4. Metropolitan Police Buildings,		
		5. Wellington Testimonial, Phœnix Park,		
		6. Railway Arbitration Accounts,	4,856 8 1	33,277 5 7
		7. Piers and Harbours Act, 9 Vic., c. 3; and 10 & 11 Vic., c. 75,		
		8. Ormeau Bridge,		
		9. Maynooth College,		
		10. Phœnix Park Grazing Rents,		
		11. Sundry Drainage Deposit Accounts, per Act 26 & 27 Vic., c. 88,		
		12. Wexford Free Bridge,		
		13. Sundry Accounts,		
		Total,	9,826 9 4	456,075 13 5
A 6	44	Classified Abstract of Loans for Public Works, 1 & 2 Wm. IV., c. 33; and 6 & 7 Vic., c. 44,		
A 7	46	Statement of open Loan Accounts, 1 & 2 Wm. IV., c. 33; and 6 & 7 Vic., c. 44,		
A 8	46	Ditto, 57 Geo. III., c. 34,		

Office of Public Works, Dublin, 2nd May, 1864.

Sums intrusted to their Management for Collection or Disbursement for One Year, ended on 31st March, 1864.

Balances Overdrawn on 31st March, 1864.	Totals.	Overdrawn Balances from Accounts to 31st March, 1863.	Paid.	Balances on 31st March, 1864.	Totals.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
—	280,122 7 0	—	277,152 13 8	2,969 13 4	280,122 7 0
4,386 4 8	4,467 4 8	4,436 5 11	30 18 9	—	4,467 4 8
—	1,868 16 11	—	1,519 8 7	349 8 4	1,868 16 11
—	145,696 5 2	—	143,441 8 1	2,254 17 1	145,696 5 2
—	38,133 13 8	—	32,710 12 2	5,423 1 6	38,133 13 8
4,386 4 8	470,288 7 5	4,436 5 11	454,855 1 3	10,997 0 3	470,288 7 5

W. B. Soady, *Accountant.*

(A 1.)—An Account, showing the Receipts and Expenditure of the

PUBLIC LOANS.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To balance, 31st March, 1863,	—	—	2,840 18 6
Loans Advances.			
Public Works, 6 & 7 Vic., c. 44 :—			
Amount received from Commissioners of National Debt,	—	6,930 0 0	—
Land Improvement, 10 Vic., c. 32, &c.:—			
Amount issued from Consolidated Fund,	—	58,000 0 0	—
Total issued for Loans,	—	—	64,930 0 0
Loans Repayments.			
1. Public Works Loans :—			
Amounts received under the following Acts, viz. :—			
Loans, 57 Geo. III., c. 34,	10,337 17 10	—	—
Loans 1 & 2 Wm. IV., c. 33,	8,064 19 0	—	—
Loans 6 & 7 Vic., c. 44,	9,549 3 6	—	—
		27,952 0 4	—
2. Arterial Drainage and Navigation in connexion :—			
Amount received from Proprietors for Drainage Works,	56,697 12 10	—	—
Amount received from Counties on account of Navigation Works,	15,584 16 6	—	—
		72,282 9 4	—
3. Labouchere Drainage :—			
Amount received from Proprietors,	—	11,083 15 4	—
4. Land Improvement :—			
Amount received from Proprietors,	—	101,033 3 6	—
Total Repayments,	—	—	212,351 8 6
			280,122 7 0

Office of Public Works, Dublin, 2nd May, 1864.

COMMISSIONERS of PUBLIC WORKS in the Year ended 31st March, 1864.

ADVANCES AND REPAYMENTS.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
LOANS ADVANCES.			
Public Works, 6 & 7 Vic., c. 44 :—			
Amount advanced on Loans,	—	6,930 0 0	—
Land Improvement, 10 Vic., c. 32, &c. :—			
Paid to Proprietors on account of Loans,	—	58,830 0 0	—
Total paid to Borrowers,	—	—	65,760 0 0
LOANS REPAYMENTS.			
1. Public Works Loans :—			
Amounts transferred to H. M. Exchequer, viz. :—			
Loans, 57 Geo. III., c. 34,	10,337 17 10	—	—
Loans, 1 & 2 Wm. IV., c. 33,	8,064 19 0	—	—
Loans, 6 & 7 Vic., c. 44,	8,591 5 10	—	—
		26,994 2 8	—
2. Arterial Drainage and Navigation in connexion :—			
Amount transferred to H. M. Exchequer,	72,235 7 0		—
Overpayments refunded,	6 3 4		—
		72,241 10 4	
3. Labouchere Drainage :—			
Amount transferred to H. M. Exchequer,	—	11,083 15 4	—
4. Land Improvement :—			
Amount transferred to H. M. Exchequer,	—	101,073 5 4	—
			211,392 13 8
Balance to next Account,	—	—	2,969 13 4
			280,122 7 0

W. B. SOADY, *Accountant.*

AN ACCOUNT showing the RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE of the COMMISSIONERS

(A 2.)—RIVER

No. of Final Notice.	NAME OF DISTRICT.	Other Receipts.	TOTAL.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
	RECEIPTS.		
	WORKS ACCOUNT.		
27	Brusna,	—	
47	Clonakilty,	—	
183	Loughs Corrib,	70 0 0	
68	Lough Corrib, &c.,	11 0 0	
	Total Receipts,		81 0 0
	Balance to next Account,	—	4,386 4 8
			4,467 4 8

Office of Public Works, Dublin, 2nd May, 1864.

(A 3.)—LAND IMPROVEMENT

RECEIPTS.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Balance from last Account,	—	268 17 2
Amount received from Treasury by way of Loan,	700 0 0	—
„ received from Proprietors in repayment of preliminary expenses,	899 19 9	—
		1,599 19 9
		£1,868 16 11

Office of Public Works, Dublin, 2nd May, 1864.

of Public Works, in the Year ended 31st March, 1864—*continued*.

DRAINAGE.

No. of Final Notice.	NAME OF DISTRICT.	Expenditure on Works. £ s. d.	TOTAL. £ s. d.
	EXPENDITURE.		
	Balance from 31st March, 1863,	—	4,436 5 11
	Works Account.		
27	Brusna,	12 10 9	
47	Clonakilty,	17 1 9	
183	Loughs Corrib, &c.,	—	
68	Lough Neagh,	1 6 3	
	Total Expenditure,		30 18 9
			4,467 4 8

W. B. Soady, *Accountant*.

PRELIMINARIES.

EXPENDITURE.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Amount paid to Exchequer in Repayment of Advances,	855 1 4	—
„ paid for preliminary investigations, Advertising, Scrivenery, &c.,	664 7 3	—
		1,519 8 7
Balance carried to next Account,	—	349 8 4
		£1,868 16 11

W. B. Soady, *Accountant*.

AN ACCOUNT showing the RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE of the COMMISSIONERS

(A 4.)—PARLIAMENTARY

RECEIPT.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance brought from last Account,	—			—			1,860	5	7
1. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, &c. :—									
Issued from H. M. Exchequer on account of Votes,	—			101,601	0	0			
Sundry Receipts, Rents, Sale of Old Stores, &c.,	—			253	8	10			
Contributions in aid of National Schools,	—			17	6	8			
Carried forward,	—			101,871	15	6	1,860	5	7

of Public Works, in the Year ended 31st March, 1864—*continued.*

VOTES AND GRANTS.

EXPENDITURE.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1. Public Buildings, &c.:—			
Dublin Castle—General Repairs and Alterations to State Apartments, Public Offices, &c.,	—	6,893 15 10	
Royal Irish Academy—Repairs, Alterations, &c.,	—	251 14 5	
Charitable Bequests Office, ditto,	—	92 9 4	
Commissariat Office, ditto,	—	87 3 9	
Stationery Office, ditto,	—	46 0 8	
Agricultural Statistics Office, ditto,	—	140 16 8	
Census Office, ditto,	—	243 2 8	
Income-Tax Office, ditto,	—	8 14 11	
Inspector-General of Militia Office, ditto,	—	15 0 4	
Late Inland Navigation Office—Rent,	—	115 11 6	
King's Inns—Repairs and Alterations to several Offices, &c.,	—	252 2 8	
Four Courts—Repairs, Alterations, &c., to several Courts, Chambers, and Offices,	—	3,316 19 8	
Four Courts' Marshalsea—Additions, Repairs, Alterations, &c.,	—	259 10 9	
Custom House, Dublin—General Repairs and Alterations to several Public Offices, &c.,	—	2,061 10 7	
Custom House, Cork, ditto, ditto,	—	758 4 1	
Custom House, Limerick, ditto, ditto,	—	770 16 3	
Custom House, Belfast, ditto, ditto,	—	619 6 9	
Dock Stores and North Wall Bridges, Dublin—Repairs, &c.,	—	423 3 9	
Customs' Buildings throughout Ireland—Additions, Repairs, and Alterations,	—	559 4 6	
Irishtown Church, ditto, ditto,	—	252 18 11	
Phœnix Park Residences, &c.—General Repairs, Furniture, Additions and Alterations to Viceregal and other Lodges, &c.,	—	6,419 14 4	
Royal Hospital, Kilmainham—Additions, Repairs, Alterations, &c.,	—	3,408 17 9	
Royal Hibernian Military School:—			
Repairs and Alterations,	3,235 3 6		
Sundry Enlargements of, and Additions to, Existing Buildings,	2,739 10 7		
		5,974 14 1	
The Queen's College, Cork:—			
Additions, Repairs, Alterations, &c., £1,973 8 7			
Rebuilding Portion Burnt down, Restoring Furniture, &c., 3,818 0 3			
	5,791 8 10		
The Queen's College, Belfast—Additions, Repairs, Alterations, &c.,	1,259 4 9		
The Queen's College, Galway, ditto,	1,130 1 1		
		8,180 14 8	
Inland Revenue Buildings—Repairs, &c.,	—	482 3 3	
Coast Guard Stations:—			
Maintenance of Existing Stations,	1,967 14 11		
Law Expenses, Costs of Leases to the Admiralty, &c.,	101 0 8		
New Buildings:—			
Achill Island—Bullsmouth, £809 4 3			
Darbyspoint, 1,623 8 0			
Keele, 1,835 9 8			
£4,268 1 11			
Ballyhalbert, 425 2 0			
Cappagh, 1,643 2 0			
Carrickfergus, 1,924 9 9			
Crosshaven, 2,200 14 8			
Dalkey, 1,154 9 10			
Howth, 742 18 9			
Lacken, 272 13 6			
Lough Shinny, 361 9 3			
Rochespoint, 1,366 1 5			
Roscarberry, 203 18 9			
Ross, 8 12 0			
Sutton, 561 0 1			
Tarbert, 277 9 6			
	15,410 3 5		
		17,478 19 0	
Carried forward,		59,113 11 1	

AN ACCOUNT showing the RECEIPT and EXPENDITURE of the COMMISSIONERS

(A 4.)—PARLIAMENTARY

RECEIPT—*continued.*	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward,	—			—			1,860	5	7
1. PUBLIC BUILDINGS—*continued*,	—			101,871	15	6			
Howth Harbour:									
Rents,	97	19	7						
				97	19	7			
Donaghadee Harbour:									
Rents, &c.,	7	2	0						
				7	2	0			
Carried forward,				101,976	17	1	1,860	5	7

of Public Works, in the Year ended 31st March, 1864—*continued.*

VOTES AND GRANTS—*continued.*

EXPENDITURE—*continued.*	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brought forward,	—	59,113 11 1	
1. Public Buildings, &c.—*continued.*			
General Post Office, Dublin—Additions, Repairs, Alterations, &c.,	960 13 11		
Post Office, Cork, Ditto,	38 1 8		
		998 15 7	
National Education Buildings, &c. :—			
Repairs and Works at the Offices, Schools, Lecture-rooms, and Training Departments in Dublin,	3,539 8 10		
Repairs and Alterations to Model Agricultural Schools, including Albert Model Farm,	1,260 11 2		
Repairs to District Model Schools,	1,487 5 2		
Additions and Alterations to ditto,	1,759 1 9		
Repairs and Maintenance of Minor Model Schools,	249 19 9		
Additions and Alterations to ditto,	1,657 9 1		
Repairs to Ordinary Literary Schools,	1,670 10 9		
Grants towards Building, Improving, Re-furnishing, and Enclosing Sites of Ordinary Literary Schools,	3,544 19 3		
Building New Model Schools :—Cork, £1,535 1 11			
Ditto, ditto, Sligo, 1,988 17 6			
	3,523 19 5		
		18,693 5 2	
Constabulary Depôt Barracks, Phœnix Park :—			
Repairs and Alterations, £1,409 9 7			
Additions, 4,788 8 8			
	6,197 18 3		
Constabulary Barracks throughout Ireland—Additions, Repairs, and Alterations,	307 4 10		
		6,505 3 1	
District Probate Registry Offices :—			
Additions, Alterations, and Repairs,	460 0 4		
Building New Offices—Cork, £750 17 9			
Limerick, 444 13 3			
	1,195 11 0		
		1,655 11 4	
Special Commissioners of Fisheries—Office, Furniture, Fitments, &c.,	—	241 11 11	
Store and Yard, City-quay—Rent,	—	7 7 8	
Phœnix Park—Maintenance, &c. :—			
Labour and Materials, Alterations and Repairs to Gate Lodges, Cultivation of Deer Farm, &c., &c., £3,228 11 4			
Salaries of Bailiff, Deerkeeper, Gatekeepers, Constables, &c., 947 8 8			
Allowance in lieu of free Grazing, 100 0 0			
Contingencies, including Gaslight, and attendance of Police, 399 1 6			
	4,675 1 6		
Improvements—Drainage Works, New Roads, &c.,	3,059 12 6		
		7,734 14 0	
Contingencies, Salaries of Overseers, Maintenance of Clocks, Chimney Cleaning, &c.,	—	813 2 5	
Coals and Firewood supplied to sundry Public Departments,	—	3,982 13 1	
Tyrone Navigation, issued to meet Cost of Special Works,	—	400 0 0	
Maigue Navigation, ditto, ditto,	—	70 0 0	
Howth Harbour:			
Labour, Materials, &c.,	220 11 5		
Salaries of Harbour Master and Assistant,	27 10 0		
Incidents,	4 19 10		
		253 1 3	
Donaghadee Harbour:			
Labour, Materials, &c.,	96 7 7		
Salary of Harbour Master,	19 4 5		
		115 12 0	
Carried forward,		100,584 8 7	

AN ACCOUNT showing the RECEIPT and EXPENDITURE of the COMMISSIONERS

(A 4.)—PARLIAMENTARY

RECEIPT—*continued.*	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brought forward,	—	101,976 17 1	1,860 5 7
1. KINGSTOWN HARBOUR:—			
Harbour Dues,	2,442 8 5		
Rents,	232 2 5		
Proceeds of Sales,	49 10 0		
		2,724 0 10	
			104,700 17 11
2. NEW RECORD BUILDINGS:—			
Issued from H. M. Exchequer on account of Vote,	—	8,300 0 0	
			8,300 0 0
3. SALARIES AND INCIDENTS OF OFFICE:—			
Issued from H. M. Exchequer on account of Vote,	—	23,586 0 0	
Law Costs recovered,	—	160 1 11	
Registration Fees,	—	3 12 10	
Sundry Receipts,	—	27 9 5	
			23,777 4 2
4. CONVICT PRISONS:—			
Issued from H. M. Exchequer on account of Vote,	—	1,909 0 0	
			1,909 0 0
5. CENTRAL CRIMINAL LUNATIC ASYLUM:—			
Issued from H. M. Exchequer on account of Vote,	—	3,000 0 0	
			3,000 0 0
6. ROYAL DUBLIN SOCIETY:—			
Issued from H. M. Exchequer,	—	645 0 0	
			645 0 0
7. DUNMORE HARBOUR:—			
Rents,	—	26 8 5	
Dues,	—	7 8 0	
			33 16 5
8. FOUR COURTS (DUBLIN) EXTENSION:—		Nil.	
9. WESTMORELAND LOCK HOSPITAL:—		Nil.	
10. ILLUMINATIONS ON THE OCCASION OF THE MARRIAGE OF H. R. H. THE PRINCE OF WALES:—			
Issued from H. M. Exchequer,	—	1,146 11 4	
Amount returned,	—	12 0 0	
			1,158 11 4
11. HOUSE OF INDUSTRY HOSPITALS:—			
Received from the Governors,	—	5 15 4	
			5 15 4
12. CONVICT HUTS, FORT CARLISLE, CORK:—		Nil.	
13. CIVIL CONTINGENCIES:—			
Transfer to "Public Buildings'" Account,	—	—	305 14 5
	—	—	145,696 5 2

Office of Public Works, Dublin, 2nd May, 1864.

of Public Works, in the Year ended 31st March, 1864—*continued.*

VOTES AND GRANTS—*continued.*

EXPENDITURE—*continued.*	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brought forward,	—	100,584 8 7	
1. Kingstown Harbour:—			
Ballast supplied, Contract,	372 2 0		
Maintenance, Repairs, &c., &c.,	2,481 7 10		
Mooring Posts, Buoys, Tramway Plates, &c.,	354 8 10		
Salaries of Harbour Master, Superintendent, &c.,	354 17 5		
Boatmen, Watchmen, &c.,	628 18 5		
Incidents and Contingencies, including Gaslight,	156 17 11		
Rent and Taxes,	25 16 10		
		4,374 9 3	
2. New Record Buildings:—			104,958 17 10
Works under Contract,	—	7,020 0 0	
Salary of Clerk of Works,	—	69 13 0	
Incidents,	—	9 14 6	
			7,099 7 6
3. Salaries and Incidents of Office:—			
Salaries of the Board and Establishment,	20,728 11 1		
Law expenses,	139 2 5		
Travelling expenses,	1,281 14 7		
Progress Inspections,	769 0 6		
Incidents, &c.,	418 17 8		
Shannon Floods Inquiry,	61 10 0		
		23,398 16 3	
Salaries and Incidents of Fisheries:—			
Salary of Inspecting Commissioner,	600 0 0		
Travelling expenses,	345 0 2		
Incidents,	158 19 2		
		1,103 19 4	
			24,502 15 7
4. Convict Prisons:—			
Mountjoy (Male)—Repairs, Alterations, &c.,	—	756 5 7	
Mountjoy (Female), ditto,	—	900 4 3	
Smithfield, ditto,	—	163 2 5	
Lusk, Rent,	—	3 6 10	
			1,822 19 1
5. Central Criminal Lunatic Asylum:—			
Alterations, Repairs, Rent, &c.,	—	798 14 11	
Additions—Works under Contract,	1,690 0 0		
Salary of Clerk of Works,	76 6 0		
		1,766 6 0	
			2,565 0 11
6. Royal Dublin Society:—			
Alterations and Repairs to Buildings in Kildare-street,	—	385 11 6	
Ditto, Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin,	—	274 16 11	
			660 8 5
7. Dunmore Harbour:—			
Additions to Harbour Master's House,	—	146 17 3	
Repairs to Roadway, &c.,	—	8 9 11	
Incidents,	—	3 14 10	
			159 2 0
8. Four Courts (Dublin) Extension:—			
Transferred to H. M. Exchequer,	—	—	367 7 2
9. Westmoreland Lock Hospital:—			
Transferred to H. M. Exchequer,	—	—	77 14 0
10. Illuminations on the Occasion of the Marriage of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales:—			
Amount expended in Illuminating Public Buildings,	—	—	1,158 11 4
11. House of Industry Hospitals:—			
Renewal Fine and Law Expenses on Execution of Lease of Richmond Hospital,	—	—	60 19 11
12. Convict Huts, Fort Carlisle, Cork:—			
Expenses incurred by Clerk of Works,	—	—	8 4 4
13. Civil Contingencies:—			
		Nil.	
Balance,	—	—	2,254 17 1
	—	—	145,696 5 2

W. B. Soady, *Accountant.*

AN ACCOUNT showing the RECEIPT and EXPENDITURE of the COMMISSIONERS

(A 5.)—MISCELLANEOUS

RECEIPT.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To balance brought from last Account,	—	—	4,856 8 1
1. MAINTENANCE OF POST ROADS, &c. :—			
Amount received from the following Counties, viz. :—			
Cork,	41 8 0		
Donegal,	181 7 6		
Down,	39 0 0		
Fermanagh,	55 2 6		
Leitrim,	31 19 9		
Waterford,	42 17 0		
Roscommon,	220 0 0		
Mayo,	120 0 0		
		731 14 9	
Total Receipts, "Post Roads,"	—	—	731 14 9
2. RECEIVER'S ACCOUNTS FOR LOANS :—			
Galway Harbour :			
Tolls,	2,465 14 2		
Rents,	7 10 0		
		2,473 4 2	
Limerick Harbour :			
Tolls,	9,920 2 10		
Rents,	192 8 6		
		10,112 11 4	
Total Receipts, "Loans Receiver,"	—	—	12,585 15 6
3. INLAND NAVIGATIONS :—			
Shannon Navigation :			
Rents of Mills, Lands, Weirs, &c.,	1,160 18 9		
Tolls, Wharfage, &c.,	1,480 12 4		
Sale of Materials,	41 10 10		
Temporary Loan from Boyne Navigation,	532 0 0		
		3,215 1 11	
Boyne Navigation :			
Tolls, &c.,	451 7 10		
Rents,	0 10 0		
		451 17 10	
Tyrone Navigation :			
Tolls,	282 12 1		
Rents,	50 0 3		
Amount voted for special Works, transferred from Public Buildings' Vote,	400 0 0		
		732 12 4	
Maigue Navigation :			
Tolls,	22 2 9		
Amount voted for special Works, transferred from Public Buildings' Vote,	70 0 0		
		92 2 9	
Total Receipts, "Inland Navigations,"			4,491 14 10
Carried forward,	—	—	22,665 13 2

of Public Works, in the Year ended 31st March, 1864—*continued.*

SERVICES.

EXPENDITURE.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1. Maintenance of Post Roads, &c. :—			
H. M. Exchequer, for amount repaid by Counties, and transferred,	—	652 3 9	
County Cork,	16 12 8		
„ Donegal,	56 10 0		
„ Down,	39 0 0		
„ Fermanagh,	130 0 0		
„ Mayo,	120 0 0		
„ Galway,	49 18 7		
		412 1 3	
Total Expenditure, "Post Roads,"	—	—	1,064 5 0
2. Receiver's Accounts for Loans :—			
Galway Harbour :			
Labour and Materials,	355 14 6		
Salaries and Incidental Charges,	754 8 5		
Cost of laying down Moorings,	953 1 5		
Transfer to H. M. Exchequer Account—Interest,	200 0 0		
		2,263 4 4	
Limerick Harbour:			
Labour and Materials,	791 13 5		
Salaries and Incidental Charges,	1,591 12 4		
Costs incurred in Fishery Inquiry,	250 0 0		
Sir Thomas Deane, for Interest,	188 19 4		
Transfer to H. M. Exchequer Account—Interest,	7,300 0 0		
		10,122 5 1	
Total Expenditure, "Loans Receiver,"	—	—	12,385 9 5
3. Inland Navigations:—			
Shannon Navigation:			
Maintenance,	1,642 3 9		
Salaries of Superintendents, Collectors, Lock-keepers, &c.,	1,226 9 2		
Incidental Charges,	136 16 2		
Tolls refunded,	0 13 8		
		3,006 2 9	
Boyne Navigation :			
Salaries, &c.,	174 1 8		
Labour, &c.,	95 5 11		
Transfer of part of Surplus, balance to Shannon Navigation,	532 0 0		
		801 7 7	
Tyrone Navigation :			
Salaries, &c.,	182 0 4		
Labour, Materials, &c.,	332 8 6		
		514 8 10	
Maigue Navigation:			
Labour and Materials,	11 19 9		
Salary of Collectors, &c.,	33 13 2		
		45 12 11	
Total Expenditure, "Inland Navigations,"	—	—	4,367 12 1
Carried forward,	—	—	17,817 6 6

AN ACCOUNT showing the RECEIPT and EXPENDITURE of the COMMISSIONERS

(A 5.)—MISCELLANEOUS

RECEIPT.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brought forward, . .	—	—	22,665 13 2
4. METROPOLITAN POLICE BUILDINGS:—			
Repayments by Police Commissioners, . . .	3,779 13 9	—	
Relodgement, ...	10 0 0	—	
Transfer from Convict Prisons, erroneously charged, .	2 14 0	—	
			3,792 7 9
5. WELLINGTON TESTIMONIAL, PHŒNIX PARK, . .	—	—	Nil.
6. RAILWAY ARBITRATION ACCOUNTS:—			
Amount received from Railway Companies, to meet expenses of Arbitration, per Act 14 & 15 Vic., c. 70, .	—	—	1,002 16 7
7. PIERS AND HARBOURS ACT, 9 Vic., c. 3; and 10 and 11 Vic., c. 75:			
Issued from H. M. Exchequer, ...	—	—	500 0 0
8. BRIDGE OVER THE LAGAN AT ORMEAU:—			
Received from Treasurer of County Antrim, . .	—	210 0 0	
Ditto, County Down, . . .	—	210 0 0	
			420 0 0
9. MAYNOOTH COLLEGE:—			
Issue on Account of Loan, ...	—	—	5,500 0 0
10. PHŒNIX PARK:—			
Amount received for Grazing Rents, &c., . . .	—	—	1,035 13 10
11. SUNDRY DRAINAGE DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS, per Act 26 & 27 Vic., c. 88:			
Received on account of Parliamentary expenses, viz.:—			
Athboy District, ...	—	50 0 0	
Ballinacarrig District, ...	—	50 0 0	
Thurles District, ...	—	50 0 0	
Six-mile-bridge District, ...	—	100 0 0	
Kilinatulla District, ...	—	50 0 0	
Rathdowney District, ...	—	30 0 0	
			330 0 0
12. WEXFORD FREE BRIDGE:—			
Amount received from Trustees for removing Old Bridge, .	—	—	1,500 0 0
13. SUNDRY ACCOUNTS:—			
Dividends received on Stock, ...	—	87 0 0	
Going's Fish Weir—For transfer to Salaries of Office of amount erroneously charged, ...	—	14 0 0	
Lax Weir at Limerick—Received on account of Alterations,	—	35 7 4	
House of Industry Hospitals—Amount received from Trustees of Carmichael School of Medicine for Purchase of Land,	—	1,200 0 0	
Receipts in suspense, ...	—	50 15 0	
"Total Receipts," "Sundry Accounts," . .	—		1,387 2 4
			£38,133 13 8

Office of Public Works, Dublin, 2nd May, 1864.

of Public Works, in the Year ended 31st March, 1864—*continued.*

SERVICES—*continued.*

EXPENDITURE.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brought forward, . .	—	—	17,817 6 6
4. Metropolitan Police Buildings :—			
Amount expended on New Buildings, Repairs, Maintenance, &c., ...	—	—	4,017 13 11
5. Wellington Testimonial, Phœnix Park :—			
Unexpended Balance transferred to H. M. Exchequer, .	—	—	492 15 4
6. Railway Arbitration Accounts :—			
Sundry Railway Companies, for Amount paid to Valuators, &c., per Act 14 & 15 Vic., c. 70, . .	—	1,060 19 6	
Amount Refunded to Companies, . . .	—	124 17 1	
			1,185 16 7
7. Piers and Harbours Act, 9 Vic., c. 3 ; and 10 and 11 Vic., c. 75 :			
Clare Island Pier, ...	—	150 0 0	
Howth Harbour Improvements, ...	—	967 4 2	
Slip at Mungerrena Cove, ...	—	60 0 0	
			1,177 4 2
8. Bridge over the Lagan at Ormeau :—			
Salary to Clerk of Works, ...	—	19 0 5	
Contractors, ...	—	1,123 8 10	
Architects' Fees, ...	—	149 19 11	
			1,292 9 2
9. Maynooth College :—			
Salary to Clerk of Works, ...	—	130 9 6	
Contractors, &c., ...	—	5,303 8 6	
			5,433 18 0
10. Phœnix Park :—			
Transferred to H. M. Exchequer, . . .	—	837 19 8	
Paid Rent, Tithe-Rentcharge, &c., . . .	—	209 2 10	
			1,047 2 6
11. Sundry Drainage Deposit Accounts, per 26 and 27 Vic., c. 88,	—	—	Nil.
12. Wexford Free Bridge.	—	—	—
13. Sundry Accounts :—			
County Antrim—Costs of Inspection, &c., . .	—	3 19 9	
Dividends on Stock paid to sundry Parties, . .	—	87 0 0	
Fishery Surveys, &c., per 11 and 12 Vic., c. 92 :—			
Cost of Survey, ...	—	10 3 11	
Going's Fish Weir—Amount refunded to Suir Preservation Society, ...	—	45 0 0	
Sargint's Fish Weir—Amount refunded to Suir Preservation Society, ...	—	14 0 0	
Lax Weir at Limerick—Paid for Labour, &c., . .	—	34 16 2	
Amount refunded, . . .	—	0 11 2	
Receipts in suspense, ...	—	50 15 0	
Total Payments, "Sundry Accounts," . .			246 6 0
	—	—	32,710 12 2
Balance, carried to next account, . . .			5,423 1 6
			£38,133 13 8

W. B. Soady, *Accountant.*

(A 6.)—Abstract of Loans made by the Commissioners of Public Works, under the Provisions of Act 1 & 2 Wm. IV., cap. 33, and subsequent Acts, classified under Counties and other general heads, and showing the Total Issues and Repayments to the 31st March, 1864.

COUNTY, &c.	PURPOSE OF LOAN.	Total issued.	REPAYMENTS.		Remitted.	Balance of Principal, 31st March, 1864.
			Principal.	Interest.		
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Antrim County,	For making and improving roads, court-houses, &c.	157,782 18 8	154,586 9 4	18,802 5 11	—	3,196 9 4
Armagh County,	Ditto,	2,507 10 9	2,507 10 9	564 19 10	—	—
Carlow County,	Ditto,	5,650 0 0	5,650 0 0	592 5 6	—	—
Carrickfergus, (County of the Town,)	Ditto,	4,443 10 0	4,443 10 0	689 0 4	—	—
Cavan County,	Ditto,	36,953 8 0	36,424 3 1	6,028 5 10	—	529 4 11
Clare County,	Ditto,	17,779 11 8	17,779 11 8	1,924 6 8	—	—
Cork County,	Ditto,	4,451 15 10	4,451 15 10	338 7 11	—	—
Cork, County of the City,	Ditto,	1,500 0 0	1,500 0 0	271 11 8	—	—
Donegal County,	Ditto,	17,557 5 0	17,557 5 0	1,851 7 9	—	—
Down County,	Ditto,	13,731 17 6	10,553 17 9	658 2 2	—	3,177 19 9
Dublin City,	Ditto,	1,211 6 8	1,211 6 8	42 11 11	—	—
Dublin County,	Ditto,	5,538 11 1	5,538 11 1	672 4 1	—	—
Fermanagh County,	Ditto,	5,050 0 0	5,050 0 0	900 14 1	—	—
Galway County,	Ditto,	31,015 7 8	31,015 7 8	1,633 7 11	—	—
Galway Town,	Ditto,	2,530 0 0	1,388 13 0	250 13 9	—	1,141 7 0
Kerry County,	Ditto,	76,094 9 6	76,094 9 6	8,966 8 1	—	—
Kildare County,	Ditto,	6,602 10 0	6,602 10 0	1,407 3 6	—	—
Kilkenny County,	Ditto,	29,350 0 0	29,350 0 0	3,238 9 4	—	—
King's County,	Ditto,	6,438 17 3	6,438 17 3	1,011 0 11	—	—
Leitrim County,	Ditto,	7,650 0 0	7,650 0 0	1,233 2 4	—	—
Limerick City,	Ditto,	3,931 8 8	3,931 8 8	887 1 5	—	—
Limerick County,	Ditto,	13,018 18 9	13,018 18 9	2,636 16 1	—	—
Londonderry Co.	Ditto,	1,250 0 0	1,250 0 0	304 10 9	—	—
Longford County,	Ditto,	4,400 1 4	4,400 1 4	920 8 8	—	—
Louth County,	Ditto,	9,550 0 0	9,550 0 0	1,377 16 3	—	—
Mayo County,	Ditto,	12,438 0 0	12,438 0 0	1,414 5 3	—	—
Meath County,	Ditto,	2,347 18 2	2,347 18 2	547 19 7	—	—
Queen's County,	Ditto,	7,663 0 0	7,663 0 0	605 0 2	—	—
Roscommon Co.,	Ditto,	19,784 0 0	19,784 0 0	1,316 11 9	—	—
Sligo County,	Ditto,	8,306 6 9	8,306 6 9	1,152 6 6	—	—
Tipperary County	Ditto,	9,959 5 11	9,959 5 11	760 0 1	—	—

(A 6.)—ABSTRACT of LOANS made by the COMMISSIONERS of PUBLIC WORKS, under the Provisions of Act 1 & 2 Wm. IV., cap. 33, and subsequent Acts, classified under Counties and other general heads, and showing the Total Issues and Repayments to the 31st March, 1864—*continued.*

COUNTY, &c.	PURPOSE OF LOAN.	Total issued.	REPAYMENTS. Principal.	REPAYMENTS. Interest.	Remitted.	Balance of Principal, 31st March, 1864.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Tyrone County,	For making and improving roads, court-houses, &c.	2,300 0 0	2,300 0 0	370 4 3	—	—
Waterford County,	Ditto, .	2,248 14 0	2,248 14 0	122 10 0	—	—
Waterford City, .	Ditto, .	1,550 0 0	1,550 0 0	75 7 5	—	—
Wexford County, .	Ditto, .	51,155 11 0	51,155 11 0	6,372 17 10	—	—
Wicklow County, .	Ditto, .	7,558 1 10	7,558 1 10	1,504 2 11	—	—
Westmeath County,	Ditto, .	1,065 1 8	1,065 1 8	222 12 1	—	—
		592,365 7 8	584,320 6 8	71,667 0 6	—	8,045 1 0
Roads & Bridges,	For Roads, Bridges, &c.,	43,700 0 0	30,878 8 1	14,940 10 1	2,971 11 11	9,850 0 0
Sundry Harbours, Docks, &c.,	In aid of construction,	189,150 0 0	44,899 18 9	104,390 7 0	—	144,250 1 3
Inland Navigation,	Improving Works, &c.,	69,950 0 0	14,403 1 3	33,668 0 4	—	55,546 18 9
Public Buildings,	Erection and completion of Works, &c.,	35,000 0 0	32,056 2 1	6,797 13 10	1,359 9 9	1,584 8 2
Railways,	In aid of construction, &c.,	157,200 0 0	157,200 0 0	73,764 16 7	—	—
Miscellaneous,	In aid of Sundry Works,	14,550 0 0	14,550 0 0	3,043 4 8	—	—
Ecclesiastical Commissioners,	Pursuant to 6 & 7 Wm. 4, c. 108,	100,000 0 0	100,000 0 0	43,453 11 1	—	—
Piers & Harbours,	Act 9 Vic., c. 3, and 10 and 11 Vic., c. 75,	37,474 11 0	31,075 3 2	979 10 4	0 0 7	6,399 7 3
Exchequer Bills issued and afterwards relodged,		3,700 0 0	3,700 0 0	361 14 7	—	—
	£	1,243,089 18 8	1,013,083 0 0	353,066 9 0	4,331 2 3	225,675 16 5
Relief Works, .	Act 9 Vic., c. 1, .	226,349 19 11	69,671 18 1	18,666 3 2	156,678 1 10	—
			1,454,487 10 3			
River Drainage,	Act 5 & 6 Vic., c. 89,	2,075,893 17 8	894,996 17 4		1,187,047 0 2	Repayable by way of Annuity.
*Maynooth College,	Additions and Improvements,	10,000 0 0	373 15 0		—	Do.
	£	3,555,333 16 3	2,349,858 2 7		1,348,056 4 3	

* This Loan is to be repaid as an Annuity, by the sum of £14,300 for Principal and Interest.

Office of Public Works, Dublin, 2nd May, 1864. W. B. SOADY, *Accountant.*

(A. 7.)—A STATEMENT of the LOANS made by the COMMISSIONERS of PUBLIC WORKS in IRELAND, showing outstanding on the

No. of Loan.	NAME OF PARTY.	PURPOSE OF LOAN.	BALANCES outstanding 31st March, 1863. Principal. £ s. d.	Interest. £ s. d.
	Act 1 & 2 Wm. IV., c. 33.			
5, 70	Limerick Navigation Company,	To improve Works,	9,668 15 0	4,208 18 11
15,80,108	Limerick Bridge Commissioners,	Constructing Bridge, Docks, and Quays,	64,277 6 5	15,869 3 1
20, 126, 157	Galway Dock Commissioners,	Constructing Docks and Harbour,	19,322 14 10	523 0 7
28, 255	Newry Navigation Company,	Improving Works and Extension of Canal,	15,878 3 9	–
3	Ardglass Harbour Commissioners,	Completing Works of Harbour,	6,650 0 0	7,539 2 1
18	Athlunkard Bridge Commissioners,	Completing Works of Bridge,	9,850 0 0	4,122 7 10
212	Ulster Canal Company,	Completion of Works,	10,000 0 0	10,033 13 11
			135,647 0 0	42,296 6 5
	Act 6 & 7 Vic., c. 44.			
	Sundry Piers,	In aid of Construction,	9,105 6 8	–
255	Newry Navigation Company,	Extension of Canal,	20,000 0 0	403 5 9
322	Portrush Harbour Directors,	Protection of Pier and Harbour,	1,018 10 2	39 1 0
1544	Ditto,	Ditto,	1,218 6 3	32 14 4
882	Limerick Bridge Commissioners,	Construction of Floating Docks,	54,000 0 0	31,032 15 7
1605	Steevens's Hospital,	Erecting an Anatomical School,	600 0 0	–
367	Rev. Thomas Barry,	Roman Catholic Chapel at Bantry,	574 8 2	30 0 0
644	Rev. James Doheny,	Roman Catholic Chapel at Dunmanway,	470 0 0	161 1 7
881	Rev. Joseph Sheahan,	Roman Catholic Chapel at Kilmacabea,	180 0 0	162 13 6
1622	County Antrim,	Bridge at Ormeau,	4,270 13 10	–
1623	County Down,	Ditto,	4,248 1 4	–
1533	County Cavan,	Road, Killyshandra to Ballinagh,	627 12 9	–
1403	Galway Town,	Road, Fahybeg to Nile Lodge,	–	–
1484	City of Limerick,	Completing Ashbourne Road,	–	–
1534	Limerick County,	Road, Limerick to Tralee,	–	–
1629	Galway Town,	Repairing Road, Galway to Headford,	–	–
1630	Ditto,	Ditto, Galway to Fairhill,	–	–
1624	Maynooth College,	Additions and Improvements,	–	–

Office of Public Works, Dublin, 2nd May, 1864.

(A. 8.)—A STATEMENT of OUTSTANDING LOANS made by the late "COMMISSIONERS for the ISSUE of LOANS Amount of Principal and Interest due upon each on the 31st March, 1863, the Interest

No. of Loan.	NAME OF PARTY.	PURPOSE OF LOAN.	BALANCES outstanding 31st March, 1863. Principal. £ s. d.	Interest. £ s. d.
4,24,53	County Meath,	Navan Turnpike Road,	6,000 0 0	88 1 2
13, 28, 113	Commissioners of Wide Streets,	to improve Cork City,	13,700 0 0	15,168 6 7
40, 52	County Mayo,	Court-Houses at Castlebar & Ballinrobe,	225 6 5	231 6 3
43, 92	County Kilkenny,	Causeway, Thomastown, and Castle-connor Road,	208 18 7	101 1 11
87	Galway Town,	Portico for Court-House,	0 18 2	0 1 4
61	Commissioners for Wellesley Bridge across the Shannon,		55,384 12 4	—
70	R. H. Maunsell,	Canal at Plassy, County Limerick,	912 19 10	758 5 6
96	N. D. Crommelin,	To improve an Estate, County Antrim,	10,000 0 0	—
106	Commissioners for a Bridge across the Shannon at Athlunkard,		6,000 0 0	7,929 6 3
139	Commissioners for a Bridge at Youghal,		10,000 0 0	10,685 9 2
		Total,	102,432 15 4	34,961 18 2

Office of Public Works, Dublin, 2nd May, 1864.

the Balances on the 31st March, 1863, the Issues and Repayments within the year, and the Balances 31st March, 1864.

Amount issued within the Year.	Interest charged within the Year.	REPAYMENTS. Principal.	REPAYMENTS. Interest.	BALANCES outstanding 31st March, 1864. Principal.	BALANCES outstanding 31st March, 1864. Interest.	No. of Loan.	—
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		
–	–	–	–	9,668 15 0	4,208 18 11	5, 70	
–	2,621 1 7	–	7,300 0 0	64,277 6 5	11,190 4 8	15, 80, 108	
–	772 18 4	–	200 0 0	19,322 14 10	1,095 18 11	20, 126, 157	
–	635 2 4	–	314 19 0	15,878 3 9	320 3 4	28, 255	
–	–	–	–	6,650 0 0	7,539 2 1	3	
–	394 0 0	–	250 0 0	9,850 0 0	4,266 7 10	18	
–	–	–	–	10,000 0 0	10,033 13 11	212	
–	4,423 2 3	–	8,064 19 0	135,647 0 0	38,654 9 8		
–	51 17 6	2,705 19 5	51 17 6	6,399 7 3	–		
–	800 0 0	–	800 0 0	20,000 0 0	403 5 9	255	
–	49 16 10	1,018 10 2	88 17 10	–	–	322	
–	59 11 5	1,218 6 3	92 5 9	–	–	1544	
–	2,700 0 0	–	–	54,000 0 0	33,732 15 7	882	
–	27 9 8	200 0 0	27 9 8	400 0 0	–	1605	
–	–	–	–	574 8 2	30 0 0	367	
–	–	–	–	470 0 0	161 1 7	644	
–	–	40 0 0	–	140 0 0	162 13 6	881	
–	203 2 6	1,074 4 6	203 2 6	3,196 9 4	–	1622	
–	200 16 7	1,070 1 7	200 16 7	3,177 19 9	–	1623	
–	29 12 2	98 7 10	29 12 2	529 4 11	–	1533	
–	–	–	–	–	–	1403	
–	–	–	–	–	–	1484	
–	–	–	–	–	–	1534	
930 0 0	31 2 2	187 14 5	31 2 2	742 5 7	–	1629	
500 0 0	17 6 7	100 18 7	17 6 7	399 1 5	–	1630	
1,430 0 0	–	7,714 2 9	1,542 10 9	–	–		
5,500 0 0	–	292 10 0	–	–	–	1624	This Loan, amounting to £10,000, is repaying on the principle of an Annuity, by the sum of £14,300. Total repayments to 31st March, 1864, £373 15s.
Total Repayments,		9,549 3 6					

W. B. Soady, *Accountant.*

out of the Consolidated Fund," pursuant to the Act 57 Geo. III., c. 33, and subsequent Acts; showing the since accrued, the Repayments, and the Balances outstanding on 31st March, 1864.

Interest accrued.	REPAYMENTS. Principal.	REPAYMENTS. Interest.	BALANCES outstanding 31st March, 1864. Principal.	BALANCES outstanding 31st March, 1864. Interest.	No. of Loan.	—
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		
180 0 0	—	180 0 0	6,060 0 0	88 1 2	4, 24, 53	
—	—	—	13,700 0 0	15,168 6 7	13, 28, 113	
—	—	—	225 6 5	231 6 3	40, 52	
—	—	—	208 18 7	101 1 11	43, 92	
—	—	—	0 18 2	0 1 4	87	
2,215 8 0	—	—	55,384 12 4	2,215 8 0	61	
—	—	—	912 19 10	758 5 6	70	
157 17 10	10,000 0 0	157 17 10	—	—	96	
—	—	—	6,000 0 0	7,929 6 3	106	
—	—	—	10,000 0 0	10,685 9 2	139	
2,553 5 10	10,000 0 0	337 17 10	92,432 15 4	37,177 6 2		

W. B. Soady, *Accountant.*

APPENDIX B.

LAND IMPROVEMENT LOANS.

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(B.)—LAND IMPROVEMENT ACTS, 10th Vict., chap. 32, &c.

SCHEDULE—Showing the Loans in progress, the amount applied for, sanctioned, and issued by Instalments, with the Date of the last Issue, to 31st March, 1864.

NORTHERN DISTRICT.

County.	Barony.	Applicant.	Amount applied for. £ s. d.	Amount sanctioned. £ s. d.	Amount issued. £ s. d.	No. of Instalments authorized.	Date of last Order to Issue.
ANTRIM,	Dunluce, Up.,	Richard W. Magenis,	350 0 0	350 0 0	210 0 0	3	30 July, 1863.
	Kilconway,	John S. Ferguson,	1,500 0 0	1,500 0 0	300 0 0	1	8 July, „
	Massereene,	The Rev. A. H. Pakenham,	500 0 0	500 0 0	300 0 0	3	6 May, „
LONDONDERRY,	Coleraine,	The Rev. John Lyle,	560 0 0	550 0 0	330 0 0	3	6 Jan., 1864.
	Keenaught,	William Osborne,	1,692 10 0	1,500 0 0	900 0 0	3	15 Dec., 1863.
		Thomas Scott,	300 0 0	300 0 0	180 0 0	3	2 June, „
	Loughinsholen,	W. F. L. Conyngham,	1,620 0 0	1,600 0 0	320 0 0	1	24 April, „
		Robert J. Henry,	3,000 0 0	2,000 0 0	400 0 0	1	7 Mar., 1864.
DONEGAL,	Inishowen,	Elizabeth M. M'Clellan,	100 0 0	100 0 0	20 0 0	1	28 July, 1863.
	Raphoe,	David Gilliland,	225 0 0	200 0 0	40 0 0	1	29 Dec., „
FERMANAGH,	Lurg,	Mervyn Archdall,	3,000 0 0	2,500 0 0	1,500 0 0	3	24 Sept., 1863.
		Edward Archdall,	5,005 0 0	2,500 0 0	500 0 0	1	9 Dec., 1862.
		Henry M. D'Arcy Irvine,	1,400 0 0	1,400 0 0	560 0 0	2	2 Mar., 1864.
	Magheraboy,	Marchioness of Ely,	3,013 0 0	2,500 0 0	1,500 0 0	3	20 June, 1862.
		Ditto,	4,819 4 0	2,500 0 0	1,500 0 0	3	2 June, 1863.
		Ditto,	695 0 0	650 0 0	520 0 0	4	7 Jan., „
	Tirkennedy,	Sir J. Emerson Tennent,	2,550 0 0	2,500 0 0	1,300 0 0	3	7 Oct., „
TYRONE,	Clogher,	A. U. Gledstanes,	200 0 0	200 0 0	40 0 0	1	31 July, 1862.
		Ditto,	628 0 0	600 0 0	120 0 0	1	6 Aug., „
		Deane Mann,	380 0 0	350 0 0	70 0 0	1	12 Oct., 1863.
		Ditto,	350 0 0	250 0 0	50 0 0	1	13 Feb., 1864.
	Dungannon,	John Y. Burges,	500 0 0	500 0 0	350 0 0	4	26 June, 1863.
		M. and G. V. Stewart,	150 0 0	150 0 0	90 0 0	3	1 Nov., 1859.
		A. G. Montgomery Moore,	800 0 0	400 0 0	240 0 0	3	21 July, 1862.
		George Vesey Stewart,	500 0 0	500 0 0	400 0 0	4	14 Feb., 1863.
		Guardians of the Earl of Ranfurly,	5,000 0 0	5,000 0 0	1,500 0 0	3	23 Oct., „
		Ditto,	5,000 0 0	5,000 0 0	1,500 0 0	3	23 Oct., „
		Andrew M'Creight,	200 0 0	200 0 0	160 0 0	4	5 Nov., „
	Omagh, East,	George P. M'Clintock,	2,000 0 0	2,000 0 0	1,200 0 0	3	5 June, „
	Strabane,	William M'Crea,	400 0 0	300 0 0	120 0 0	2	22 May, „
		Robert Scott,	200 0 0	150 0 0	120 0 0	4	13 June, 1862.
		The Marquess of Abercorn,	5,454 0 0	2,000 0 0	800 0 0	2	8 Jan., 1864.
ARMAGH,	O'Neilland, West	Ralph S. O'Bre,	200 0 0	200 0 0	120 0 0	3	3 Aug., 1863.
DOWN,	Ards,	The Marquess of Londonderry,	960 0 0	950 0 0	480 0 0	3	18 Mar., 1864.
	Kinelarty,	W. B. Forde,	400 0 0	400 0 0	120 0 0	2	13 Feb., 1863.
	Lecale,	H. W. Meredyth,	500 0 0	500 0 0	300 0 0	3	15 May, „

MIDLAND AND EASTERN DISTRICT.

CAVAN,	Castlerahan,	Marquess of Headfort,	1,238 0 0	1,200 0 0	720 0 0	3	18 Sept., 1863.
	Loughtee, Up.,	The Rev. S. Roberts,	150 0 0	150 0 0	100 0 0	4	27 June, „
MONAGHAN,	Dartree,	A. A. Murray Ker,	100 0 0	100 0 0	60 0 0	3	19 Dec., 1863.
	Trough,	David Ross,	1,056 0 0	900 0 0	360 0 0	2	17 Feb., „
LONGFORD,	Ardagh,	J. L. O'Ferrall,	475 0 0	450 0 0	360 0 0	4	15 Dec., 1863.
		Sir Thos. J. Fetherstone,	300 0 0	300 0 0	60 0 0	1	18 Aug., „
	Granard,	Rev. J. E. Edgeworth,	704 0 0	700 0 0	280 0 0	2	8 Jan., 1864.
		Henry Dopping,	100 0 0	100 0 0	60 0 0	3	19 Mar., „
		John Thompson,	400 0 0	400 0 0	80 0 0	1	20 Feb., „
	Longford,	Lady Fetherstone,	1,700 0 0	1,000 0 0	800 0 0	4	3 Nov., 1863.
		Henry S. Douglas,	1,000 0 0	1,000 0 0	200 0 0	1	11 Dec., „
	Moydow,	William Bond,	200 0 0	200 0 0	40 0 0	1	20 Feb., 1864.
	Ratheline,	William Lewis,	200 0 0	200 0 0	120 0 0	3	19 Mar., „
		The Hon. L. H. King Harman,	7,229 6 6	3,000 0 0	1,000 0 0	2	18 April, „

(B.) Schedule showing the Loans in progress, the amount applied for, &c.—*continued.*

County.	Barony.	Applicant.	Amount applied for. £ s. d.	Amount sanctioned. £ s. d.	Amount issued. £ s. d.	No. of Instalments authorized.	Date of last Order to Issue.
Meath,	Duleek, Lower,	Henry A. Cooper,	688 0 0	650 0 0	520 0 0	4	29 Mar., 1862.
		Stephen H. Smith,	2,000 0 0	1,000 0 0	600 0 0	3	13 June, „
		Lord Athlumney,	2,053 0 0	2,000 0 0	1,200 0 0	3	31 Mar., 1864.
		Robert Clouston,	500 0 0	500 0 0	100 0 0	1	23 Feb., „
	Dunboyne,	The Rev. James Hamilton,	1,500 0 0	1,500 0 0	600 0 0	2	24 Mar. „
		Samuel Garnett,	328 15 3	300 0 0	60 0 0	1	10 Mar., „
	Kells, Lower,	The Marquess of Headfort,	4,750 0 0	3,000 0 0	1,350 0 0	3	14 May, 1860.
		Ditto,	193 12 0	150 0 0	30 0 0	1	22 Aug., „
	Ratoath,	Russell C. Stanhope,	632 0 0	600 0 0	120 0 0	1	5 Mar., 1864.
		John W. Gaisford,	400 0 0	400 0 0	80 0 0	1	5 Mar., „
Westmeath,	Farbill,	The Earl of Longford,	1,000 0 0	1,000 0 0	400 0 0	2	2 June, 1863.
	Kilkenny, West	John Hodson and W. H. Gray,	900 0 0	250 0 0	200 0 0	4	1 Mar., 1864.
	Moycashel,	William E. Smyth,	200 0 0	200 0 0	40 0 0	1	16 Aug., 1862.
Dublin,	Balrothery, E.,	Walter S. Brinkley,	973 15 4	950 0 0	190 0 0	1	4 Mar., 1864.
		Ditto,	280 0 0	250 0 0	50 0 0	1	4 Mar., „
	Castleknock,	Richard Shew,	250 0 0	250 0 0	50 0 0	1	2 May, 1863.
	Coolock,	The Earl of Howth,	1,000 0 0	1,000 0 0	400 0 0	2	22 Jan., 1864.
	Rathdown,	E. P. Brenan,	488 0 0	450 0 0	360 0 0	4	16 Feb., „
		Sir William Verner,	120 0 0	100 0 0	40 0 0	2	24 Mar., „
Kildare,	Ikeathy and Oughterany,	Lord Cloncurry,	1,125 0 0	1,100 0 0	880 0 0	4	13 Aug., 1863.
	Naas, South,	The Earl of Mayo,	220 0 0	200 0 0	80 0 0	2	2 Mar., 1864.
	Narragh & Reban,	Thomas Fitzgerald,	475 17 4	450 0 0	270 0 0	3	15 Oct., 1862.
		John La Touche,	315 0 0	300 0 0	60 0 0	1	2 Oct., 1863.
King's,	Ballycowan,	Edward Hornidge,	952 0 0	900 0 0	180 0 0	2	23 July, 1861.
	Garrycastle,	Arthur H. Griffith,	460 0 0	450 0 0	180 0 0	2	2 Nov., 1863.
	Philipstown,	William Hussey Walsh,	750 0 0	750 0 0	150 0 0	1	23 Feb., 1863.
Queen's,	Ballyadams,	John G. Adair,	830 0 0	800 0 0	160 0 0	1	28 Mar., 1862.
	Clandonagh,	Robert H. Stubber,	1,141 7 2	1,100 0 0	660 0 0	3	23 Aug., „
		Rt. Hon. J. W. Fitzpatrick,	900 0 0	900 0 0	540 0 0	3	28 Dec., 1863.
		Ditto,	350 0 0	350 0 0	70 0 0	1	28 Dec., „
	Cullenagh,	Lewis Moore,	264 5 0	250 0 0	200 0 0	4	26 Mar., „
		Viscount Ashbrook,	2,399 0 0	2,350 0 0	1,880 0 0	4	12 Feb., 1864.
		Robert G. Cosby,	1,599 0 0	1,500 0 0	1,200 0 0	4	14 Aug., 1863.
		Loftus H. Bland and Margaret E. Bland,	450 0 0	450 0 0	180 0 0	2	15 Mar., 1864.
		Fanny Sheahan,	534 0 0	500 0 0	200 0 0	2	8 Feb., „
	Maryborough, West,	Thomas A. Bailey,	2,000 0 0	2,000 0 0	400 0 0	1	15 June, 1863.
		Sir E. D. Borrowes, Bart.,	471 18 10	350 0 0	70 0 0	1	28 Dec., „
	Slievemargy,	Benjamin B. Edge,	1,273 0 0	1,000 0 0	600 0 0	3	5 Aug., 1862.
	Upperwoods,	James Young,	844 17 0	500 0 0	400 0 0	4	25 Aug., 1863.
Wicklow,	Arklow,	The Earl of Wicklow,	1,000 0 0	1,000 0 0	400 0 0	2	7 Nov., 1863.
	Newcastle,	Arthur Jones,	200 0 0	200 0 0	120 0 0	3	31 Oct., 1862.
		Robert H. Truel,	500 0 0	500 0 0	100 0 0	1	13 June, „
	Rathdown,	William Fox,	503 0 0	500 0 0	300 0 0	3	13 June, „
Carlow,	Forth,	John H. Keogh,	2,000 0 0	2,000 0 0	1,200 0 0	3	23 Jan., 1863.
	Idrone, East,	P. J. Newton,	805 0 0	800 0 0	480 0 0	3	16 Dec., „
		Ditto,	490 0 0	450 0 0	360 0 0	4	18 Dec., „
		Earl of Courtown,	485 0 0	450 0 0	360 0 0	4	31 Mar., 1864.
Kilkenny,	Galmoy,	George H. Houghton,	250 0 0	250 0 0	100 0 0	2	13 Sept., 1861.
		Lord Mountgarrett,	520 0 0	500 0 0	100 0 0	1	28 Jan., 1864.
	Ida,	David Hewetson,	330 0 0	300 0 0	120 0 0	2	5 Aug., 1863.
		Ditto,	500 0 0	500 0 0	200 0 0	2	5 Aug., „
		The Earl of Bessborough,	200 0 0	200 0 0	80 0 0	2	3 Nov., „
		Ditto,	200 0 0	200 0 0	80 0 0	2	3 Nov., „
		Alfred Gahan and others,	1,015 0 0	500 0 0	100 0 0	1	14 Dec., „
	Shillelogher,	Matthew R. Weld,	500 0 0	500 0 0	300 0 0	3	18 Dec., 1861.
Wexford,	Ballaghkeene,	The Earl of Courtown,	800 0 0	800 0 0	640 0 0	4	2 Nov., 1863.
	Bantry,	Harry Alcock,	500 0 0	500 0 0	100 0 0	1	24 July, „
	Scarawalsh,	Messrs. Purdon,	1,774 12 8	1,500 0 0	600 0 0	2	16 Feb., 1864.
		Thomas Braddell,	200 0 0	200 0 0	120 0 0	3	28 Oct., 1863.
		Viscount Monck,	310 0 0	300 0 0	60 0 0	1	17 July, 1862.
		Ditto,	729 0 0	700 0 0	140 0 0	1	21 Aug., 1863.

(B.) Schedule showing the Loans in progress, the amount applied for, &c.—*continued.*

County.	Barony.	Applicant.	Amount applied for. £ s. d.	Amount sanctioned. £ s. d.	Amount issued. £ s. d.	No. of Instalments authorized.	Date of last Order to Issue.
Wexford—*continued.*	Shelburne,	The Marchioness of Ely,	696 1 6	600 0 0	120 0 0	1	1 Dec., 1862.
	Shelmaliere, E.	John Greene,	500 0 0	500 0 0	400 0 0	4	14 Feb., 1863
		George Le Hunte,	200 0 0	200 0 0	120 0 0	3	18 Jan., 1864.
	Shelmaliere, W.	Thomas O'Leary,	100 0 0	100 0 0	80 0 0	4	21 July, 1862.
		Francis A. Leigh,	4,300 0 0	2,500 0 0	1,500 0 0	3	18 Jan., 1864.
		Herbert F. Hore,	360 0 0	350 0 0	70 0 0	1	21 Mar., „

WESTERN DISTRICT.

Sligo,	Carbury,	Right Hon. John Wynne,	1,870 0 0	1,000 0 0	600 0 0	3	22 Sept., 1863.
		George D. Meredith,	111 0 0	100 0 0	40 0 0	2	31 Mar., 1864.
	Coolavin,	Stephen W. Flanagan,	1,159 0 0	1,000 0 0	800 0 0	4	18 Sept., 1863.
	Leyny,	Burton Irwin,	800 0 0	800 0 0	320 0 0	2	15 „ „
		Richard Phibbs,	400 0 0	400 0 0	160 0 0	2	29 May, „
		Fitzstephen French,	317 0 0	300 0 0	240 0 0	4	3 Aug., „
		Henry Brett,	419 6 0	400 0 0	240 0 0	3	1 Sept., „
		The Ven. H. Townsend,	193 6 6	150 0 0	60 0 0	2	20 Feb., 1864.
	Rosclogher,	Right Hon. John Wynne,	1,650 0 0	1,000 0 0	800 0 0	4	23 Sept., 1863.
		Ditto,	900 0 0	900 0 0	180 0 0	1	27 June, 1862.
	Tireragh,	Sir Malby Crofton,	600 0 0	600 0 0	120 0 0	1	15 May, 1863.
Leitrim,	Drumahaire,	Rev. W. M. Wilkins,	350 0 0	350 0 0	210 0 0	3	16 Nov., 1863.
		Hugh L. Montgomery,	2,000 0 0	1,000 0 0	400 0 0	2	15 Dec., „
	Leitrim,	Charles R. Peyton,	1,823 0 0	1,000 0 0	600 0 0	3	27 June, „
		Hugh O'Beirne,	5,000 0 0	2,000 0 0	1,600 0 0	4	6 Jan., 1864.
	Mohill,	W. R. Ormsby Gore,	2,000 0 0	2,000 0 0	400 0 0	1	19 June, 1862.
		William Percy Jones,	1,000 0 0	1,000 0 0	800 0 0	4	6 Jan., 1864.
Mayo,	Kilmaine,	Rep. of Thomas Elwood,	250 0 0	150 0 0	30 0 0	1	24 Aug., 1863.
	Tyrawley,	Messrs. Madden,	103 0 0	100 0 0	20 0 0	1	23 Mar., 1861.
		William F. Smith,	2,196 18 0	700 0 0	420 0 0	3	2 Jan., 1864.
Roscommon,	Athlone,	John J. O'Sullivan,	623 0 0	200 0 0	160 0 0	4	26 Feb., 1864.
		Daniel J. Cruice,	838 0 0	800 0 0	640 0 0	4	4 Aug., 1863.
		Walter H. Walsh,	600 0 0	400 0 0	240 0 0	3	16 Nov., „
	Ballintober, N.	Patrick Balfe,	635 0 0	600 0 0	360 0 0	3	11 Feb., „
		Ditto,	320 0 0	300 0 0	60 0 0	1	23 Feb., 1864.
	Ballintober, S.	Lord Crofton,	517 2 6	500 0 0	400 0 0	4	2 June, 1863.
		Patrick Dignan,	350 0 0	300 0 0	120 0 0	2	16 Nov., 1863.
	Ballymoe,	Patrick H. O'Connor,	1,053 0 0	700 0 0	560 0 0	4	18 Dec., „
		Ditto,	1,035 0 0	1,000 0 0	600 0 0	3	28 Oct., „
		Lady Jane Johnson,	326 14 0	300 0 0	60 0 0	1	4 Jan., 1864.
	Boyle,	Arthur French,	500 0 0	500 0 0	300 0 0	3	27 Aug., 1863.
	Castlerea,	Robert Irwin,	220 0 0	200 0 0	80 0 0	2	12 Nov., 1859.
		W. J. Kelly,	776 0 0	750 0 0	450 0 0	3	24 Feb., 1863.
		William Longfield,	600 0 0	600 0 0	480 0 0	4	30 Mar., „
		William Murphy,	300 0 0	300 0 0	240 0 0	4	29 Dec., „
		James Glancy,	1,057 0 0	1,000 0 0	600 0 0	3	24 Feb., 1864.
		T. G. Wills Sandford,	1,435 0 0	1,000 0 0	600 0 0	3	19 Jan., „
		Patrick Balfe,	182 0 0	150 0 0	30 0 0	1	18 Mar., „
	Frenchpark,	John Murphy,	330 0 0	200 0 0	40 0 0	1	6 Nov., 1863.
	Moycarn,	W. D. Kelly,	938 10 0	900 0 0	720 0 0	4	23 Feb., 1864.
	Roscommon,	H. S. Pakenham Mahon,	753 0 0	750 0 0	450 0 0	3	10 July, 1863.
Galway,	Ballymoe,	John L. Bagot,	1,650 0 0	1,000 0 0	200 0 0	1	29 Dec. 1863.
	Clare,	John J. Gunning,	600 0 0	500 0 0	200 0 0	2	31 Aug., „
	Dunkellin,	John H. Burke,	504 0 0	500 0 0	300 0 0	3	28 May, 1861.
	Dunmore,	Thomas M'Dermott,	266 0 0	200 0 0	120 0 0	3	16 Feb., 1864.
		William Burke,	500 0 0	500 0 0	300 0 0	3	16 July, 1863.
	Galway,	Fanny Grattan,	1,244 0 0	1,200 0 0	960 0 0	4	4 Mar., 1864.
	„ Co. of the Town,	Sir Thos. E. Blake, Bart.,	375 18 6	350 0 0	140 0 0	2	17 Oct., 1862.
	Kilconnell,	Andrew Comyn,	350 0 0	350 0 0	280 0 0	4	23 Jan., 1864.
		Edmond Mahon,	230 0 0	200 0 0	120 0 0	3	9 Mar., 1863.
	Killian,	Cath. F. Hall and another,	350 0 0	300 0 0	180 0 0	3	29 Nov., 1862.
	Kiltartan,	Anna G. Bagot,	1,280 0 0	800 0 0	640 0 0	4	5 Aug., 1863.
		J. W. H. Lambert,	1,675 0 0	1,600 0 0	320 0 0	1	24 Aug., 1863.
	Leitrim,	Charles O'Farrell,	8,359 5 2	2,500 0 0	1,000 0 0	2	22 Mar., 1861.
		Maria L. Blake,	317 0 0	300 0 0	240 0 0	4	26 Jan., 1864.
		Philip Reade,	595 0 0	500 0 0	300 0 0	3	13 Jan., 1863.
	Longford,	W. C. B. Trotter,	1,070 0 0	1,000 0 0	200 0 0	1	1 May, „
		James Ryan,	1,250 0 0	1,200 0 0	240 0 0	1	28 Jan., 1864.
	Moycullen,	James O'Hara,	260 1 8	250 0 0	100 0 0	2	21 Jan., 1863.
	Tiaquin,	John S. Kirwan,	1,105 0 0	1,000 0 0	800 0 0	4	28 Sept., 1861.
		Peter Blake,	385 17 11	350 0 0	280 0 0	4	17 Sept., 1863.
		John Blakeney,	1,063 7 5	1,000 0 0	600 0 0	3	21 Feb., „
Clare,	Bunratty, Lr.,	Thomas S. MacAdam,	1,000 0 0	800 0 0	160 0 0	1	21 Nov., 1862.
		John C. Delmege,	1,330 0 0	1,300 0 0	520 0 0	2	17 Aug., 1863.
	Corcomroe,	James O'Brien,	756 0 0	500 0 0	300 0 0	3	10 July, „

(B.) Schedule showing the Loans in progress, the amount applied for, &c.—*continued.*

SOUTHERN DISTRICT.

County.	Barony.	Applicant.	Amount applied for.	Amount sanctioned.	Amount issued.	No. of Instalments authorized.	Date of last Order to Issue.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		
Limerick,	Clanwilliam,	George M. Dawson,	1,000 0 0	1,000 0 0	800 0 0	4	30 Jan., 1862.
		John S. Dwyer,	511 0 0	500 0 0	200 0 0	2	12 Feb., 1864.
	Connelloe, Lr.,	Robert Ferguson,	239 0 0	200 0 0	160 0 0	4	25 April, 1863.
		Emily G. Studdert,	250 0 0	250 0 0	150 0 0	3	25 April, „
		Chas. Patterson & others,	150 0 0	150 0 0	90 0 0	3	28 April, „
		Gerald Blennerhassett,	250 0 0	250 0 0	200 0 0	4	22 Mar., 1864.
	Connelloe, Up.,	F. B. Walker,	500 0 0	400 0 0	160 0 0	2	2 June, 1862.
		Stephen D. Biggs,	1,000 0 0	1,000 0 0	200 0 0	1	15 April, 1863.
		Daniel M. Maunsell,	500 0 0	500 0 0	100 0 0	1	12 Oct., „
		Right Hon. W. Monsell,	200 0 0	200 0 0	80 0 0	2	12 Feb., 1864.
		R. R. and E. A. Conyers,	400 0 0	400 0 0	160 0 0	2	12 Feb., „
	Coonagh,	Richard Bourke,	700 0 0	650 0 0	130 0 0	1	5 Dec., 1863.
		Ditto,	200 0 0	200 0 0	40 0 0	1	17 Feb., 1864.
	Coshlea,	Lord Massy,	250 0 0	250 0 0	150 0 0	3	5 Aug., 1863.
		Ditto,	220 0 0	200 0 0	40 0 0	1	9 June, „
		Hugh Massy,	655 0 0	600 0 0	120 0 0	1	31 July, „
	Coshma,	Earl of Dunraven,	700 0 0	700 0 0	420 0 0	3	20 Dec., 1862.
		Ditto,	450 0 0	400 0 0	240 0 0	3	20 Dec., „
	Glenquin,	Thomas D. Evans,	300 0 0	200 0 0	120 0 0	3	13 April, 1863.
		William Roche,	920 0 0	900 0 0	180 0 0	1	16 Mar., 1864.
		Daniel C. Hamett,	200 0 0	200 0 0	80 0 0	2	24 Feb., „
	Kenry,	Earl of Dunraven,	366 0 0	350 0 0	210 0 0	3	25 Dec., 1862.
		Ditto,	275 0 0	250 0 0	150 0 0	3	25 Dec., „
	Shanid,	John C. Delmege,	2,000 0 0	1,000 0 0	800 0 0	4	13 April, 1863.
		Sir Thos. Bateson, Bart.,	600 0 0	600 0 0	360 0 0	3	31 Oct., 1862.
		Charles P. Roche,	150 0 0	150 0 0	60 0 0	2	18 Sept., 1863.
		Edward H. Goggin,	500 0 0	500 0 0	100 0 0	1	25 Jan., 1864.
	Smallcounty,	George Vandeleur,	614 19 0	600 0 0	360 0 0	3	25 April, 1863.
Tipperary,	Middlethird,	James Chadwick,	254 0 0	200 0 0	120 0 0	3	3 Feb., 1864.
	Owney and Arra	William T. Poe,	800 0 0	800 0 0	480 0 0	3	18 Feb., „
		Anthony Hanagan,	1,000 0 0	1,000 0 0	600 0 0	3	8 Feb., „
		Bolton J. Waller,	1,000 0 0	1,000 0 0	600 0 0	3	14 Aug., 1863.
		George Bolton,	1,000 0 0	1,000 0 0	400 0 0	2	13 Aug., „
		Edward White,	300 0 0	300 0 0	120 0 0	2	26 Aug., „
		William Parker,	200 0 0	200 0 0	40 0 0	1	14 Mar., 1864.
	Slievardagh,	Anne Molony,	197 0 0	150 0 0	30 0 0	1	13 Feb., „
Cork,	Bear,	Lord C. P. P. Clinton,	1,000 0 0	500 0 0	200 0 0	2	12 Jan., 1863
		Ditto,	1,000 0 0	500 0 0	300 0 0	3	13 Jan., „
	Barrymore,	E. S. Coppinger,	200 0 0	200 0 0	40 0 0	1	19 Oct., „
	Carbery, East,	M. A. R. Becher,	200 0 0	200 0 0	120 0 0	3	26 Nov., „
		Henry J. Hungerford,	200 0 0	200 0 0	80 0 0	2	14 Sept., „
		Edward H. Townsend,	265 0 0	250 0 0	100 0 0	2	13 Aug., „
	Carbery, West,	Richard H. H. Becher,	152 0 0	150 0 0	120 0 0	4	22 June, „
		Rev. W. A. Fisher,	350 0 0	200 0 0	80 0 0	2	25 Sept., 1862.
		Lord C. P. P. Clinton,	500 0 0	500 0 0	100 0 0	1	11 July, „
		T. M'Carthy Downing,	1,032 0 0	1,000 0 0	400 0 0	2	25 Nov., 1863.
		James H. Swanton,	1,220 0 0	1,200 0 0	480 0 0	2	25 Nov., „
		David Hadden,	170 0 0	150 0 0	30 0 0	1	28 Aug., „
		Rev. John Leech,	321 0 0	300 0 0	60 0 0	1	5 Dec., „
	Duhallow,	Sir G. C. Colthurst, Bart.,	2,000 0 0	450 0 0	360 0 0	4	30 June, „
		Ditto,	400 0 0	350 0 0	140 0 0	2	29 May, 1862.
		Daniel Gorman,	150 0 0	200 0 0	40 0 0	1	14 Aug., 1863.
	Fermoy,	Roger G. Davis,	200 0 0	200 0 0	120 0 0	3	20 April, „
		George Hewson,	376 6 0	350 0 0	70 0 0	1	14 July, 1862.
	Kerricurrihy,	Standish O'Grady,	290 0 0	250 0 0	150 0 0	3	4 Mar., 1863.
	Imokilly,	Viscount Midleton,	600 0 0	600 0 0	480 0 0	4	22 Sept., „
		E. S. Coppinger,	357 0 0	350 0 0	70 0 0	1	24 Sept., „
		Michael R. O'Farrell,	100 0 0	100 0 0	20 0 0	1	12 Feb., 1864.
	Kinalea,	Gersham Herrick,	725 0 0	550 0 0	440 0 0	4	28 Mar., 1863.
	Orrery and Kilmore,	Lord Crofton, as Guardian of E. E. Evans, a minor,	1,000 0 0	1,000 0 0	200 0 0	1	3 July, „
	Muskerry, West	Sir Geo. C. Colthurst, Bt.,	715 4 0	550 0 0	110 0 0	1	5 Jan., „
		John R. S. Wallis,	900 0 0	900 0 0	180 0 0	1	11 June, „
Waterford,	Decies without Drum,	The College of Physicians,	2,000 0 0	2,000 0 0	800 0 0	2	18 Mar., 1864.
	Gaultier,	John P. Fitzgerald,	1,000 0 0	1,000 0 0	400 0 0	2	23 April, 1863.
Kerry,	Clanmaurice,	Goodman Gentleman,	543 14 0	500 0 0	300 0 0	3	3 April, 1860.
		Jeremiah Loughnan,	540 0 0	500 0 0	300 0 0	3	31 Oct., 1862.
		James Crosbie,	464 0 0	450 0 0	270 0 0	3	17 Feb., 1864.
		Gerard O'Callaghan,	300 0 0	300 0 0	180 0 0	3	26 Nov., 1863.
	Corkaguiney,	Richard Leahy,	482 0 0	400 0 0	240 0 0	3	2 July, 1862.
		Richard Mahony Hickson,	500 0 0	500 0 0	300 0 0	3	20 July, 1863.
		Edward Hussey,	1,173 8 10	1,000 0 0	800 0 0	4	16 Jan., 1864.
		The Earl of Cork & Orrery,	500 0 0	500 0 0	100 0 0	1	4 Mar., „

(B.) Schedule showing the Loans in progress, the amount applied for, &c.—*continued.*

County.	Barony.	Applicant.	Amount applied for. £	s.	d.	Amount sanctioned. £	s.	d.	Amount issued. £	s.	d.	No. of Instalments authorized.	Date of last Order to Issue.
KERRY—*con.*	Dunkerron, N.,	Sir R. Blennerhassett, Bt.,	741	0	0	700	0	0	420	0	0	3	22 Sept., 1863.
	Dunkerron, S.,	Richard Mahony, . .	513	0	0	500	0	0	400	0	0	4	7 Nov., „
		Barbara Strange, . .	100	0	0	100	0	0	60	0	0	3	18 Jan., 1864.
	Iraghticonnor,	Samuel S. Raymond, .	100	0	0	100	0	0	20	0	0	1	28 April, 1863.
		The Rev. Geo. Browne, .	2,758	0	0	1,000	0	0	800	0	0	4	22 Oct., „
		Stephen E. Collis, . .	700	0	0	700	0	0	560	0	0	4	22 Oct., „
		Meade C. Dennis, . .	1,139	16	4	1,000	0	0	600	0	0	3	1 Sept., „
		Thomas S. Dennis, . .	1,500	0	0	1,500	0	0	300	0	0	1	29 May, 1862.
		Thomas Sandes, . .	1,366	15	0	1,150	0	0	460	0	0	2	1 Mar., 1864.
	Iveragh, . .	The Knight of Kerry, .	800	0	0	300	0	0	60	0	0	1	27 April, 1861.
		John M. Bernard, . .	3,384	0	0	1,500	0	0	1,200	0	0	4	10 July, 1863.
		The Rev. J. L. Chute, .	300	0	0	300	0	0	240	0	0	4	26 Mar., „
		The Rev. Richard Moore,	250	0	0	250	0	0	50	0	0	1	2 Feb., „
		James Butler, . . .	1,524	0	0	1,000	0	0	200	0	0	1	30 Jan., 1864.
	Magunihy, .	F. H. Downing, . .	955	13	4	600	0	0	240	0	0	2	24 April, 1863.
	Trughanacmy,	Guardians of R. A. Hickson	300	0	0	300	0	0	120	0	0	2	17 Aug., „
		Maria Drummond, . .	886	7	6	850	0	0	170	0	0	1	10 Sept., 1862.
		John Hurly, . . .	402	0	0	250	0	0	200	0	0	4	29 May, 1863.
		Ditto, . . .	321	0	0	200	0	0	80	0	0	2	29 May, „
		Sir W. D. Godfrey, . .	250	0	0	250	0	0	100	0	0	2	17 Feb., 1864.
		Robert C. Hurly, . .	261	0	0	200	0	0	40	0	0	1	11 June, 1863.
		John Hurly, . . .	242	0	0	300	0	0	60	0	0	1	6 Aug., „
		The Rev. Edward Day, .	279	0	0	250	0	0	150	0	0	3	30 Mar., 1864.

By Order,

E. HORNSBY, *Secretary.*

Office of Public Works, Dublin,
1864.

APPENDIX C.

ARTERIAL DRAINAGE.

Page

SCHEDULE.—Abstract of Final Awards, and repayments thereon, for the year ending 31st March, 1864, ... 56

SCHEDULE.—ABSTRACT of FINAL AWARDS, and Repayments

Districts.	Counties.	No. of Award.	Date when Awards made final.	Total Amount of Expenditure, for all purposes.	Portion of Total Expenditure charged to Counties for Public Works.	Portion of Total Expenditure charged on Lands.	Remissions.
				£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Ardee,	Louth and Meath,	79	18 Sept., 1854,	22,280 5 8	1,355 5 1	9,920 12 5	11,004 8 2
Annagh (*Supplemental, 25th October*, 1854),	Galway,	64	29 April, 1852,	4,034 5 10	220 12 9	3,000 0 0	813 13 1
Blackwater,	Meath and Kildare,	1	16 March, 1849,	12,115 16 6	1,839 15 9	10,276 0 9	–
Borrisokane (*Supplemental, 5th March*, 1855),	Tipperary,	63	29 April, 1852,	10,038 17 11	529 0 0	6,500 0 0	3,009 17 11
Borris-in-Ossory,	Tipperary and Queen's,	81	27 Sept., 1854,	20,020 5 1	970 16 5	10,000 0 0	9,049 8 8
Boyne,	Kildare, Meath, Westmeath, and King's,	86	21 April, 1855,	56,980 11 0	5,124 18 10	22,855 12 2	29,000 0 0
Ballybay,	Roscommon,	26	1 October, 1850,	848 17 4	41 6 2	807 11 2	–
Brosna, (*Ferbane div.*)	Westmeath and King's	123	18 April, 1860,	107,022 4 8	–	39,540 0 0	67,482 4 8
Ballycasey (*Supplemental, 23rd February*, 1855),	Tipperary,	52	17 October, 1851,	3,805 3 2	185 13 4	3,000 0 0	619 9 10
Ballinhassig,	Cork,	46	13 „ „	7,844 17 1	568 8 9	7,276 8 4	–
Ballinderry,	Westmeath and King's,	13	30 April, 1850,	1,262 9 10	136 1 3	1,126 8 7	–
Ballyteige,	Wexford,	87	20 June, 1855,	43,526 15 3	58 0 0	16,808 15 0	26,660 0 3
Ballycowan,	Kildare,	3	16 „ 1849,	729 3 2	87 9 10	641 13 4	–
Broadlough (*Supplemental, 10th January*, 1856),	Mayo,	33	26 October, 1850,	1,241 16 9	135 15 6	900 0 0	206 1 3
Boley (*Supplemental 6th April*, 1857),	Galway,	53	17 „ 1851,	2,220 14 2	139 19 7	1,300 0 0	780 14 7
Ballinakill,	Meath,	37	26 „ 1850,	1,167 4 7	93 14 3	1,073 10 4	–
Boardsmill,	Meath,	38	26 „ „	4,191 5 3	677 19 10	3,513 5 5	–
Ballinaskea & Castlerickard,	Meath,	39	26 „ „	2,223 11 7	187 4 1	2,036 7 6	–
Balla,	Mayo,	102	6 April, 1857,	18,213 15 2	716 5 11	3,900 0 0	13,597 9 3
Ballynahown,	Westmeath and King's,	61	14 „ 1852,	6,892 7 3	503 17 7	6,388 9 8	–
Ballinamore and Ballyconnel, *Navigation, Drainage, and Water-power*,	Cavan, Fermanagh, Leitrim, and Roscommon,	120	10 January, 1860,	228,651 10 5	30,000 0 0	–	138,901 0 5
	Cavan, Fermanagh, and Leitrim,	121	6 March, „	53,509 4 2	2,268 5 1	24,412 0 0	26,078 19 1
		„	6 „ „	–	–	750 0 0	–
Burren,	Carlow and Kildare,	74	29 October, 1852,	26,079 9 11	1,683 18 9	24,395 10 2	–
Cahore (*Supplemental, 26th February*, 1857),	Wexford,	17	13 „ 1851,	4,315 14 11	45 11 6	3,250 0 0	1,020 3 5
Cappagh,	Galway,	101	27 March, 1857,	16,265 8 1	396 0 0	7,140 0 0	8,729 8 1
Camoge,	Limerick,	59	22 „ 1852,	4,437 11 9	90 17 11	4,346 13 10	–
Clonakilty,	Cork,	78	5 Sept., 1854,	10,825 6 2	32 1 3	10,793 4 11	–
Cork Slob,	Cork, County of City of,	65	29 April, 1852,	5,920 7 11	–	5,920 7 11	–
Carriggower (*Supplemental, 22nd October*, 1861),	Wicklow,	17	30 „ 1850,	3,237 8 4	102 10 7	3,134 17 9	789 19 9
Carrigans,	Donegal,	11	26 October, 1849,	2,475 7 10	141 5 3	2,334 2 7	–
Curraunboy (*Supplemental, 10th January*, 1856),	Mayo,	31	26 „ 1850,	295 5 7	26 9 4	200 0 0	68 16 3
Castlebar Lakes (*Supplemental, 7th March*, 1855),	Do.,	40	29 April, 1851	1,708 6 4	11 15 7	277 7 7	1,419 3 2
Cuilmore (*Supplemental, 10th January*, 1856),	Do.,	32	26 October, 1850,	326 13 6	18 8 10	49 5 11	258 18 9
Camcloon,	Mayo,	35	26 „ 1850,	602 13 5	388 13 1	214 0 4	–
Carbury Mill-stream,	Kildare,	9	19 „ 1849,	637 10 10	34 18 3	602 12 7	–
Carrowmore Lake (*Supplemental, 31st March*, 1856),	Mayo,	10	30 April, 1850,	796 12 1	6 7 1	493 0 0	297 5 0
Clonlost,	Westmeath,	45	13 October, 1851,	2,406 14 3	209 9 5	2,197 4 10	–
Castlebernard,	King's County,	99	30 „ 1856,	22,302 9 6	93 17 7	9,800 0 0	12,408 11 11
Cavetown,	Roscommon,	67	29 April, 1852,	1,933 18 5	–	1,933 18 5	–
Curragha,	Meath and Dublin,	22	30 „ 1850,	1,264 5 9	–	1,264 5 9	–
Croghan,	Roscommon,	68	29 „ 1852,	3,540 0 6	108 9 5	3,431 11 1	–
Castlemartyr,	Cork,	83	20 October, 1854,	7,389 19 6	613 6 5	4,940 0 0	1,836 13 1
Coolaney,	Sligo,	70	29 April, 1852,	4,625 0 0	–	4,625 0 0	–
Crosslough,	Mayo,	85	3 „ 1855,	405 1 2	–	352 0 0	53 1 2
Dungolman (*Supplemental, 10th April*, 1856),	Westmeath and Longford,	72	29 Sept., 1852,	10,587 1 10	335 12 6	8,000 0 0	2,251 9 4
Deel,	Meath and Westmeath,	82	18 October, 1854,	20,783 12 7	2,096 17 4	13,700 0 0	4,986 15 3
Dunkellin,	Galway,	106	7 Sept., 1857,	42,959 12 9	826 9 7	15,340 0 0	–
Derrylin,	Fermanagh,	93	19 Dec., 1855,	787 14 6	–	300 0 0	487 14 6
Drumbominy,	Do.,	20	30 April, 1850,	333 8 9	–	333 8 9	–
Drumcliff,	Sligo and Leitrim,	69	29 „ 1852,	4,070 7 9	224 7 8	3,846 0 1	–
Dunmore,	Galway, Mayo, & Roscommon	115	26 „ 1859,	53,908 19 10	1,749 10 1	15,000 0 0	37,159 9 9
Dunmoran (*Supplemental, 30th September*, 1858),	Sligo,	71	29 „ 1852,	4,733 15 6	110 0 10	3,301 0 0	1,322 14 8
Derryholmes,	King's,	62	24 „ „	7,196 4 6	487 16 7	6,708 7 11	–
Eslin,	Leitrim,	60	12 „ „	11,356 6 3	577 16 2	10,778 10 1	–
Fane (*Supl., 1st July*, 1854),	Louth,	43	20 Sept., 1851,	8,155 15 6	926 3 1	6,229 12 5	1,000 0 0
Fergus,	Clare and Galway,	124	30 October, 1860,	68,010 8 8	433 1 8	24,600 0 0	42,977 7 0
Foranwell,	Kildare,	55	29 „ 1851,	3,475 1 8	67 2 7	3,407 19 1	–
Glyde { Lands, Mills,	Louth, Meath, Cavan, and Monaghan,	92	27 „ 1855,	47,543 19 8	2,893 0 0	22,000 0 0	22,450 19 8
				–	–	200 0 0	–
Gorteen,	Kildare,	4	16 June, 1849,	3,526 4 11	139 10 4	3,386 14 7	–
Garr,	Do.,	27	1 October, 1850,	3,816 12 8	385 12 6	3,431 0 2	–
Glenarriff (*Red Bay*),	Antrim,	57	30 „ 1851,	3,345 4 4	–	3,345 4 4	–

hereon, for the Year ending 31st March, 1864.

Area of Catchment, or Rain Basin.	Area of Flooded or Injured Lands, which have been Drained or Improved. Statute Measure.	Cost per Acre of the Drainage, including Interest, &c.	Increase in the Annual Letting Value of these Lands, caused by Drainage.	Amount of Instalments payable half-yearly, to repay Cost with Interest.	No. of half-yearly Instalments, to repay principal and interest.	Repayments. To 31st March, 1863.	Repayments. For year ending 31st March, 1864.	Repayments. Total.	Districts.
Stat. Acres.	A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
78,000	3,252 0 11	6 12 0	1,751 19 4	442 19 1	30	8,837 9 10	865 4 5	9,702 14 3	Ardee.
13,120	907 0 39	4 4 1	339 2 9	99 9 6	35	3,015 11 0	137 1 0	3,152 12 0	Annagh.
50,000	3,827 2 18	2 13 8	1,034 7 9	382 4 1	40	12,955 14 7	441 7 8	13,397 2 3	Blackwater.
20,550	1,517 0 39	6 5 4	505 19 5	153 2 1	48	5,609 2 9	265 18 2	5,875 0 11	Borrisokane.
35,840	3,624 3 27	5 5 1	1,085 18 2	365 11 2	40	7,729 0 7	643 18 7	8,372 19 2	Borris-in-Ossory.
304,139	6,779 1 18	7 13 0	1,658 15 1	745 2 8	48	17,751 19 5	1,366 9 6	19,118 8 11	Boyne.
3,300	414 3 27	1 18 11	124 0 8	Paid off.	–	1,101 13 6	–	1,101 13 6	Ballybay.
389,120	11,998 0 30	8 18 4	2,871 0 11	1,359 14 0	44	9,174 1 11	2,642 1 1	11,816 3 0	Brosna (*Ferbane div.*)
7,680	753 3 6	4 16 0	225 12 8	68 13 1	48	2,774 1 7	115 0 10	2,889 2 5	Ballycasey.
23,500	1,452 3 5	5 0 2	447 8 10	212 19 2	60	5,487 18 0	419 12 9	5,907 10 9	Ballinhassig.
1,658	311 0 38	3 12 5	112 8 6	49 4 8	32	1,399 19 4	76 9 1	1,476 8 5	Ballinderry.
26,752	2,993 0 2	14 10 5	1,186 14 8	547 19 11	48	8,600 17 8	1,051 17 10	9,652 15 6	Ballyteige.
1,000	215 2 29	2 19 6	58 17 3	23 12 2	40	743 10 2	34 0 6	777 10 8	Ballycowan.
1,000	198 3 19	5 11 3	78 19 3	Paid off.	–	1,181 1 1	–	1,181 1 1	Broadlough.
3,500	683 0 4	3 0 11	188 18 11	Paid off.	–	1,646 5 9	111 17 11	1,758 3 8	Boley.
1,350	430 3 3	2 9 10	129 15 8	49 12 4	32	1,427 16 8	40 18 11	1,468 15 7	Ballinakill.
6,850	1,428 3 12	2 9 2	428 2 1	159 4 4	32	4,743 19 6	248 4 4	4,992 3 10	Boardsmill.
3,900	738 0 20	2 15 2	205 7 11	93 18 11	32	2,545 0 5	174 11 7	2,719 12 0	Ballinaskea & Castlerickard.
30,720	1,759 2 20	9 18 10	228 15 3	112 3 11	60	1,939 1 7	252 15 9	2,191 17 4	Balla.
15,000	2,032 2 26	3 2 10	602 6 8	274 2 9	32	6,453 12 0	511 7 6	6,964 19 6	Ballynahown.
101,455	–	–	–	3,000 0 0	10	18,000 0 0	6,000 0 0	24,000 0 0	Ballinamore and Ballyconnel (*Navigation, Drainage, and Water-power.*)
	6,379 1 34	8 0 8	1,748 16 10	839 9 6	44	10,179 4 8	1,483 19 8	11,663 4 4	
	3 2 5	–	–	25 15 10	–				
40,000	8,008 0 6	3 0 1	2,589 19 9	929 12 2	40	22,465 0 8	1,342 6 5	23,807 7 1	Burren.
7,000	617 1 24	6 18 4	240 6 2	36 4 7	35	3,069 4 10	71 16 11	3,141 1 9	Cahore.
34,856	2,577 3 27	6 3 1	495 4 1	232 15 6	48	3,417 18 5	436 0 10	3,853 19 3	Cappagh.
61,184	1,412 0 7	3 1 7	646 8 6	Paid off.	–	4,994 19 9	345 8 0	5,340 7 9	Camoge.
2,000	292 0 30	36 19 2	–	394 11 1	40	32 1 3	–	32 1 3	Clonakilty.
330	214 0 20	27 13 0	573 6 10	254 1 0	32	5,623 14 6	502 9 3	6,126 3 9	Cork Slob.
12,000	592 0 31	5 5 10	274 16 9	Paid off.	–	3,054 7 10	–	3,054 7 10	Carriggower.
3,330	634 2 18	3 13 6	217 3 8	85 17 6	40	2,504 3 2	160 12 6	2,664 15 8	Carrigans.
200	46 0 31	5 16 4	19 6 0	Paid off.	–	241 16 5	–	241 16 5	Curraunboy.
1,500	185 2 27	9 2 9	85 19 1	Paid off.	–	310 19 7	–	310 19 7	Castlebar Lakes.
500	57 3 8	5 6 8	21 13 0	Paid off.	–	119 8 4	–	119 8 4	Cuilmore.
400	72 3 37	2 18 7	27 9 3	7 8 1	44	633 10 8	5 4 6	638 15 2	Camcloon.
1,600	196 0 20	3 1 6	44 10 9	22 3 5	40	628 1 4	43 17 2	671 18 6	Carbury Mill-stream.
800	199 2 30	3 19 2	54 18 5	15 16 3	20	555 9 10	31 5 8	586 15 6	Carrowmore Lake.
3,500	648 2 5	3 7 9	177 14 5	80 16 10	40	2,063 19 8	151 16 4	2,215 16 0	Clonlost.
38,000	2,499 3 27	8 17 8	709 1 3	337 0 0	44	4,432 7 8	667 13 4	5,100 1 0	Castlebernard.
8,000	309 0 37	6 5 0	117 1 8	55 18 5	60	1,243 13 1	109 17 6	1,353 10 7	Cavetown.
2,500	407 3 32	3 2 0	122 6 7	54 1 6	36	1,433 10 6	93 15 11	1,527 6 5	Curragha.
8,000	847 2 1	4 1 0	277 11 6	118 14 7	44	2,746 6 2	225 1 8	2,971 7 10	Croghan.
12,960	1,114 1 5	6 1 8	383 7 4	161 1 1	48	3,327 18 4	318 8 4	3,646 6 8	Castlemartyr.
90,744	792 3 18	5 16 8	241 2 7	119 8 0	76	2,597 16 9	236 6 0	2,834 2 9	Coolaney.
399	91 0 35	4 9 0	35 17 1	12 2 1	44	199 3 3	22 18 2	222 1 5	Crosslough.
28,000	2,226 0 8	4 12 1	929 1 6	361 14 0	22	8,161 14 3	685 15 11	8,847 10 2	Dungolman.
64,000	4,499 3 36	4 3 0	1,584 8 9	643 15 2	28	13,206 11 6	1,188 13 5	14,395 4 11	Deel.
88,320	5,565 0 31	7 11 5	1,094 15 0	527 10 3	44	6,578 19 8	1,034 5 2	7,613 4 10	Dunkellin.
3,000	187 0 4	4 4 3	49 9 11	13 7 11	30	185 18 9	26 10 10	212 9 7	Derrylin.
1,000	134 2 5	2 9 7	36 11 6	14 6 2	32	369 0 2	28 6 3	397 6 5	Drumbominy.
14,294	647 0 11	5 18 11	207 11 1	99 5 9	76	2,385 10 6	197 0 1	2,582 10 7	Drumcliff.
96,161	4,837 1 10	10 15 8	1,051 1 11	489 0 6	48	5,667 0 9	905 1 0	6,572 1 9	Dunmore.
7,680	881 0 35	5 4 11	282 10 4	95 17 4	33	2,693 3 5	189 12 10	2,882 16 3	Dunmoran.
22,400	5,600 1 0	1 3 11½	958 1 4	Paid off.	–	8,347 18 6	545 0 7	8,892 19 1	Derryholmes.
19,840	2,639 3 5	4 1 8	886 15 1	396 11 2	40	10,800 3 8	382 19 4	11,183 3 0	Eslin.
87,400	1,521 3 28	4 15 0	533 2 7	205 6 10	38	5,918 12 9	406 2 11	6,324 15 8	Fane.
134,400	7,361 2 20	9 3 6	1,752 9 3	845 18 10	44	4,292 2 3	1,549 19 8	5,842 1 11	Fergus.
3,800	956 1 35	3 11 3	263 1 11	125 7 8	40	2,937 12 0	244 16 5	3,182 8 5	Foranwell.
176,813	6,769 0 38	6 11 11	1,904 17 0	863 2 5	36	15,825 8 3	1,720 10 2	17,545 18 5	Glyde.
	0 2 6	–	–	7 16 11	–				
7,170	1,440 0 12	2 7 0	438 6 2	124 12 1	40	3,951 9 4	108 1 5	4,059 10 9	Gorteen.
3,600	944 0 23	3 12 8	282 10 8	126 4 8	40	3,485 6 0	249 19 3	3,735 5 3	Garr.
9,200	526 0 30	6 7 2	214 12 4	105 13 0	56	2,630 12 11	165 1 6	2,795 14 5	Glenarriff.

SCHEDULE.—ABSTRACT of FINAL AWARDS, and Repayments

Districts.	Counties.	No. of Award.	Date when Awards made final.	Total Amount of Expenditure, for all purposes.	Portion of Total Expenditure charged to Counties for Public Works.	Portion of Total Expenditure charged on Lands.	Remissions.
				£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Headford,	Leitrim,	24	16 Sept., 1850,	1,010 12 9	87 10 0	923 2 0	–
Hind River { Drainage, Navigation abandoned, }	Roscommon,	97	11 July, 1856,	20,880 0 1	1,410 16 1	10,650 0 0	8,819 4 0
Hermitage,	Kildare,	5	16 June, 1849,	286 16 1	13 5 10	273 10 3	–
Inny,	Longford and Westmeath,	118	13 October, 1859,	58,208 3 3	761 4 8	14,000 0 0	43,446 18 7
Kilmannock, (*Supplemental, 18th August*, 1854),	Wexford,	12	26 „ 1849,	9,836 13 7	–	7,836 13 7	2,000 0 0
Killimor { Lands, Mills,	Galway,	95	29 March, 1856,	55,040 17 10	2,357 1 7	21,000 0 0	31,593 16 3
	Do.,	+	–	–	–	90 0 0	–
Kilmaine (*Supplemental, 13th March*, 1855),	Mayo,	41	29 April, 1851,	10,990 10 1	243 4 11	7,000 0 0	3,747 5 2
Kilbeggan { Lands, Mills,	Westmeath and King's,	107	15 October, 1857,	29,959 8 7	–	8,850 15 0	19,818 9 4
	Do.,	–	–	–	–	1,290 4 3	–
Kilbride,	Kilkenny and Tipperary,	91	6 „ 1855,	8,058 8 5	332 8 9	4,000 0 0	3,725 14 8
Kilmurry,	Meath,	6	30 July, 1849,	938 18 3	55 14 9	882 18 6	–
Kill,	Cavan,	89	17 August, 1855,	2,799 4 7	–	1,000 0 0	1,799 4 7
Kilcock,	Meath,	25	16 Sept., 1850,	1,819 3 5	17 14 0	1,801 9 5	–
Kinmeen,	Fermanagh,	23	2 „ „	244 10 4	–	244 10 4	–
Kilmaganny,	Kilkenny,	90	13 „ 1855,	10,984 13 10	337 7 10	7,000 0 0	3,647 6 0
Keenagh,	Longford,	109	7 April, 1858,	10,829 6 7	239 2 8	4,450 0 0	6,140 3 11
Lough Alick (*Supplemental, 30th September*, 1858),	Mayo,	15	30 „ 1850,	4,119 19 1	122 7 11	2,000 0 0	1,997 11 2
Longford,	Longford,	113	12 „ 1859,	44,924 13 7	2,425 11 0	18,200 0 0	24,299 2 7
Lorrha (*Supplemental, 29th April*, 1857),	Tipperary,	28	8 October, 1850,	3,504 19 3	55 0 0	2,800 0 0	649 19 3
Loughnasaggart,	Meath and Westmeath,	7	6 Sept., 1849,	683 14 6	9 6 0	674 8 6	–
Lough Gara and Mantua,	Mayo, Roscommon, & Sligo,	110	28 April, 1858,	24,557 7 10	35 18 4	10,650 0 0	13,871 9 6
Loughs Oughter and Gowna, &c., { Drainage, Navigation abandoned, }	Cavan, Leitrim, & Longford,	119	20 October, 1859,	111,085 0 9	1,312 18 7	35,075 0 0	65,697 2 2
Loughans,	Kilkenny,	80	26 Sept., 1854,	4,167 7 4	94 0 0	1,800 0 0	2,273 7 4
Lough Neagh { Navigation, Drainage, and Water-power,	Antrim, Armagh, Down, Londonderry, and Tyrone,	111	18 Feb., 1859,	104,374 10 4	37,137 10 0	–	32,736 17 10
		112	4 April, „	158,423 3 6	8,513 14 0	110,000 0 0	39,909 9 6
		–	–	357 17 10	Mills,	357 17 10	–
Leesborough,	Monaghan,	94	20 Dec., 1855,	6,081 8 2	247 11 5	3,000 0 0	2,833 16 9
Lough Crew,	Meath,	51	15 Oct., 1851,	2,753 19 8	157 18 6	2,596 1 2	–
Lough Dalla (*Supplemental, 10th October*, 1861),	Mayo,	56	29 „ „	2,836 11 9	191 1 10	2,645 9 11	371 9 11
Lavally,	Galway,	98	27 „ 1856,	15,826 8 8	379 11 8	4,250 0 0	11,196 17 0
Lough Mask and River Robe { Navigation abandoned, Drainage, }	Mayo and Galway,	108	14 Jan., 1858,	3,713 4 10 / 63,350 13 2	1,412 3 5	10,500 0 0	51,438 9 9
Loughs Corrib, Mask, and Carra, { Navigation, Drainage, and Mill-Power,	County of the Town of Galway, and Counties of Galway and Mayo,	116	30 June, 1859,	102,289 16 4	14,883 0 0	–	53,338 11 2
		117	29 Sept., „	116,717 1 7	2,511 3 4	28,000 0 0	109,999 4 0
		122	4 April, 1860,	36,038 18 9	–	13,145 13 0	
Lisduff,	Galway,	54	18 October, 1851,	1,545 15 11	–	1,545 15 11	–
Lough Lannagh,	Mayo,	103	7 April, 1857,	18,445 7 4	1,306 0 8	4,100 0 0	13,039 6 8
Moyour (*Supplemental, 12th April*, 1855),	Do.,	30	26 October, 1850,	8,764 1 2	1,039 19 9	4,000 0 0	3,724 1 5
Mullafarry (*Supplemental, 10th October*, 1861),	Do.,	14	30 April, „	986 13 0	134 3 7	852 9 5	243 9 5
Miles and Templebryan,	Cork,	66	29 „ 1852,	1,392 5 3	69 15 6	1,322 9 9	–
Mullawn (*Supplemental, 10th January*, 1856),	Mayo,	34	26 October, 1850,	347 7 4	13 12 2	300 0 0	33 15 2
Maghera,	Down,	58	30 „ 1851,	1,397 12 1	–	1,397 12 1	–
Moyne and Crosspatrick (*Supplemental, 10th October*, 1861),	Mayo,	21	30 April, 1850,	702 13 9	23 1 6	679 12 3	219 12 3
Monivea,	Galway,	105	24 „ 1857,	16,896 1 1	1,228 12 11	5,092 0 0	10,575 8 2
Nobber,	Meath,	44	20 Sept., 1851,	7,634 3 4	580 17 11	7,053 5 5	–
Oranhill (*Supplemental, 13th February*, 1857),	Galway,	2	4 April, 1849,	3,871 16 2	190 16 2	2,650 0 0	1,031 0 0
Owenabrockagh (*Supplemental, 13th March*, 1855),	Mayo,	29	26 October, 1850,	3,154 5 7	90 15 11	1,500 0 0	1,563 9 8
Owenkeagh,	Cork,	16	30 April, „	1,277 7 3	70 11 7	1,206 15 8	–
Quin,	Clare,	84	25 October, 1854,	20,055 11 0	1,078 18 4	14,000 0 0	4,976 12 8
Red Bog,	Meath,	8	6 Sept., 1849,	964 19 11	66 19 11	898 0 0	–
Rath, or Clooneen (*Supplemental, 31st March*, 1856),	Longford and Westmeath,	73	30 „ 1852,	6,671 6 4	599 8 1	4,600 0 0	1,471 18 3
Ratooragh,	Cork,	49	13 October, 1851,	928 7 11	–	928 7 11	–
Rinn and Blackriver,	Leitrim and Longford,	114	26 April, 1859,	33,460 7 10	2,279 14 3	15,000 0 0	16,180 13 7
Strokestown,	Roscommon,	96	11 July, 1856,	42,097 6 1	1,858 5 3	21,541 0 1	18,698 0 9
Shrule,	Mayo and Galway,	104	15 April, 1857,	30,573 19 3	932 0 1	7,500 0 0	22,141 19 2
Shinrone { (*Supplemental 31st Mar. 1856*), Lands, Mills,	King's and Tipperary,	75	26 „ 1853,	8,381 2 9	414 9 11	5,000 0 0	2,794 12 10
	Do.,	–	–	–	–	172 0 0	–
Shandon,	Waterford,	50	13 October, 1851,	1,030 12 0	370 0 0	660 12 0	–

hereon, for the Year ending 31st March, 1864—*continued*.

Area of Catchment, or Rain Basin.	Area of Flooded or Injured Lands, which have been Drained or Improved. Statute Measure.	Cost per Acre of the Drainage, including Interest, &c.	Increase in the Annual Letting Value of these Lands, caused by Drainage.	Amount of Instalments payable half-yearly, to repay Cost with Interest.	No. of half-yearly instalments, to repay principal and interest.	Repayments.			Districts.
						To 31st March, 1863.	For year ending 31st March, 1864.	Total.	
Stat. Acres.	A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
3,520	304 1 20	3 0 8	144 10 9	43 13 11	28	1,168 14 4	86 8 11	1,255 3 3	Headford.
16,000	2,966 2 32	6 11 3	763 8 5	366 4 8	44	7,196 4 5	620 19 5	7,817 3 10	Hind River.
600	150 1 38	1 16 5	26 13 11	10 1 3	40	330 12 9	12 18 8	343 11 5	Hermitage.
231,116	6,850 1 0	8 7 8	1,400 9 5	625 2 0	30	6,641 12 7	1,066 12 2	7,708 4 9	Inny.
8,532	509 1 12	19 6 3	702 0 1	241 17 6	24	8,664 12 2	478 7 7	9,142 19 9	Kilmannock.
46,341	6,344 3 15 1 2 9	8 6 1 –	1,509 13 1 –	722 2 11 3 1 9	44	12,510 14 10	1,441 4 9	13,951 19 7	Killimor.
10,000	1,129 3 30	9 10 3	622 12 5	185 11 10	40	7,081 19 3	277 19 3	7,359 18 6	Kilmaine.
88,030	5,498 2 15	5 9 0	975 0 9	453 6 9	25	6,093 5 2	930 5 0	7,023 10 2	Kilbeggan.
–	15 2 4	–	–	66 1 8	–				
8,000	2,153 0 15	3 11 9	505 14 8	187 19 2	28	3,148 16 6	371 4 3	3,520 0 9	Kilbride.
2,000	369 1 22	2 7 9	143 10 1	32 9 8	40	951 13 3	51 4 0	1,002 17 3	Kilmurry.
17,000	636 3 0	4 8 0	101 6 2	36 11 1	40	687 18 1	47 13 2	735 11 3	Kill.
3,230	491 3 11	3 13 4	196 4 1	67 15 1	40	1,744 16 2	114 0 2	1,858 16 4	Kilcock.
1,000	67 3 31	2 15 7	28 2 9	10 9 10	32	260 0 9	20 15 1	280 15 10	Kinmeen.
18,000	2,821 2 0	3 15 5	499 6 5	228 4 3	48	5,469 16 11	254 13 4	5,724 10 3	Kilmaganny.
18,000	1,758 3 0	6 0 5	317 15 2	153 0 6	44	2,409 16 9	238 14 7	2,648 11 4	Keenagh.
6,064	921 2 30	2 19 10	240 19 7	Paid off.	–	2,697 4 6	39 5 7	2,736 10 1	Lough Alick.
72,320	3,972 2 29	10 13 11	1,300 7 9	625 17 2	44	8,615 1 1	1,238 13 9	9,853 14 10	Longford.
8,900	1,057 1 13	3 5 3	335 7 9	92 2 4	24	3,239 6 7	89 18 8	3,329 5 3	Lorrha.
2,500	193 1 38	3 9 9	59 11 4	26 19 6	40	810 13 4	4 9 1	815 2 5	Loughnasaggart.
128,000	4,719 2 20	5 3 11	757 5 2	366 4 8	44	3,874 7 8	701 15 0	4,576 2 8	Lough Gara and Mantua.
260,480	10,537 2 8	10 8 4	2,506 14 4	1,206 3 2	44	10,120 16 11	2,378 14 4	12,499 11 3	Loughs Oughter, Gowna, &c.
3,500	548 1 2	7 8 8	214 4 4	65 16 0	40	1,181 7 0	258 9 1	1,439 16 1	Loughans.
	–	–	–	3,713 14 11	10	29,670 18 3	6,133 18 0	35,804 16 3	Lough Neagh, *Navigation, Drainage, and Water-power.*
1411320	29597 2 32	5 14 0	9,879 6 8	3,782 13 5	44	40,726 16 6	7,310 13 2	48,037 9 8	
	–	–	–	12 6 2	44				
11,922	728 2 27	8 0 3	221 11 9	103 3 3	44	1,701 2 8	201 5 6	1,902 8 2	Leesborough.
2,396	489 0 34	5 6 1	140 4 8	69 2 6	72	2,145 7 11	103 13 11	2,249 1 10	Lough Crew.
4,500	983 0 15	2 13 10	261 16 2	97 6 7	40	2,330 1 4	121 6 0	2,451 7 4	Lough Dalla.
28,160	1,940 2 0	7 19 2	304 9 8	146 3 0	44	2,380 17 3	290 6 8	2,671 3 11	Lavally.
225,000	5,805 0 13	10 13 5	625 10 9	302 1 3	60	4,149 3 3	652 7 10	4,801 11 1	Lough Mask & River Robe.
	–	–	–	1,488 6 0	10	9,169 8 3	3,450 18 6	12,620 6 9	Loughs Corrib, Mask, and Carra, *Navigation, Drainage, & Mill Power.*
780,000	5,032 2 4	22 13 10	1,861 4 2	835 14 1	56	11,737 14 1	2,721 4 1	14,461 18 2	
	26 1 19	–	–	480 11 0	40				
2,400	498 1 11	3 2 0	112 16 8	48 7 2	52	1,113 16 7	94 19 10	1,208 16 5	Lisduff.
21,440	1,750 2 5	9 15 9	241 13 5	117 19 0	60	2,021 5 11	337 5 7	2,358 11 6	Lough Lannagh.
6,000	1,040 3 11	7 8 5	553 8 4	98 17 3	26	5,244 18 5	195 10 11	5,440 9 4	Moyour.
2,210	326 0 15	2 12 4	117 5 1	Paid off.	–	932 3 3	–	932 3 3	Mullafarry.
10,285	259 1 29	5 2 0	94 14 2	45 15 2	44	1,069 3 9	90 14 6	1,159 18 3	Miles and Templebryan.
400	74 3 13	4 9 2	29 11 1	Paid off.	–	362 19 8	–	362 19 8	Mullawn.
19,000	393 1 22	3 11 0	147 3 5	59 19 5	32	1,410 12 9	100 9 10	1,511 2 7	Maghera.
600	96 1 32	7 0 11	50 16 10	Paid off.	–	632 14 7	–	632 14 7	Moyne and Crosspatrick.
54,000	1,481 0 0	10 11 7	305 7 4	146 9 9	60	2,969 8 6	426 11 3	3,395 19 9	Monivea.
40,000	1,357 1 3	5 3 11	586 13 2	266 8 9	40	6,801 12 11	469 2 7	7,270 15 6	Nobber.
Unknown, being in cavernous limestone.	974 0 16	3 15 7	315 10 1	87 13 8	20	3,629 8 1	112 9 6	3,741 17 7	Oranhill.
6,000	379 0 35	8 1 6	224 1 6	23 9 1	26	1,824 6 6	11 1 0	1,835 7 6	Owenabrockagh
15,700	393 2 15	3 1 4	99 9 10	41 15 1	44	1,190 11 4	74 6 11	1,264 18 3	Owenkeagh.
37,120	4,305 0 29	4 8 1	1,032 15 3	456 8 6	48	9,456 8 2	847 6 1	10,303 14 3	Quin.
3,000	241 2 8	3 14 4	75 8 5	33 0 9	40	998 0 8	56 11 8	1,054 12 4	Red Bog.
15,000	1,157 3 35	5 4 10½	401 16 10	167 8 11	32	4,224 0 6	316 2 0	4,540 2 6	Rath, or Clooneen.
2,780	244 1 0	3 16 0	51 7 11	23 9 1	80	739 14 0	26 3 6	765 17 6	Ratooragh.
74,000	4,695 2 20	6 12 10	1,070 5 2	515 16 5	44	7,641 14 0	940 1 10	8,581 15 10	Rinn and Blackriver.
70,000	7,478 2 21	5 8 8	1,794 17 10	741 5 4	44	13,528 9 0	1,816 4 1	15,344 13 1	Strokestown.
27,000	3,207 0 5	9 4 10	443 19 10	215 15 2	60	5,477 2 2	288 11 4	5,765 13 6	Shrule.
35,840	1,288 3 7	6 0 11½	434 19 7	160 4 8	40	4,253 13 2	284 19 11	4,538 13 1	Shinrone.
	3 1 0	–	–	4 8 10	80				
160	43 1 15	15 4 10	57 8 7	22 17 2	44	889 11 9	45 4 3	934 16 0	Shandon.

SCHEDULE.—ABSTRACT OF FINAL AWARDS, and Repayments

Districts.	Counties.	No. of Award.	Date when Awards made final.	Total Amount of Expenditure, for all purposes.	Portion of Total Expenditure charged to Counties for Public Works.	Portion of Total Expenditure charged on Lands.	Remissions.
				£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Shandrum,	Mayo,	18	30 April, 1850,	712 10 3	–	712 10 3	–
Sow (*Supplemental, 23rd March*, 1859),	Wexford,	76	26 „ 1853,	8,825 9 3	415 12 11	6,500 0 0	1,909 16 4
Shanagolden (*Award abandoned*),		–	–	3,741 8 4	227 15 5	–	3,513 12 11
Saleen Lough,	Mayo,	42	29 „ 1851,	3,079 13 11	135 18 6	2,943 15 5	–
Turloughmore,	Galway,	88	28 June, 1855,	60,718 1 9	1,126 10 2	23,000 0 0	36,591 11 7
Templemore (New award) { Lands,	Tipperary,	77	1 July, 1854,	15,908 15 5	1,098 3 2	7,500 0 0	7,030 12 3
Mills,	Do.,	–		–	–	280 0 0	–
Tawnawoggaun (*Supplemental, 31st March*, 1856),	Mayo,	36	26 October, 1850,	1,334 0 10	155 12 4	1,000 0 0	178 8 6
Wilkinstown,	Meath,	10	19 „ 1849,	1,764 0 0	190 17 7	1,573 2 5	–
Wottonstown,	Louth,	45	20 Sept., 1851,	1,102 13 0	80 17 7	1,021 15 5	–
Youghal,	Cork,	100	18 Feb., 1857,	22,776 0 0	–	7,000 0 0	15,776 0 0
				2,384,338 8 11	151,993 14 9	902,148 13 6	1,190,560 13 1

ıereon, for the Year ending 31st March, 1864—*continued.*

Area of atchment, or ain Basin.	Area of Flooded or Injured Lands, which have been Drained or Improved. Statute Measure.	Cost per Acre of the Drainage, including Interest, &c.	Increase in the Annual Letting Value of these Lands, caused by Drainage.	Amount of Instalments payable half-yearly, to repay Cost with Interest.	No. of half-yearly Instalments, to repay principal and Interest.	Repayments.			Districts.
						To 31st March, 1863.	For year ending 31st March, 1864.	Total.	
Stat. Acres.	A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
700	132 1 35	5 7 7	53 10 0	24 13 1	44	794 2 7	20 5 8	814 8 3	Shandrum.
14,000	1,983 0 10	4 4 10	609 9 5	290 19 6	44	5,828 7 5	429 1 7	6,257 9 0	Sow.
–	–	–	–	–	–	227 15 5	–	227 15 5	Shanagolden.
2,850	906 3 14	3 4 11	259 3 10	74 7 3	80	2,429 14 4	139 1 9	2,568 16 1	Saleen Lough.
212,480	8,186 3 20	7 5 7	1,695 2 9	749 16 10	48	12,712 1 2	1,450 13 2	14,162 14 4	Turloughmore.
33,000	3,394 0 21	4 7 3	1,263 5 10	334 17 6	30	8,096 5 3	505 16 5	8,602 1 8	Templemore.
	2 2 0	–	–	12 10 0	„				
2,200	294 1 0	4 0 1	82 10 10	33 7 3	30	1,293 14 6	20 13 2	1,314 7 8	Tawnawoggaun.
10,600	700 2 37	2 4 10	217 16 8	57 17 6	40	1,752 18 11	107 3 3	1,860 2 2	Wilkinstown.
6,300	316 1 17	3 4 7	96 15 8	40 9 6	40	1,016 12 2	80 7 9	1,096 19 11	Wottonstown.
1,547	224 0 0	101 13 7	500 0 0	Paid off.	–	8,157 19 7	–	8,157 19 7	Youghal.
		Average.							
,358,358	266,736 2 4	8 11 4	74,502 7 2	39,975 9 1		614,062 6 2	72,275 11 2	686,337 17 4	

APPENDIX D.

INLAND NAVIGATIONS AND HARBOURS.

Extracts from the Annual Reports, for the year 1863 :—

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Appendix D.

Report of Mr. Robert Adams, Inspector, on the State of the Tyrone Navigation. For the year 1863. Dated 18th January, 1864.

Report of Mr. Robert Adams, Inspector.

I beg leave to report that the works executed during the past year on the Tyrone Navigation, have been strictly confined to that of repairs; there have not even been any heavy repairs executed, those that have been done being merely repairs of lock-gates, canal banks, and towing path. There is one item, however, which threatens to become a source of great expense—namely, the removal of the weed (anacharis alsinastrum) of recent appearance in the canals in the north of Ireland. The rapidity with which it roots and spreads and the luxuriance of its growth are wonderful.

The canal is in fair working order and steadily maintains its trade.

Report of Mr. James Bellew, Superintendent.

Report of Mr. James Bellew, Superintendent, on the State of the Works of the Boyne Navigation. For the year 1863. Dated 11th January, 1864.

I beg to forward the following report of the state of the Boyne Navigation, and of the different works of repair which have been executed during the past year.

River Wall, Ball's Grove Trackway.

There is no breach in this wall; about 40 feet of the old part of it fell down in the month of October last, which has been rebuilt in the most permanent manner. The trackway will require a coat of gravel to be put upon it when the proper season arrives for doing so; a new bridge having been recently erected over the Boyne, near this trackway, it has become a place of much resort by the inhabitants of Drogheda.

Oldbridge Station.

The lock-gates at this station are in good working order. I am of opinion that no repair will be necessary upon them during the coming season.

Stalleen Station.

The breast-gates at this station, which I stated in my last report as being old, are likely to last some time longer; the deep-gates are in good order. About 40 perches of this trackway has been newly gravelled; the bridge over the canal has been punched, and a heavy coat of gravel placed upon it. About 70 perches of this trackway, near Norris's-bridge, was not fenced off from the adjoining land, and was a source of bitter contention between the lock-keeper at Stalleen and the occupier of that land, owing to the trespass of the cattle of each upon the other; this cause of annoyance has been removed by means of a new fence, which has been executed in a most permanent manner, and planted with thorn quicks. A new balance beam has been put in at the Guard Lock, which is now in proper order.

Broe Station.

The lock-gates at this station are in good order. In consequence of the land upon the river side of the canal, a short distance above the lock-keeper's house, being so much lower than the canal, about 100 feet of the embankment became weak, owing to the floods we have had for the last two or three seasons; it has been properly repaired, and 310 tons of puddle used for that purpose, in order to make it permanent; the trackway has been repaired where necessary.

Rosnaree Station.

The breast-gates at this station are, as stated in my last report, very old, and going to decay; they are unworthy of repair, and new gates will shortly be indispensable. The deep-gates are in good order.

Mill Lock, Slane.

These gates are in good working order.

Castle Lock Station.

The gates are in excellent order; the bank from which the boatmen are in the habit of putting their horses on board, in order to get across the river, some distance above this station, was out of repair; it is nearly 50 feet in length, and is now in perfect order, more than 100 tons of stones having been used in order to make the wall strong and permanent, and which the Marquis Conyngham, through his steward, allowed me to have quarried free of expense.

The weeds which grow to such a height in the Canal during the summer months, and of which we had last year an unprecedentedly large quantity, were cut down, in the different levels at the proper season.

Report of Mr. J. J. Boylan, C.E. Executive Engineer.

Report of Mr. J. J. Boylan, C.E., Executive Engineer on the Works executed for the Improvements of Donaghadee Harbour, in the *County of Down*, and of Howth Harbour, in the *County of Dublin*, during the year 1863. Dated 8th March, 1864.

Donaghadee Harbour.

Immediately on the completion of the works ordered for the improvement of Donaghadee Harbour, at the close of the year 1862, the "dredging plant" were thoroughly overhauled and repaired, and portions of the machinery taken down and stowed ready for transport; and on the 1st of February the dredger and barges were moored in secure berths, where they remained until the 13th July, when they were removed to Howth Harbour.

In the month of July two sand hummocks, discovered by Captain Hoskyn, R.N., Admiralty Surveyor, in his examination of the harbour, were removed by means of a spoon and bag dredge; one of these hummocks was formed round a piece of chain cable that had been dropped from some vessel after the works had been completed.

During the rough weather, in the early part of December last, a rupture was made in the sea pavement to the South Pier, but it was immediately repaired so as to protect the pavement during the winter season. It will be necessary however to secure this pavement, as well as that to the North Pier, in a more permanent manner, during the ensuing summer.

Howth Harbour.

The works that have been commenced during this year for the improvement of Howth Harbour consist in the deepening, by means of dredging, of the Bar and a portion of the Basin alongside the West Pier, principally for the better accommodation of vessels engaged in herring fishing. The present depth of water on the bar at low water spring tides is but 4 feet, and alongside the West Pier it is from 5 feet to 1 foot. It is proposed to increase the depth on the bar to 8 feet, and alongside the West Pier to 7 feet at the north end, and to 3 feet at the steps a little to the southward of the centre of the pier, in order to enable the fishing boats to enter and depart at all times of tide. To obtain the depths above stated, it will be necessary only to remove sand and mud; but should a greater depth be attempted a sheet of solid rock, which spreads over the entire bottom of the harbour, would have to be encountered.

Pending the orders to proceed with the work, advantage was taken of the fine weather to convey the dredging plant from Donaghadee, and on the morning of the 14th of July the dredger and four barges arrived at Howth in tow of a steam-tug after a very successful trip of twenty-one hours.

Early in September orders were received to proceed with the works. Workshops were at once constructed on the West Pier, and the dredger was got into working order with as little delay as possible; a new balance-boat was attached to the dredger; a new bucket-ladder constructed, and the machinery which had been taken down for safety in towing re-erected; this work was however very considerably retarded by extremely rough weather.

Appendix J.

Report of Mr. J. J. Boylan, C.E. Executive Engineer.

On the 4th November the dredger commenced to work at the north angle of the West Pier, and has since continued (except when interrupted by stormy weather) to deepen the berth alongside the West Pier, from which there has been dredged 2,060 cubic yards of sand and mud up to the 31st December, 1863.

The road from the harbour to Kilrock Quarry has been repaired, and privies, and a slip for the life-boat, are in course of construction on the West Pier.

The sea slope of the East Pier has not received any injury during the past year, and is in an efficient state.

REPORT of Mr. JAMES M. MERRICK, Inspector, on the STATE of the SHANNON NAVIGATION (ATHLONE DISTRICT). For the year 1863. Dated 20th January, 1864.

Report of Mr. James M. Merrick, Inspector.

Navigation Channel from Shannon Harbour to Battle-Bridge Lock.

The following works have been executed for the maintenance of the navigation course between Shannon Harbour and Battle Bridge, a distance of 79 miles, including the defined channels through Loughs Ree, Forbes, Boffin, &c. Thirty-one larch guide piles, six cast-iron and two floating piles have been erected to replace those decayed or stolen; bushes or boards have been fixed on fifty-three guide piles, to mark the navigation course during fogs or high floods; one stone beacon has been built to replace one damaged by the force of the waves; seven new wrought-iron buoys moored, and thirteen repaired and remoored. The navigation course is now well defined, with the exception of the reach between Lanesborough and Tarmonbarry, which require several guide piles to replace those that have disappeared during the winter floods, which are in course of erection.

The steam dredger was employed from the 1st of March to the 12th of April in removing some small shoals of silt and remains of old clay dams between Lough Forbes and Rooskey Lock. The quantity raised amounted to 2,052 cubic yards, making a navigable depth of 7 feet summer water.

Shannon Bridge.

The flooring of the swivel bridge has been repaired in a temporary manner, as the entire platform will require new sheeting next spring.

The south wharf has been underpinned and repaired; all the other works at this station are in a good state of repair.

Athlone.

Eighteen perches of fence wall 7½ feet high has been built, and an iron gate erected on the boundary of the Board's property adjoining that of the War Department at the west side of the river.

A timber fender has been erected below the lock to protect passenger steamers from the bank during summer water. The opening gear of the lower lock-gates were repaired by the diver; the gates and machinery are now in good working order.

Two cast-iron mooring posts have been fixed, and twenty-four tons of gravel spread on the Connaught-quay.

The weir wall requires some backing of puddle and gravel at the upstream side, and which can be done when the water is at summer level.

All the other works are in a good state of repair.

Lanesborough.

The works at this station, consisting of swivel bridge, wharves, harbour, office, and crane, are in good order; no repairs were found necessary this year.

Tarmonbarry.

All the works at this station, consisting of lock and weir wall, swivel bridge, wharf, embankments, and house at bridge, are in a good state of repair; no outlay was required for the works this year.

Cloondrah.

The lock on the Cloondrah Canal in connexion with the Royal Canal and Camlin River, has been thoroughly repaired. The masonry of the upper and lower cills and platforms being re-set with hydraulic mortar, and pointed, together with the entire of the side walls of chamber and forebay with Roman cement. The upper and lower gates were repaired and strengthened and new sluices attached, and all the timber and iron-work tarred and painted. A large quantity of silt was removed from the canal above and below the lock by means of spoon and bag dredging; but as the winter floods leave a large amount of deposit here, which obstructs the navigation, the dredging will have to be resumed in the summer. The other works are in a fair state of repair.

Rooskey.

The works at this station, consisting of swivel bridge, wharf, lock, and weir wall, embankments, and lock-house, are in a fair state of repair. No repairs of consequence were found necessary to be executed this year.

Albert Lock, Jamestown Canal.

The works in connexion with Jamestown Canal are in general good order, with the exception of some repairs (arising from dry-rot) which the lock-gates require, and which can be more easily executed next summer.

Jamestown Mill Building and Kilbride.

The roof of Mill Building has been repaired.

A passage with iron gate has been formed from the public road to the mill yard, through the Board's property. A wire fence has been erected to prevent trespass, and which defines their boundary through the yard. A fence of larch timber 50 feet long by 5 feet high has been erected on the boundary of the Kilbride wharf, to prevent trespass on the Board's property.

Carrick-on-Shannon.

The new residence and office for the toll-collector, mentioned in my last year's report as being in course of erection, has been finished, and will, I expect, be sufficiently dry for occupation on the 1st of next February. It contains four rooms, office, outhouses, and enclosed yard. The wharves and hoisting crane at this station are in a good state of repair.

Lough Allen Canal.

Seven hundred and thirty-seven perches of back drain has been cleaned out at Lough Allen Canal, and forty-six at Cloonfad.

The canal banks, as also the locks and lock-houses at Battle Bridge and Drumleague are in a fair state of repair.

The entrance to the canal from Lough Allen has silted up considerably from the action of the waves on the banks during the stormy weather; measures are in progress for removing the obstructions by means of spoon and bag dredging.

APPENDIX D.

Report of Mr. James M. Merrick, Inspector.

River Shannon from Battle Bridge to Lough Allen.

The old eel weirs, mentioned in my last year's report as having been removed from Drummore, Crawford's-mill, and Inchagoul Island, were partially replaced by poachers, who placed large quantities of stones on the same sites during the winter, to facilitate their catching eels illegally. These stones have been removed, and legal means resorted to, which will, I expect, prevent a recurrence of the offence.

The Boyle Water.

The stations in this part of the Athlone district are Knockvicar, Cootehall, Clarendon Lock, and Drum Wharf, and they continue in a good state of repair. The Clarendon Lock will require foot-boards and some slight repairs next season.

The Steam Dredger and Barges.

The steam dredger which is moored at Rooskey is in fair working order, with the exception of the deck and some of the framing, which require some repairs. The barges will require new decks and to be thoroughly caulked before they can be again used for dredging purposes.

General State of the Works.

The general state of the works is most satisfactory. The harbours and wharves at Lecarrow, Dromod, Drumsna, Carnadoe, Jamestown, Kilbride, Cootehall, Knockvicar, and Drum, are all in good preservation. Seven lock-houses have been kept in good order and lime-washed; and where required the timber work has been painted. Eight lock-gates have been kept in thorough repair, and were scraped, and tarred with Stockholm tar, and the iron-work painted.

Report of Mr. William Molloy, Inspector.

REPORT of Mr. WILLIAM MOLLOY, Inspector, on the STATE of the SHANNON NAVIGATION (LIMERICK DISTRICT), and the MAIGUE NAVIGATION. For the year 1863. Dated 16th February, 1864.

In compliance with the instructions contained in your letter of the 14th ult., I beg to inform you, for the information of the Commissioners, that the several works on the lower and middle Shannon are in a state of very good repair.

Querrin.

The roadway and wharf at this station have been kept in good repair.

Kilrush.

The two hoisting cranes at this station have been scraped, cleaned, and painted two coats, in oil paint; the roof of the wooden shed coated with Stockholm tar, and both wooden offices painted.

Saleen.

The wharf has been repaired with a good coating of broken stones, the collector's house lime-whitened, the doors and windows painted two coats.

Kilteery.

The pier at this station is in good repair, and no expenditure for its maintenance has been incurred during the past year.

Foynes Harbour.

Both hoisting-cranes on the pier have been scraped, cleaned, and painted two coats, in oil paint, and the wharf repaired with a good coating of broken stones.

Kildysart Pier.

The roadway and pier are in good repair; there has been no expenditure incurred on them during the past year.

Clare.

The hoisting-crane on the pier has been scraped, cleaned, and painted two coats, in oil paint, the wharf has been repaired with a good coating of broken stones, the office repaired and lime-whitened. The berths for vessels frequenting the harbour have been cleared of any loose stones which might be injurious to the vessels frequenting the port.

Corbally Weir.

This regulating weir wall is in good repair, and no expense has been incurred for its maintenance during the past year.

Limerick Navigation.

The canal banks, wharves, roadway, bridges, and towing paths, between Limerick and Killaloe, a distance of sixteen miles, have been well and carefully maintained during the past year. The wharf and roadway between Clare-street and the canal stores have been repaired with 135 cubic yards of broken stones, 627 lineal perches of towing path coated with good strong gravel, 285 yards superficial, of stone pitching, set on slopes of banks, 328 yards superficial, of sodding on slopes of banks, 24 perches lineal of new sod fence made at Ardcloony, and 795 perches of boundary drains cleaned and deepened, so as to afford the necessary drainage to the adjoining lands. All the lock-gates, twenty-four in number, have been kept in good repair; the necessary uprights, brackets, loggers, rollers, &c., have been supplied, the necessary portions of the iron and woodwork painted, and the sheeting scraped, cleaned, and coated with best Stockholm tar. One new pair of lock-gates has been made and erected on the Shannon level at Killaloe. One timber accommodation bridge over the conduit leading to the marble mill, which became defective, has been renewed by a sheeting of 3″ plank. The lock-houses, stores, &c., twenty-one in number, have been all lime-whitened, the roofs repaired, and all doors and windows painted. Two new porches, 6 feet by 4 feet, have been put up—one at Cussane, and the other at Moyes, which are a great advantage to the lock-keepers. There have been 215 cubic yards of stones and gravel removed from the Navigation course, at and under O'Brien's-bridge, and 55 cubic yards of stones, the remains of an old stank, at Partcen shoal.

World's End.

The roadway and wharf have been repaired with 65 tons of strong gravel, 25 yards superficial, of stone pitching, has been set on the slope, so as to save the roadway from injury.

Bunown, Ardcloony River.

The various floods in this river during the past year, have brought down large quantities of gravel, which were deposited in the old river course, above the bridge. A portion of this deposit, 1,028 cubic yards, has been removed, and a large quantity still remains, which will have to be wheeled out this season.

Killaloe.

Twelve guide-piles have been driven so as to protect the booms between the bridge and pier head. The deck of the Albert dredger has been countersheeted; the C. dredger has been thoroughly overhauled and repaired, both engines and hull; 18 inches added to her length; her sides were repaired by putting in twelve new iron plates 6 feet by 2 feet, and twelve upright angle irons. Her deck was very defective, which had to be stripped off, and six new tie-beams had to be put in, and a new deck, 422 feet superficial, of 2-inch red pine plank laid on, caulked and paid off. The machinery and engines refitted, one new toe-brass, one new pedestal with feed and steam pipes put in, the whole of the interior scaled, cleaned, and painted three coats in oil paint, and

exterior coated with ship varnish. Three barges have been repaired with 214 superficial feet of 2-inch red pine sheeting plank, and 2,360 feet lineal of seams caulked and paid off. All the other works at this station are in good repair.

Scarriff.

Both harbours and wharves are in good repair; no expenditure has been incurred on them during the past season.

Mount Shannon Pier

In good repair, no expenditure incurred for its maintenance during the past season.

Portumna.

The superstructure of the swivel bridge has been repaired, portions of the wooden jetty renewed with 68 feet superficial of 3-inch sheeting plank. The wharf at the Connaught harbour has been repaired with a coating of broken stones, and the hoisting-crane painted two coats in oil paint.

Meelick.

All the iron work in connexion with Victoria lock-gates, the doors and windows of the lock-house and stores have been painted in oil paint; during the times of high water, a few leakages appeared in the canal banks, which were attended to without delay and stanched. The regulating weir wall and all other works in connexion with the station are in good repair.

Cloonaheenogue Canal.

The lock-house lime-whitened, and windows painted; both swivel bridges repaired; 184 perches of canal banks repaired with broken stones, and 478 perches of boundary drain cleaned and deepened.

Banagher.

The collector's house has been lime whitened, the roof of the store-house repaired, and the superstructure of the swivel bridge repaired where necessary.

Shannon Harbour.

The approaches to the ferry boat and wooden bridge have been repaired and made good; the landings for the ferry-boat at both sides of the river deepened, so as to admit her in time of low-water to land the horses with ease and safety.

General Navigation.

The necessary guide-piles for defining the sailing course in time of high-water has been attended to—viz., fifteen piles have been driven between Banagher and Derry Island, at the entrance of Lough Derg, and nine floating buoys removed and placed on shoals on Lough Derg.

River Maigue Navigation.

The collector's house has been lime-whitened, the doors and windows painted, and the necessary repairs executed to the swivel bridge. In conclusion, I beg to inform you that the several other works on the Lower and Middle Shannon, as also on the Maigue Navigation, are in such a good state of repair as not to require any further notice.

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FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

H 30

FIFTY-NINTH

REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONERS

OF THE

CALEDONIAN CANAL.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
18 *July* 1864.

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CALEDONIAN CANAL.

TO THE HONOURABLE THE KNIGHTS, CITIZENS, AND BURGESSES, IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED.

THE FIFTY-NINTH REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE CALEDONIAN CANAL.

THE navigation of the Caledonian Canal was threatened with interruption by the severe frost of January last; but the constant traffic, during that period of the year, facilitated the clearing of the ice, and the passage was kept open throughout the winter. The Canal also escaped damage from the heavy floods and storms of that inclement season.

Several works and repairs have been executed, within the year, of which a detailed account will be found in the report of the General Superintendent. App. No. 1. Of these the most important, are the construction of a substantial stone pier at Bona Ferry, the coaling station of the steam tug-boat for Loch Ness—to replace a decayed timber jetty—and the general repair of the hull and boilers of the steam tug-boat, "The Speaker," at an expense of 366 *l.* 16 *s.* 11 *d.*

The revenue of the Canal has been somewhat below that of the previous year. In the year ending 30th April 1863, the receipts amounted to 6,999 *l.* 19 *s.* 4 *d.*; in the year ending 30th April 1864, to 6,871 *l.* 14 *s.* 4 *d.*, thus showing a decrease of 128 *l.* 5 *s.*, in the latter period. At the same time the expenditure has also been increased—mainly by the repairs of the steam tug-boat; having amounted in the former year to 6,240 *l.* 8 *s.* 6 *d.*, and in the latter, to 6,449 *l.* 6 *s.* In the one case, the excess of receipts over expenditure was 759 *l.* 10 *s.* 10 *d.*; in the other, no more than 422 *l.* 8 *s.* 4 *d.*; the comparison being unfavourable to the latter period, to the extent of 337 *l.* 2 *s.* 6 *d.* But as the Commissioners have enjoyed a surplus revenue during the last four years, they have been able gradually to convert a balance against them, at the Bank of Scotland, amounting at the commencement of that period, to 1,078 *l.* 19 *s.* 10 *d.*, into a balance in their favour of 2,092 *l.* 13 *s.* 5 *d.*

There has been a slight increase in the general or through traffic of the navigation, as compared with the last year, especially in cargoes of home and foreign grain, of potatoes, and of linseed and flax from the Baltic. But the local traffic has not been prosperous; and another failure of the herring fishery has again deprived the Commissioners of that once profitable branch of revenue. For the encouragement of the traffic in the lower class of cargoes, the Commissioners, on the 1st August last, reduced their dues upon unmanufactured timber, coals, salt, and herrings; and although a sufficient time has not since elapsed fairly to test the experiment, the revenue has not suffered from the reduction. The proceeds of the passenger tax, amounting to 416 *l.* 14 *s.* 6 *d.*, have exceeded those of any previous year. Fifteen thousand five hundred and sixty passengers travelled by the fast and slow steamers; and a much larger number would certainly have availed themselves of this mode of conveyance: but they were driven from the Highlands by the setting in of bad weather early in September. On the whole, no injury to the swift passenger traffic is anticipated from the opening of the new railway from Perth to Inverness.

ness. Some of this traffic will undoubtedly be diverted from the Canal: but at the same time, the general passenger traffic of the Highlands will be increased, of which the Canal will obtain its share. The probable effect of railway competition, however, may be more accurately estimated after the present season.

CRINAN CANAL.

THE navigation of the Crinan Canal has been free from interruption, except during a few days of severe frost, at the end of January and the beginning of February. Its revenue has been fairly maintained; the Canal dues having somewhat increased but the harbour dues have fallen off to the extent of 219 *l.* 6*s.* 8½ *d.*, in consequence of the failure of the herring fishery. In the year ending 30th April 1863, the receipts, from all sources, amounted to 3,780*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.*; and in the year ending 30th April 1864, to 3,605*l.* 8*s.* 11 *d.*, thus showing a diminution of receipts, in the latter period, of 175 *l.* 3 *s.* 11 *d.* On the other hand the claims upon the funds of the Commissioners have been extraordinarily heavy, amounting to no less than 4,545 *l.* 1 *s.* 5 *d.*, and exceeding the revenue of the year to the extent of 939 *l.* 12 *s.* 6 *d.* This unusual expenditure comprises the cost of completing the restoration of the Lochclachaig Reservoir, the repairs of the steam dredger lately acquired by the Commissioners, the renewal of the swing bridge at Ardrishaig, the purchase of timber for the repair of lock gates, the extension of the pier at Ardrishaig, and the stoppage of some considerable leaks in the Canal banks. The extraordinary outlay due to these several works, and of which a small part only can be included in the usual annual expenditure, is equal to 1,488 *l.* 4 *s.* 1 *d.* To these items of expenditure must be added the annual payment to the Bank of Scotland, of 250 *l.*, in reduction of the debt of the Commissioners on the old account. These payments may be reckoned as additional capital invested in the navigation, and permanently improving its efficiency. But as they have fallen within a single year, they have exhausted not only the annual revenue, but even the balance remaining from the previous year; and left a deficit at the Bank of Scotland on the 30th April, of 181 *l.* 17 *s.* 2 *d.* This small sum, however, will shortly be replaced by the accruing receipts of the Commissioners, in excess of the replaced by the accruing receipts of the Commissioners, in excess of the ordinary expenditure; and care will be taken to restrain the extraordinary outlay of the present year within the income of the navigation.

See App. No. 8.

The entire chain of reservoirs, as it existed before the disaster of 1859, is now restored; and the Lochclachaig Reservoir has been constructed of greater strength, and with an improved sluice and machinery.

The steam dredge having been used in deepening the harbour at Ardrishaig, near the timber pier, has obtained for the steamers 40 feet additional length of wharfage, at low water, which may be further extended, if necessary, by the same means. The dredge is now employed in the general deepening of the harbour, and will shortly be at work upon the Ardrishaig Reach.

By order of the Commissioners,

T. Erskine May,
Secretary.

12 July 1864.

APPENDIX.

Appendix, No. 1.

GENERAL REPORT on the State of the CALEDONIAN CANAL WORKS, to 1st May 1864.

ALTHOUGH the navigation of the Canal was incidentally subjected to one or two brief interruptions during the past year, they were not of such importance as to affect the traffic in any degree. There was severe frost in the month of January, which might have caused a more serious interruption, but an unintermitted stream of traffic during that month lessened very much the difficulty of keeping the passage open. There were heavy floods and storms both before and after that period; but in other respects, little or no damage is to be ascribed to the variations of the weather during the past year.

The timber piling of the projecting jetties which were erected to facilitate the entry of the sea-lock at Clachnaharry, is now in the last stage of decay, and must be renewed, as also some portion of the framework supported by it. The piles, having been of the common planted fir of the country, have lasted their full time; but ought to be replaced by larch of a more durable quality, of which at least a portion may now be obtained from the Canal plantations.

No repair of any kind has been found necessary during the past year at any of the locks or bridges in the eastern district of the Canal, extending from the sea to Loch Ness, and including Clachnaharry, Muirtown, and Dochgarroch; but the lock-gates and bridge railings now require to be tarred and painted during the ensuing summer.

For better protection against accidents, the principal approach to the Swing Bridge at Muirtown, which was open to and immediately adjoining the shipping wharfs on either hand, is now being confined by moveable chain fences, attached to granite posts, which required to be made sufficiently strong to resist the occasional collision of carts or other heavy vehicles passing to and from the wharfs.

The repair of the accommodation road leading to the steamboat wharf at the head of Muirtown Locks, although then not completed, was referred to in my last Annual Report.

The puddle linings on the Muirtown Reach, although generally in good preservation, are nevertheless liable to incidental defects, and have of late required more watchful attention. At a place where there had formerly been an outbreak, the portion of the bank with which it was made up had gradually in course of time settled down a little below the general level, and both the surface of the bank itself and its interior puddle were last summer raised to the proper height.

There is an accumulation of debris, mostly fine gravel, brought down by floods or freshets, in the Burn of Dochfour, which partially obstructs the navigable channel, and has to be removed by dredging. It has taken a good many years to form the deposit, so that its removal is not a frequent operation.

The waste-weir and embankments at Loch Dochfour, which had sustained some damage by the floods and storms not so much of the past as of the previous winter, as referred to in last Annual Report, have had their stone pitchings repaired and secured; but the gravelling of the track-paths, which was partially washed away, has yet to be replaced. The dredging at Dochfour Burn will conveniently supply the materials for this purpose.

The decayed timber pier on the north-west side of Bona Ferry, which is also the coaling station of the steam tug-boat for Loch Ness, has at length been replaced by a substantial stone pier; for which materials had been gradually laid down during previous years, so that the expense incurred in its erection during the past year, does not represent its total cost. This, however, has been by no means considerable, as compared with the nature and advantage of the improvement, and much below what it would have been if executed by a less gradual process, besides that it could only be founded in a low state of the lake, for which it was necessary to wait.

The locks, lock-gates, bridges, &c. in the middle district of the Canal, extending from Loch Ness to Loch Lochy, are generally in good order, and, with one exception, have required little or no repair during the past year. One of the traversing rollers of the upper gates of Aberchalder Lock gave way in the early part of summer, and as this lock forms the junction with Loch Oich, rendering the removal of the water for any temporary purpose impracticable, the renewal of the roller could only be effected by diving operations. The

weather and other circumstances being favourable, it was deemed advisable to anticipate the renewal of two of the other rollers, which were found to be much worn, thus averting the chances of interruption at a more unseasonable period. On this occasion both the diving bell and diving helmet were employed, and were of essential aid to each other, in facilitating and expediting the operations.

The fencing off the ground occupied by or pertaining to the canal, although perhaps in strict law obligatory on the Commissioners, has for the most part been dispensed with as practically useless; but at certain points there are local circumstances which render it either necessary or advisable, and there is not much doubt of the expediency of making the fences of a permanent or at least durable character. A considerable extent of temporary and decayed timber railings adjacent to Kytra and Aberchalder Locks, &c. has consequently been replaced by portions of stone-dyke or wire fencing, which is much to the advantage of the occupants on either side. There are other portions of the Canal ground of much greater extent, occupied by the materials from the original excavation of the Canal, which are very suitable for planting, were it not for the disproportionate expense of fencing.

Perhaps the chief remaining defect of the Canal, as regards the facility of passage for shipping, is the want of an embanked approach to the Swing Bridge, at the south-west end of Loch Oich, which at present adjoins the lake so abruptly as to leave no room for bringing up vessels before entering, thereby, moreover, exposing the bridge itself to the great risk of injury, and consequent interruption to the public travelling. The supply of this defect might be combined with some further improvement of the navigable channels in Loch Oich, which although not absolutely necessary, would yet be of advantage; the materials from the dredging going to form the embankment, as indeed, irrespectively of any improvement of the channels, it is much the cheapest way in which it could be got up; and it may probably be found convenient to devote two or three weeks of the ensuing summer to the operation.

The Burn of Laggan, discharging into the Canal Reach of that name, is one of those which brings down occasional deposits of sand and gravel, the accumulation of which at present requires the services of the steam dredger; and the excavated materials from this source may also be applied to the formation of the embankment adjoining the Oich Swing Bridge, although the quantity is too inconsiderable to be of any use without further addition.

The entrance to and from the Narrows at the north-east end of Loch Lochy is gradually being contracted by the accumulating mass of shingle and sand propelled along its shores by westerly storms; but there is still an ample channel for the passage of shipping, and the removal of the accumulation, should it eventually prove to be necessary, would (irrespectively of quantity) be about the lightest and easiest work which the steam dredger could be set to perform.

The failure of one of the traversing rollers of lock-gates at Gairlochy, to which reference was made in my last Annual Report, was remedied, as therein anticipated; and the completion of the new timber jetty adjoining the upper wing-wall of the lock was likewise protracted somewhat beyond the termination of that year's operations.

The irregular action which takes place in the water-courses of mountain streams requires constant watchfulness and occasional repression by artificial means. This treatment applies to the whole of those connected with the Canal, whether running into it or passing under it through the several culverts in the western district. The abrasion of the stones and shingle, carried along by the latter, has worn away very considerably the masonry forming the inverted arches, or waterways of one of the culverts, some means of counteracting which must eventually be adopted.

Certain defects in the masonry of the Bannavie Locks, more immediately confined to portions nearly adjoining the upper pair of gates, have been alluded to in previous Reports. In one of those portions a small breach took place, to prevent the increase of which it was necessary to effect an immediate repair, although at the cost of interruption to the navigation for a few days in the latter part of October. Fortunately the swift passenger traffic, which had just previously terminated for the season, was wholly unaffected by it; nor, according to the arrangements made, was much inconvenience caused to the general traffic. To avoid any more, the repair was limited to what appeared necessary for the moment; taking the risk of postponing a more effectual remedy to the period usually set apart for such operations in the month of May,—a risk which has fortunately been justified by the event. Several of the fore-bays and under-platforms, on which these and the other lock-gates are supported or traverse, have likewise suffered considerable deterioration by leakage and pressure, so as to claim careful attention at the same time.

The middle pair of gates at the two Corpach Locks have sustained fracture by repeated collisions of vessels or other accidental causes, and will require to be strengthened by new mitring pieces of oak, which are already prepared for this purpose, and to be otherwise secured.

The upper pair of gates of the Sea-lock at Corpach, which are of timber, and are by several years the oldest on the line of the Canal, are likewise in rather a dilapidated condition; but it is proposed to effect such a further repair as may render them serviceable for some time longer.

The timber pier or jetty projecting from the north wing-wall of the Corpach Sea-lock, which was constructed mainly for the use of the swift steamers (as they are of too large a size to enter the lock itself) has of late become very infirm, and indeed unsafe, chiefly through

through the decay of the piling, which consisted of common planted fir, and has already outlived its computed durability, inasmuch as new piling of larch was provided for its renewal two years ago. This renewal could no longer be postponed, and the substitution of the new piling is at present in hand. The repair of some portions of the upper framework and surface platform, which cannot conveniently be overtaken before the commencement of the swift-steamer traffic this season, will stand over till next spring, and for the present will be temporarily obviated.

What may in some respects be considered the chief operation of the past year was the general repair of the hull and steam-boilers of the largest of the two steam tug-boats, which was accomplished during the summer, when the traffic of sailing vessels is generally at the lowest, so as to have been amply accommodated by the service of the other. The decks and inner structure of the vessel and engine were so far dismantled as to admit of the removal of the boilers, and a temporary slip was erected for raising and afterwards launching the hull; in all which operations the command of the machinery and materials which it is necessary to maintain for the general service of the works, enabled us to extemporise with economy the ordinary requisites of a dry dock or patent slip. By this repair the services of the tug-boat, which would otherwise have become extinct, will be efficiently prolonged for several years to come.

A number of subsidiary operations, which it would require too great space to detail, engage attention every year, chiefly in renewing and maintaining the various barges, cranes, piling-engines, and other apparatus and machinery, which are generally classed under the designation of plant. Among these the diving apparatus, owing to the skill acquired in the use of it, is more or less applied to a variety of purposes, which involved much greater expense and difficulty under former circumstances, and consequently well deserves to have its efficiency kept up by the renewal or additional supply of its necessary appendages.

The long-desired Admiralty survey of Loch-Eil and Loch-Linnhe has at length been effected, and some additional buoys and sea-marks have been placed for the more safe guidance of vessels; but the chart of the whole estuary has not yet been published. It now only remains to complete the general chart of the navigation by the survey of the lakes on the line of the Canal, which are on a scale of sufficient magnitude to claim their share of public attention, both in respect of scientific interest and practical advantage.

Caledonian Canal Office, Inverness,
2 May 1864.

George May.

Appendix, No. 2.

GENERAL REPORT on the State of the CRINAN CANAL WORKS, up to 1st May 1864.

THE navigation has continued open during the year, with occasional slight interruptions caused by severe frosts, during the latter part of January, and beginning of February.

The Canal reaches on both sides of the summit level (especially the Crinan Reach) have given more trouble as regards leakage, than during any former year of my experience. They have been carefully attended to, and little or no inconvenience as regards interruption or delay of the traffic was experienced. Although the Crinan Reach was by far the most troublesome of the two, the most threatening leak occurred on the Ardrishaig Reach at a point about three quarters of a mile from Ardrishaig. Here there was a wooden trunk through the embankment, with a sluice on its inner end, which is supposed to have been placed there for the purpose of draining away water that might collect in the bottom of the Canal while in course of formation. A portion of the upper covering of this trunk fell in, and the water came through in great volume, but was fortunately confined to the trunk itself, and being observed almost at the moment it began to show the first indications, the reach was run down sufficiently to ensure safety. Then in preference to cutting the embankment to the bottom, for the renewal of this trunk, which would have entailed the loss of a large quantity of water (that could scarcely be spared at the time), and the stoppage of the through traffic for about 14 days, sheet piles with grooves to receive iron feathering were immediately prepared and driven through the puddle, thus effectually and permanently stopping the leakage. This operation was performed in three days, and caused very little interruption to the traffic. The embankment at this point is now perfectly secure, and, so far as can be judged, will cause no further trouble or anxiety.

The supply of water throughout the year has been ample for the requirements of the navigation.

In consequence of the unfavourable state of the weather, the reconstruction of the Lochclachaig Reservoir Embankment was postponed until further on in the season than anticipated, and the withdrawal of a portion of the men employed upon it to attend to the making up of leakages in the Canal banks, tended a good deal to retard its progress; but as the weather, upon the whole, after its commencement was good, the longer time occupied in

in its construction was rather favourable to it than otherwise. It was completed in November, and in order to give the work some time to consolidate, the sluice was allowed to remain open till the middle of April, when it was closed, and the reservoir filled to its full height, from the Camloch Reservoir. The result has been entirely satisfactory. The proportions of this embankment are slightly stronger than any of the others, this being deemed advisable in consequence of the nature of the ground on which it is placed, and the materials within reach, for its construction. An improved sluice and machinery have been placed on the embankment, the principal recommendation of which is simplicity, with little or no liability to derangement. Even should any derangement occur, the several parts are easy of access for repair; with these recommendations apparent, and after a fair test, it is desirable that the whole of the larger embankments should be fitted with the same kind of sluices and gear, for in their present form and condition they frequently give trouble, and are a constant source of anxiety.

There is another matter connected with the reservoirs which deserves consideration, viz., the widening of the waste weir or overflow between Glenclachaig and Lochnafoilan. The reservoirs lying above or on a higher level than Glenclachaig, are five in number, viz., Lochnabrickbuy, Camloch, Lochclaichaig, and two small lochs of little importance. When these reservoirs are full, their accumulated wastes fall into Glenclachaig, which, along with its own waste, have to pass over the weir into Lochnafoilan, onwards to Lochnadd, and from thence to the sea. After the outbreak of 1859, the waste weirs of all the reservoirs were increased in superficial area, with the exception of that of Glenclachaig. The expense of enlarging this weir would be considerable, and on this ground alone it has hitherto been postponed; but to provide in some degree for its obvious deficiency, Lochnafoilan (which, when full, was on the same surface level as Glenclachaig) was lowered about 14 inches, which reduced the water in both reservoirs to that extent, but afforded this additional margin for waste, which of itself is considerable; but as this is obtained at a great sacrifice of our water supply, it would be more satisfactory to increase the width of the outlet, and restore Lochnafoilan to its original height.

The old pipes and sluice which were in the original Lochclachaig Embankment, have been removed to Lochnafoilan, with a view to place the timber trunk, and will be put in when a favourable opportunity presents itself. The reservoir embankments have stood the winter storms without damage of any kind, and are in excellent condition.

The steam dredger has been put in perfect working order, but has cost more to do so than was at first anticipated. When put into dock it was ascertained that her bottom planking was very much worm eaten, rendering it necessary to sheath her from the keel up to the bends with inch and a half elm planking. She is now at work in the harbour at Ardrishaig, deepening alongside the steam-boat pier, and her performance could not be more satisfactory. Her consumption of coal is very moderate, being rather less than one cwt. per hour, when working in tough clay, and will of course be less when acting upon soft material. By means of the dredging at the pier an additional length of wharfage of about 40 feet at low water has been obtained, and which can be still further increased, if necessary, thus completely obviating the necessity of any further extension of the pier at present. The deepening of the harbour will be continued till completed, when the Ardrishaig Reach will be commenced and completed before the winter sets in, when the waste weirs will be lowered to their former level. Although the dredger has cost more than was calculated on, she is still cheap, being suitable in every way for the requirements of the canal and harbours, and will last for many years, requiring very little expenditure in repairs.

The extension of the steam-boat pier in the early part of the year for the accommodation of the increased size of the new passenger steamer "Iona," has served its purpose very well, and stood the winter storms without damage. This extension, together with the dredging, has rendered the pier very commodious.

The wooden platform on the surface of the breakwater, which has from time to time been repaired, in anticipation of the contemplated scheme of extension and improvement of the Ardrishaig Harbour, became so much dilapidated during the winter, as to render its renewal necessary. For the safety of the work, instead of relaying it with timber, a substantial stone pavement has been procured from a quarry on our own ground at Crinan, which will be laid down before the winter storms set in.

The wharf at Bellanoch, which is a timber construction, and one of the most important shipping stations on the Canal, is nearly worn out, and must be renewed in the course of this season. Part of the timber required in its construction has been provided, and the work will proceed forthwith.

The swing-bridge over Lock No. 1, at Ardrishaig, has been thoroughly renewed and strengthened. This operation caused no interruption to the Canal or road traffic, as a temporary moveable bridge was provided while the other was in course of construction.

The swing-bridge at Oakfield received some accidental damage, and was also repaired and strengthened.

Several pairs of lock-gates have been repaired, and provision is made for the renewal of the lower gates of Lock, No. 3, at Ardrishaig, which will be completed in the course of the year. The upper gate of the sea lock at Ardrishaig will require to be taken down and repaired in consequence of the ravages of the seaworm, but the operation will only cause a temporary interruption to the general traffic.

The

The sills of the lock-gates at Cairnbaan and Dunardry have continued in so good a state of repair that it was considered unnecessary to close the Canal this season for the purpose of overhauling them.

The inlet watercourse to the summit level from the Glenclachaig Reservoir has caused no trouble during the past season; but to render it additionally secure, another weir will be put in. The waste watercourse from the summit level, the silting-up of which was a constant source of trouble, has been kept comparatively clear during the winter floods.

The new road which was begun last year at Dunardry, communicating with the farm of Barnakill, is now in progress of formation, through the large tract of low-lying lands in that neighbourhood; it will ultimately become a public thoroughfare, and necessitate the construction of a wharf at Dunardry for the convenience and development of the local traffic.

The tracking-paths along the whole line have been repaired and trimmed up.

The accompanying statements explain the revenue and expenditure for the past year. There is an increase in the Canal dues this year over last to the extent of 65 *l.* 12 *s.* 8 *d.* there is an increase in passenger transit amounting to 63*l.* 2 *s.* 8 *d.*: but there is a falling off to the extent of 219 *l.* 6 *s.* 8½ *d.* in the harbour dues at Ardrishaig, and a difference of 173 *l.* 7 *s.* 10 ½*d.* on the revenue from all sources for the year—the total revenue for the year being 3,605 *l.* 9 *s.*, and that for the year 1863 being 3,778 *l.* 16 *s.* 10½ *d.*

The expenditure for the past year amounts to 4,262 *l.* 8 *s.* 1 *d.*, making a deficit of 656 *l.* 19 *s.* 1 *d.* The expenditure includes a sum equal to 1,488 *l.* 4 *s.* 1 *d.* of extraordinary outlay not included in ordinary wear-and-tear, and maintenance of the Canal. It embraces the following works:

Restoration of Lochclachaig Reservoir; repairs and general overhaul of the steam-dredger; timber for lock-gates at Crinan; renewal of swing-bridge at Ardrishaig; extension of pier at Ardrishaig Harbour, and stopping leaks in Canal banks.

The falling off in the Harbour revenue is owing to the almost total failure of the herring fishing last season, whereas in the previous year there was a more than ordinary abundance of fish, the great bulk of which was cured and shipped from this place.

The principal item of expenditure during the current year will be for labour connected with dredging operations; but, unless overtaken by something unforeseen at present, there will be a fair surplus revenue over expenditure at the end of the year.

The Canal and Reservoir works, as a whole, are now in much better condition than they were prior to the outbreak in 1859, and the present and future prospects of traffic are very encouraging.

Crinan Canal Office,
Ardrishaig, 1 May 1864.

John B. Fyfe,
Superintendent.

Appendix, No. 3.

ABSTRACT of ACCOUNT of the COMMISSIONERS of the CALEDONIAN CANAL for the CALEDONIAN CANAL, from 30th April 1863 to 30th April 1864.

RECEIPTS.	£.	s.	d.
I. Canal dues, &c. collected by Mr. Davidson and Mr. Clark, including steam towages	6,275	5	8
II. Transit tolls on passengers	416	14	6
III. Rents of property	81	10	–
IV. Petty Customs from town of Inverness	53	3	8
V. Proceeds from thinnings of plantations, and for materials supplied to railway for swivel bridge	45	–	6
AMOUNT of RECEIPTS £.	6,871	14	4

PAYMENTS.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
I. Pay bills	4,595	5	3			
II. Pay bills for steam tug-boats	1,376	10	1			
III. The Secretary's salary and disbursements	203	6	–			
IV. Shore and anchorage dues to Inverness Harbour Trustees	179	16	6			
V. Messrs. Hope, W. S., accounts for general business for years 1862 and 1863 (whereof disbursements 11*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*)	24	8	2			
VI. Ditto - their allowance as cashiers	70	–	–			
AMOUNT of PAYMENTS £.				6,449	6	–
EXCESS of RECEIPTS £.				422	8	4
The balance due by the Bank of Scotland, as at 30th April 1863, was	1,655	8	1			
Add interest due by the Bank of Scotland	31	15	1			
	1,687	3	2			
Deduct commission charged by Bank	16	18	1			
				1,670	5	1
Balance due to the Commissioners by the Bank of Scotland, as at 30th April 1864, after giving effect to the transactions subsequent to 30th April, which are applicable to the year previous to that date £.				2,092	13	5

Edinburgh, 25 June 1864.

James Hope, W. S.

Appendix, No. 4.

ABSTRACT of Account of the Commissioners of the Caledonian Canal for the Crinan Canal, from 30th April 1863 to 30th April 1864.

RECEIPTS.	£.	s.	d.
I. Canal and Harbour, &c. dues collected by Mr. Fyfe	3,184	16	9
II. Transit tolls on passengers	349	1	8
III. Rents of property	71	10	6
Amount of Receipts £.	3,605	8	11

PAYMENTS.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
I. Pay bills	4,262	8	–			
II. Messrs. Hope, W. S., business account	2	13	5			
III. Ditto - allowance as cashiers	30	–	–			
IV. Payment to Old Crinan Canal account	250	–	–			
Amount of Payments £.				4,545	1	5
Excess of Payments £.				939	12	6
The balance due by the Bank of Scotland, as at 30th April 1863, was	749	13	2			
Add interest due by the Bank of Scotland during year	19	16	1			
	769	9	3			
Deduct commission charged by Bank	11	13	11			
				757	15	4
Balance due by the Commissioners to the Bank of Scotland, as at 30th April 1864, after giving effect to the transactions subsequent to 30th April, which are applicable to the year previous to that date £.				181	17	2

Edinburgh, 25 June 1864.

James Hope, W. S.

Appendix, No. 5.

MONTHLY ACCOUNT of Vessels Navigating the Caledonian Canal, from 1st May 1863 to 1st May 1864.

DATE.	Number of Passages through the Canal. East to West Sea.	Number of Passages through the Canal. West to East Sea.	Number of Passages on Parts of Canal.	Number of Passages by Steamers.	Total of Passages made on Canal.	Amount of Tonnage Rates. £.	s.	d.
1863:								
May	40	10	48	27	125	237	9	2
June	10	26	44	51	131	263	2	10
July	21	36	34	82	173	328	15	10
August	32	22	41	81	176	363	13	7
September	120	16	20	80	236	418	16	2
October	28	20	11	43	102	357	14	1
November	21	38	15	17	91	304	8	–
December	36	27	19	17	99	458	18	11
1864:								
January	86	27	14	19	146	953	14	9
February	37	26	17	14	94	397	9	8
March	47	32	25	20	124	416	4	11
April	60	60	41	18	179	583	6	7
Totals	538	340	329	469	1,676	5,083	14	6

James Davidson.

Appendix, No. 6.

TABLE of Comparative Number and Amount of REVENUE of the CRINAN CANAL, for the Years ending 30th April 1863 and 30th April 1864.

Year ending 30th April 1863.

	Number of Steamers.	Number of Vessels.	Number of Boats.	Number of Passages.	Steamboat Dues. £. s. d.	Vessels and Boats' Dues. £. s. d.	Transit Dues on Passengers. £. s. d.	TOTAL. £. s. d.
1862:								
May	44	98	208	350	66 15 6	190 17 5½	18 16 –	276 8 11½
June	44	87	137	268	38 10 3	144 13 4	33 15 8	216 19 3
July	62	109	166	337	41 6 4½	160 14 1	50 17 2	252 17 7½
August	73	102	26	201	78 7 11½	127 9 8½	79 4 8	285 2 4
September	68	100	26	194	71 2 –	137 15 2½	60 16 10	269 14 –½
October	42	88	34	164	54 5 11½	127 – 9½	20 12 2	201 18 11
November	21	109	22	152	44 15 6	132 17 2½	6 6 6	183 19 2½
December	23	82	12	117	46 15 –	130 16 4½	3 14 8	181 6 –½
1863:								
January	19	85	12	116	40 12 7½	117 18 5½	1 19 4	160 10 3
February	23	83	7	113	48 12 4½	145 – 6	3 1 4	196 14 2½
March	25	104	10	139	50 18 2½	162 13 4½	2 19 2	216 10 9
April	24	70	17	111	50 17 –	103 14 –½	3 15 6	158 6 6½
	468	1,117	677	2,262	632 18 9	1,681 10 4½	285 19 –	2,600 8 1½

Year ending 30th April 1864.

	Number of Steamers.	Number of Vessels.	Number of Boats.	Number of Passages.	Steamboat Dues. £. s. d.	Vessels and Boats' Dues. £. s. d.	Transit Dues on Passengers through Canal. £. s. d.	TOTAL. £. s. d.
1863:								
May	41	76	187	304	61 9 3	161 19 –	14 10 10	237 19 1
June	62	67	51	180	73 13 –	90 5 2	29 16 6	193 14 8
July	86	78	130	294	96 11 1½	133 18 10	68 – –	298 16 11¼
August	79	104	31	214	84 1 1½	134 11 5	124 16 6	343 9 –½
September	82	93	21	196	90 15 9	137 4 8½	67 16 2	295 16 7½
October	57	105	22	184	81 10 10	162 10 10½	22 10 6	266 12 2½
November	29	81	12	122	61 2 1½	127 12 8½	4 11 2	193 6 –
December	26	77	–	103	55 – 3	116 18 9½	3 14 4	175 13 4½
1864:								
January	27	80	4	111	56 1 10½	120 18 6½	4 9 10	181 10 3
February	13	75	2	90	26 16 10½	120 15 8	1 5 4	148 17 10½
March	22	89	31	142	46 12 3	125 16 9	2 15 8	175 4 8
April	24	80	13	117	50 19 –	98 18 7½	4 7 10	154 5 5½
	548	1,005	504	2,057	784 13 5½	1,531 11 1	349 1 8	2,665 6 2½

Appendix, No. 7.

RETURN of Receipts on the Crinan Canal, Classified under different Descriptions of Goods, for the Year ending 30th April 1864.

——	Slates.	Coals.	Fishing.	Boats.	General Goods.	Ballast.	Steamers.	Transit Dues.	Total.
1863:	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
May - -	19 - 3½	37 2 5½	65 4 3	2 2 -	27 14 10	10 15 2	61 9 3	14 10 10	237 19 1
June - -	4 7 6	32 6 10½	16 6 -	3 19 6	16 8 4	16 16 11½	73 13 -	29 16 6	193 14 8
July - -	5 18 6	34 7 8	33 13 9	1 3 10	25 2 6	33 12 7	96 11 1½	68 7 -	298 16 11½
August - -	20 16 6	39 2 10	10 14 -	- -	28 10 2½	35 7 10½	84 1 1½	124 16 6	343 9 -½
September -	9 5 9	53 3 3½	11 3 -	- -	41 17 10	21 14 10	90 15 9	67 16 2	295 16 7½
October - -	33 16 4½	51 2 7	3 - -	3 17 6	44 9 1	26 5 4	81 10 10	22 10 6	266 12 2½
November -	32 17 6	45 16 5½	6 1 -	2 15 -	29 7 1	10 15 8	61 2 1½	4 11 2	193 6 -
December -	28 19 3	42 1 7	- 9 6	- 7 -	33 1 11	11 19 6½	55 - 3	3 14 4	175 13 4½
1864:									
January - -	21 15 3	49 14 11	1 1 6	1 1 -	32 5 4	15 - 6½	56 1 10½	4 9 10	181 10 3
February -	31 7 8	44 3 11	- 14 6	- 14 -	33 2 3	10 13 4	26 16 10½	1 5 4	148 17 10½
March - -	13 3 1	54 1 2½	4 10 -	2 3 1	35 18 7	16 - 9½	46 12 3	2 15 8	175 4 8
April - -	6 14 6	37 5 6½	- -	2 - 2	37 7 8	15 10 9	50 19 -	4 7 10	154 5 5½
£.	228 2 2	520 9 4	152 17 6	20 3 1	385 5 7½	224 13 4½	784 13 5½	349 1 8	2,665 6 2½

Appendix, No. 8.

STATEMENT of Items of Extraordinary Expenditure upon the Crinan Canal, in the Year ending 30th April 1864; viz.:

	£. s. d.
Lochclachaig Reservoir - - - - - - - - -	532 7 10
Repair of steam-dredger - - - - - - - - -	275 4 6
Timber for lock-gates at Crinan - - - - - - -	250 - -
Ditto for swing-bridges - - - - - - - - -	125 8 7
Extension of pier at Ardrishaig, including new set of fender piles	187 7 10
Stopping leakages in Canal banks - - - - - - -	117 15 4
£.	1,488 4 1

FIFTY-NINTH

REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONERS

OF THE

CALEDONIAN CANAL.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
18 *July* 1864.

499.

Under 2 *oz.*